

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
October 6-7, 2021
Indianapolis, Indiana**

**Resolution No. 3: Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention and Awareness
Origin: Register Resolution No. 2805 (IA) Department Executive Committee
Submitted by: National Security Commission**

WHEREAS, The United States was founded upon the principle that all people are created with the inalienable right to freedom, and added the 13th Amendment to the Constitution making slavery illegal; and

WHEREAS, Human trafficking is, in essence, a form of modern-day slavery, especially in regard to the sex trade, and involuntary servitude is defined as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of persons, by means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation; and

WHEREAS, Even though awareness of these crimes is growing, human trafficking continues to go unreported due to the isolating nature of these crimes, the misunderstanding of its definition, and the lack of awareness about its indicators; and

WHEREAS, This horrific crime claims nearly 40 million victims worldwide, and it disproportionately affects women and girls, as well as other vulnerable populations, including but not limited to the economically disadvantaged, persons with disabilities, runaway youth, youth who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender which denies human dignity and freedom, and fuels organized crime, which exists in our nation, our state, and our communities; and

WHEREAS, Increased community education and overall training is necessary to identify victims of human trafficking to create awareness of prevention programs addressing human trafficking and re-trafficking for those in the school system, health-care industry, and other community venues required to educate the general public; and

WHEREAS, Relationally focused, trauma-sensitive, and culturally attuned approaches delivered within a social-ecological framework to treat the complex psychological consequences of human trafficking are needed; and

WHEREAS, In the United States, we have a limited understanding of the multiple factors related to human trafficking, and there exists an urgent need to collect data on human trafficking to determine an accurate estimate of victims around the globe and explore its causes and psychological consequences caused by these horrid conditions; and

WHEREAS, Every business, community organization, faithful congregation, family unit, and individual can make a difference by choosing products that are not made by forced labor; by working on strategies to protect our youth from sexual exploitation; by addressing the problem of internet sex trafficking; by becoming more aware of the problem and possible solutions by creating community outreach and education initiatives, legislative advocacy, training, promoting services to survivors of human trafficking, and collaborating with law enforcement; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 6-7, 2021, That The American Legion support the slavery and human trafficking prevention and awareness programs and laws in our nation; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That Legionnaires are encouraged to be vigilant and report suspicious activity to create solutions to end trafficking in all its forms in our communities, and report anything suspicious to the National Human Trafficking Hotline (NHTH); that employees of the NHTH are trained to listen to survivors of all forms of human trafficking, provide immediate safety planning for people in crisis, give tips on suspected trafficking, and most importantly aid survivors in understanding their options for support; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion strongly endorses the development and implementation of processes that prevent and expose the horrific conditions of human trafficking; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion encourages government funding of research & development that would address gaps in knowledge.