

## House Resolution 1649

By: Representatives Stephenson of the 90<sup>th</sup>, Mitchell of the 88<sup>th</sup>, Scott of the 76<sup>th</sup>, and Mosby of the 83<sup>rd</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing January 9, 2018, as Georgia Stands with the United Nations Human Trafficking  
2 Awareness Day; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Organization of World Leaders, Trinity Girls Network Corp., the United  
4 Nations Global Awards, and Trinity International University of Ambassadors are advocates  
5 against human trafficking; and

6 WHEREAS, human trafficking is a borderless crime against individuals, which violates the  
7 most basic human rights and deprives victims of every shred of personal freedom; and

8 WHEREAS, human trafficking occurs when a person is recruited, harbored, obtained, or  
9 exported through force, fraud, or coercion for the purposes of sexual or labor exploitation,  
10 involuntary servitude, and other types of mental and physical abuse; and

11 WHEREAS, human traffickers target impoverished and marginalized children, women, and  
12 men, isolating them from society and supportive networks and exploiting them for personal  
13 and monetary gain; and

14 WHEREAS, human trafficking is the fastest-growing criminal enterprise in the world today  
15 and is tied with arms smuggling as the second largest international criminal industry, falling  
16 only behind the illicit drug trade; and

17 WHEREAS, the United Nations' International Labour Organization has estimated that at least  
18 12.3 million adults and children worldwide are currently in forced labor, bonded labor, or  
19 forced prostitution; and it is estimated that more people are now harmed by human  
20 trafficking worldwide than have been at any other point in human history; and

21 WHEREAS, approximately 80 percent of victims are women and girls, and 50 percent are  
22 younger than age 18; and

23 WHEREAS, many victims trafficked into the United States do not speak or understand  
24 English and are unable to communicate to seek rescue; and

25 WHEREAS, under United States law, any person under 18 that is involved in the commercial  
26 sex industry is considered a human trafficking victim; and

27 WHEREAS, victims include United States citizens and documented immigrants; and

28 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia recognizes that Atlanta is a prime location for human  
29 trafficking because it is a major national and international transportation corridor, as well as  
30 a culturally diverse state.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
32 the members of this body recognize January 9, 2018, as Georgia Stands with the United  
33 Nations Human Trafficking Awareness Day and commend the aforementioned organizations  
34 and others, in this state and nationwide, for their efforts to end the criminal activity of human  
35 trafficking and to assist its survivors in restoring their freedom and dignity.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
37 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the  
38 public and the press.