

State of Texas \*

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County of Comal \*

# Proclamation

## Recognizing January 2024 as Human Trafficking Prevention Month in Comal County

**WHEREAS**, human trafficking is a serious violation of human rights; victims are controlled and exploited for profit; forced labor and sexual exploitation are the most common types of human trafficking; most victims are often not held physically captive, but are not free to leave their trafficker; and

**WHEREAS**, Texas has 2<sup>nd</sup> highest number of trafficking cases in the country; 40 million people are being trafficked worldwide; human trafficking is a \$150 billion industry; human trafficking is the 2nd largest illicit industry in the U.S.; 25% of people trafficked are children and two-thirds are female, while 78% of explicit online images are children under 12 years; and

**WHEREAS**, Operation Underground Railroad (O.U.R.) assists in rescuing children from slavery and ensure ongoing aftercare; provides cutting edge tools and resources to U.S. law enforcement throughout the United States; strengthens preventative efforts that benefit at-risk children; and

**WHEREAS**, anti-trafficking programs require partnership among agencies, law enforcement agencies, schools, religious organizations, the business community and non-profit organizations and volunteers; and

**WHEREAS**, during National Human Trafficking Prevention Month, O.U.R. Conductor Club volunteers will raise awareness and educate members of the community on human trafficking, anti-trafficking efforts and resources available; facilitate a collaborative awareness event to promote raising children in a safe environment free from predator activities.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** by Commissioners Court of Comal County, that the month of January 2024 is hereby recognized as Human Trafficking Prevention Month in Comal County, reaffirming our commitment to support efforts to address human trafficking while commending O.U.R. and O.U.R. Conductor Club for its efforts toward human trafficking awareness.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** this the 16<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2023.

*Absent*

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Sherman Krause, County Judge

*Donna Eccleston*

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Donna Eccleston, Commissioner Pct. 1

*Scott Haag*

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Scott Haag, Commissioner Pct. 2

*Kevin Webb*

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Kevin Webb, Commissioner Pct. 3

*Jen Crownover*

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Jen Crownover, Commissioner Pct. 4

Attest:

*Bobbie Koepp*

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Bobbie Koepp, County Clerk

