

SENATE RESOLUTION
8644

By Senators Chase, Fraser, Darneille, Nelson, Kohl-Welles, Keiser, Rolfes, and Billig

1 WHEREAS, Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery in
2 which force, fraud, or coercion is used to force adults into
3 disagreeable labor or sexual exploitation or children and youth for
4 child sexual exploitation; and

5 WHEREAS, The United Nations International Labor Organization
6 estimates that 20.9 million people worldwide are
7 trafficked, exploited, or enslaved as forced labor, bonded labor,
8 forced child labor, sexual exploitation or servitude, or involuntary
9 servitude; and

10 WHEREAS, Human trafficking and slavery, including sex and labor
11 trafficking, affect women and children the most, with an estimated 80
12 percent of trafficked people being women and children; and

13 WHEREAS, Child labor deprives children of their childhood, life-
14 long potential, and dignity, and is mentally, physically, socially,
15 and morally harmful; and

16 WHEREAS, In 2000, the United States Congress passed the
17 Trafficking Victims Protection Act, most recently reauthorized in
18 2013, providing tools for the United States to use to combat human
19 trafficking at home and abroad; and

20 WHEREAS, Since the passage of the Trafficking Victims Protection
21 Act, the United States government has successfully prosecuted human
22 trafficking crimes in agricultural fields, sweatshops, suburban
23 mansions, brothels, escort services, bars, strip clubs, and many
24 other places; and

25 WHEREAS, Since 2009, the Federal Bureau of Investigation has
26 obtained convictions of 258 people for human trafficking, including
27 in the State of Washington; and

28 WHEREAS, Worldwide, 67 countries are not in compliance with
29 international minimum standards for the elimination of human
30 trafficking; and

31 WHEREAS, March 2nd marked the 20th anniversary of the shooting at
32 the King County Courthouse that claimed the lives of three women:
33 Pregnant, trafficked, and abused mail-order bride Susana Blackwell

1 from the Philippines and her two friends, Phoebe Dizon and
2 Veronica Laureta; and

3 WHEREAS, In 2000, mail-order bride Anastasia Solovieva-King
4 from Kyrgyzstan was murdered by her husband in Washington State
5 in a separate incident of both domestic violence and bride
6 trafficking; and

7 WHEREAS, Since 2002, the Washington State Legislature has
8 been the first state in the United States to create a State
9 Anti-Trafficking of Persons Task Force; safety measures for
10 mail-order brides; and a definition of human trafficking crimes
11 at the state level; and

12 WHEREAS, In 2004, an Advisory Committee on Trafficking was
13 convened by the United States Attorney's Office for the Western
14 District of Washington, creating a multidisciplinary team to
15 collaborate locally, nationally, and internationally; and

16 WHEREAS, According to the Washington State Attorney
17 General's Office, 55 percent of global internet child
18 pornography is initiated in the United States, with the child
19 victims often being runaway, troubled, and homeless youth; and

20 WHEREAS, The Washington Anti-Trafficking Response Network
21 reports that they have seen cases of young men and boys
22 exploited in the construction industry, and immigrants and
23 others exploited by restaurants, small businesses, agriculture,
24 and the commercial sex industry; and

25 WHEREAS, The Washington State Legislature enacted 36 anti-
26 trafficking laws between 2002-2014, and has been recognized by
27 Shared Hope International and the Polaris Project as being among
28 the very top states in the country for anti-trafficking advocacy
29 and legislation;

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State
31 Senate supports increased education, stronger laws and law
32 enforcement, and the promotion of justice to reduce the
33 exploitation of all people, including women and children.

34 I, Hunter G. Goodman, Secretary of the Senate,
35 do hereby certify that this is a true and
36 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8644,
37 adopted by the Senate
38 March 19, 2015

39 HUNTER G. GOODMAN
40 Secretary of the Senate