



**DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2026 AS
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH IN LAKE COUNTY**

WHEREAS, human trafficking is a serious crime that affects people of all races, age, and gender; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking is a borderless crime against individuals that violates the most basic human rights and deprives victims of human dignity and denies freedom to 32 million people around the world; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking is the fastest growing criminal industry globally; and

WHEREAS, California ranks first among the states in the number of potential reports of human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, a serious form of human trafficking involves the exploitation of children and youth for commercial sex acts. It is imperative that our young people and their families learn how to recognize risks and resist predators who use coercion and threats to manipulate children and young adults into sex and labor trafficking; and

WHEREAS, Lake Family Resource Center is instrumental in leading the way in the County of Lake in addressing human trafficking by providing 24-hour hotline services, and continuing support, advocacy and accompaniment to survivors; and

WHEREAS, preventing human trafficking in Lake County includes active public and private efforts to help recognize and acknowledge existence; and it is time to start conversations, take appropriate action and support one another to create a safer environment for all residents; and

WHEREAS, In a major collaborative effort to ensure student safety, the Rotary Clubs of Kelseyville, Lakeport, and Clearlake have joined forces with Lake County School Districts to launch a pilot protection initiative against sex trafficking and exploitation.

WHEREAS, Recognizing that schools are the heart of the community, this partnership leverages the strengths of both organizations. The Rotary Clubs have secured the necessary funding and leadership to license the Polly Klaas Foundation's expert "Social Media Safety"; and

WHEREAS, many organizations such as the District Attorney's Office, Sheriff's Office, Lakeport Police Department, Clearlake Police Department, our 7 local Pomo Tribes and Lake Family Resource Center are committed to ending Human Trafficking in Lake County and provide essential crisis intervention and prevention services to all members of our community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the month of January 2026 is designated as Human Trafficking Awareness Month in the City of Clearlake, and our community is urged to support the efforts of the agencies assisting victims of human trafficking and urges all local governments, schools, businesses and community members to be aware and report any suspicious activity to local police departments and help shine the light on trafficking.

Dated this 15th day of January, 2026

Dirk Slooten, Mayor