



The Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Nez-Lizer Administration recognizes “Navajo Nation Human Trafficking Prevention and Awareness Month”

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On Tuesday, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer signed a proclamation recognizing the month of January 2022 as the "Navajo Nation Human Trafficking Prevention and Awareness Month," to increase awareness and to help to identify and prevent human trafficking within the Navajo Nation and beyond.

The proclamation states that trafficking in persons, also known as modern slavery or human trafficking, includes forced labor and sex trafficking. Human trafficking represents a threat to peace and security for all societies, including the Navajo Nation. By some estimates, as many as 24.9 million people, adults, and children are trapped in some form of human trafficking globally, including in the United States.

"Human trafficking is a serious issue worldwide and for Indigenous peoples. It affects all populations, including adults, children, men, women, and all ages and economic classes. Anyone can be affected by these dangerous crimes, so it is important to learn more about human trafficking and to begin educating our children to empower them at a young age," said President Nez.

The Office of the First Lady and Second Lady along with several partners, including Tyesha Wood, a former Crimes against Children detective, Yolanda Francisco-Nez of Restoring Ancestral Winds, Thomas Alberti of the New Mexico U.S. Attorney's Office, Matthew Holgate, a student of Vanguard University, and the Navajo Nation Division of Public Safety will be providing presentations aimed at preventing human trafficking this month.

"We also recognize advocates, social service agencies, and counselors for providing support to survivors and families, and law enforcement personnel who work to bring offenders to justice. To help their efforts, we encourage every Navajo business, community, organization, faith community, family, and individual in the Navajo Nation to educate and protect each other. Together, we can reunite, heal, and restore Navajo communities," said First Lady Nez.

The Office of the President and Vice President encourages everyone to wear blue during the month of January to recognize and promote "Navajo Nation Human Trafficking Prevention and Awareness Month."

"We would be extremely honored if our communities were to join us in this effort to bring awareness. We also ask everyone to unite in prayer to bring hope and healing to survivors and to prevent human trafficking crimes and activities across the country and the Navajo Nation. We appreciate everyone's support and advocacy from the grassroots level on up," said Vice President Lizer.

"As we observe this month, let's pray for the victims, survivors, and their families. Many of our brothers and sisters have been through so much physical, emotional, and physiological trauma, and our prayers to be comforted and our compassion allows them to heal. To prevent these types of crimes within our communities, we must be aware and learn about the warning signs of human trafficking. We have to build communities that are safe and healthy. We stand with the scripture, Isaiah 61:1, which states 'to comfort the broken-hearted and to proclaim that captives will be released and prisoners will be set free,'" said Second Lady Dottie Lizer.

If you suspect human trafficking in your community, please call the National Human Trafficking Hotline toll-free at (888) 373-7888 or contact your local law enforcement.

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THE NAVAJO NATION

Proclamation

RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2022 AS
“NAVAJO NATION HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH”

THE NAVAJO NATION recognizes the month of January 2022 as “Navajo Nation Human Trafficking Awareness Month” to increase human trafficking awareness and prevention to protect our Navajo people. During Navajo Nation Human Trafficking Awareness Month we affirm our commitment to reunite, heal, and restore Navajo families and to end human trafficking in the Navajo Nation.

WHEREAS, trafficking in persons, also known as modern slavery or human trafficking, includes both forced labor and sex trafficking. Human trafficking represents a threat to peace and security for all societies, including the Navajo Nation; and

WHEREAS, by some estimates, as many as 24.9 million people, adults and children, are trapped in a form of human trafficking globally, including the United States; we acknowledge that increased awareness and education is crucial to understanding and eliminating human trafficking within the Navajo Nation; and

WHEREAS, we have compassion for the victims of human trafficking, and commend the individuals, organizations, and government entities dedicated to combating human trafficking. We also call upon business, organizations, communities of faith, families, and all individuals to observe this month with appropriate activities aimed at preventing human trafficking.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JONATHAN NEZ, President of the Navajo Nation, and **I, MYRON LIZER**, Vice President of the Navajo Nation, do hereby proclaim January 2022 as Navajo Nation Human Trafficking Awareness Month in coordination with National Human Trafficking Awareness Month.

PROCLAIMED THIS 11th DAY OF JANUARY 2022

Jonathan Nez
Jonathan Nez, *President*
THE NAVAJO NATION

Phefelia Nez
Phefelia Nez, *First Lady*
THE NAVAJO NATION

Myron Lizer
Myron Lizer, *Vice President*
THE NAVAJO NATION

Dotie Lizer
Dotie Lizer, *Second Lady*
THE NAVAJO NATION