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Director

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**- For Immediate Release -
Human Trafficking Awareness Month**

(Bakersfield, CA) – We invite you to join us in recognizing January as Human Trafficking Awareness Month here in Kern County.

On January 4, 2010, President Barack Obama made a Presidential Proclamation, declaring January as **National Slavery and Human Trafficking Awareness Month**. By marking this month, we encourage Kern County citizens to let go of assumptions about slavery and human trafficking, and join as community to provide a safe haven by protecting victims and prosecuting traffickers.

This month serves as an annual reminder that each of us must participate in the fight against human trafficking. Please join the **Kern Coalition Against Human Trafficking**, along with the many social workers, law enforcement officers, and prosecutors in spreading awareness and taking action.

Throughout the last two years, the Kern County Department of Human Services has received hundreds of referrals alleging allegations of human trafficking and exploitation of children. Even more children have been identified as victims of exploitation and trafficking or have been identified as “at-risk” of being trafficked.

If you see or suspect human trafficking, take action. Call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1(888) 373-7888 or visit our website at kcdhs.org for a list of resources and information.

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