

*National Slavery and Human Trafficking  
Prevention Month*

*Whereas* National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month provides an opportunity for Hidalgo County to renew our commitment in combating human trafficking in all its forms; and

*Whereas* Human Trafficking imposes regression of our societal development, fuels violence and organized crime, and disparages our common humanity; and

*Whereas* Human Trafficking is a global adversary; 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. The United Nations recognizes that as many as 124 million more individuals are experiencing extreme poverty due to the pandemic, leaving them susceptible to human trafficking; 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 provide assistance to victims’ of human trafficking; and

*Whereas* the Hidalgo County Criminal District Attorney’s Office is hereby dedicated to strengthening victims in the aftermath of crime by allowing the victims’ voices to lead the way, which in turn builds resilience in our communities and victim responders, and contributes to justice for all victims and survivors; and

*Whereas* we must join together as a community in Hidalgo County to provide imperative refuge by protecting victims and holding exploiters accountable through prosecution. With the unified actions of the community and victims’ guidance alike, risk factors and patterns will be addressed, victim identification and protection will increase, justice and recovery will prevail, and proactive measures of Human Trafficking prevention will be taken. The men, women, and children who have suffered this oppression can overcome the bonds of modern slavery, receive protection and justice, and successfully reclaim their inherent human right of 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 January 2022 as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month in Hidalgo County.

**Approved this 11<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2022.**

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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

**Attest: ARTURO GUAJARDO, JR.**