

## 2021-J189

Senate Resolution No. 189

BY: Senator BIAGGI

MEMORIALIZING Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim  
January 2021, as Slavery and Human Trafficking  
Prevention Month in the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize  
official months that are set aside to increase awareness of serious  
issues that affect the lives of citizens of New York State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its  
long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to  
memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim January 2021, as  
Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month in the State of New York,  
in conjunction with the observance of National Slavery and Human  
Trafficking Prevention Month; and

WHEREAS, In 2007, an interagency task force was created which was  
dedicated to evaluating the current circumstances of the existence of  
human trafficking in the State of New York, with the lasting resolve to  
bolster existing response infrastructures, while creating strategies to  
aid victims and increase public awareness of the issue, including and  
beyond the recognition of Slavery and Human Trafficking Awareness Month;  
and

WHEREAS, Beginning in 2010, by Presidential Proclamation, each

January has been designated as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month; and

WHEREAS, Following the start of National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month, with the help of non-government organizations, National Human Trafficking Day began and is observed annually on January 11th; and

WHEREAS, The State of New York, was, in 2018, the state fourth-most plagued by the scourge of sexual and labor trafficking of individuals of all ages, as recognized by the Polaris Project, a leading non-government, non-profit voice in the global march towards the eradication of human trafficking, which equates with modern slavery; and

WHEREAS, The number of sexual and labor trafficking cases reported each year continues to grow as more light is given to the issue by various actors in New York, across the United States, and around the globe; and

WHEREAS, In 2018, 492 cases of human trafficking were reported to the Human Trafficking Hotline in the State of New York, which is more than 4% of the 10,949 cases reported across the United States; and

WHEREAS, The scope and magnitude of the issue of slavery and human trafficking is yet to be known, both domestically and abroad; and

WHEREAS, Human Trafficking Awareness Month was implemented to raise awareness among Americans that human trafficking does not just happen in other countries, but in states and communities across the United States; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative that there be greater public awareness of this serious issue, and more must be done to eradicate slavery and human trafficking at the local, State and national levels; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim January 2021, as Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York.