

*Proclamation Declaring World Day  
Against Trafficking in Persons*

- Whereas* World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, provides an opportunity for Hidalgo County to renew our commitment to combating human trafficking in all its forms; and
- Whereas* human trafficking tears at our social fabric, fuels violence and organized crime, and debases our common humanity; and
- Whereas* human trafficking is a global tragedy; combating it requires international, national, state and local action. According to the International Labor Organization, there are an estimated 40.3 million victims of human trafficking worldwide; and
- Whereas* the *Hidalgo County Criminal District Attorney's Office* is working with national, state, regional, and local stakeholders to fight against human trafficking and to provide assistance to victims of human trafficking; and
- Whereas* the *Hidalgo County Criminal District Attorney's Office* is hereby dedicated to strengthening victims and survivors in the aftermath of crime, building resilience in our communities and our victim responders, and working for justice for all victims and survivors; and
- Whereas* we must join together as a community in Hidalgo County to provide a safe haven by protecting victims and prosecuting traffickers. With improved victim identification, medical and social services, training for first responders, and increased public awareness, the men, women, and children who have suffered this scourge can overcome the bonds of modern slavery, receive protection and justice, and successfully reclaim their rightful independence; and
- Whereas* the *Rio Grande Valley Anti-Human Trafficking Taskforce* calls on every single person in our community to report human trafficking and join prevention efforts.

*Now therefore, be it proclaimed* that the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court hereby declares July 30<sup>th</sup> 2021 as World Day Against Trafficking in Persons in Hidalgo County.

**Approved this 27<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2021.**

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**RICHARD F. CORTEZ**  
County Judge

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**DAVID L. FUENTES**  
County Commissioner, Pct. 1

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**EDUARDO "EDDIE" CANTU**  
County Commissioner, Pct. 2

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**EVERARDO "EVER" VILLARREAL**  
County Commissioner, Pct. 3

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**ELLIE TORRES**  
County Commissioner, Pct. 4

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**Attest: ARTURO GUAJARDO, JR.**  
County Clerk