



## **Resolution to End Human Trafficking and Slavery**

**WHEREAS**, This Association exists to improve, promote, and protect health for residents of North Dakota through leadership in policy, partnerships, and best practices; and

**WHEREAS**, The bylaws of the North Dakota Public Health Association authorize and empower the Governing Council to engage in activities on behalf of and in the interest of the North Dakota Public Health Association and of members thereof; and the unified voice for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) efforts to combat human trafficking; and

**WHEREAS**, "The Blue Campaign is the unified voice for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's efforts to combat human trafficking. Working in collaboration with law enforcement, government, non-governmental and private organizations, the Blue Campaign strives to protect the basic right of freedom and to bring those who exploit human lives to justice"(1); and

**WHEREAS**, that the North Dakota Public Health Association adopts the following definition of human trafficking, as defined by the Blue Campaign:

***"Human trafficking is a modern-day form of slavery and involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act.***

**WHEREAS**, the Blue Campaign seeks to raise awareness of the signs and impact of human trafficking; and

**WHEREAS**, Blue Campaign utilizes a "victim centered approach" that equally values the identification, stabilizing and protection of victims and the prosecution of traffickers (1); and

**WHEREAS**, DHS provides immigration relief to non-US victims of human trafficking (1); and

**WHEREAS**, persons living in poverty, lacking social support, with limited education, in communities with high unemployment, homeless or at high risk of homelessness, orphaned, runaway, or "thrown away" youth, history of previous sexual abuse; physical, emotional, or mental health challenges; drug or alcohol addiction; post- traumatic stress disorder; multiple arrests; and a history of truancy or being expelled are sought out by traffickers (2); and

**WHEREAS**, there are an estimated 20.9 million victims of human trafficking globally (4) and

**WHEREAS**, in 2015 there were 48 calls originating from North Dakota to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline(5), and 150 persons victimized by human trafficking were served by North Dakota domestic violence shelters(6); and

**WHEREAS**, poverty rates for enrolled members of the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation, enrolled members of the Spirit Lake Nation, enrolled members living in the North Dakota portion of the Standing Rock Nation and enrolled members of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa range from 22.5% to 48% compared to poverty rates for all of North Dakota at 11.5% (3), placing American Indians in North Dakota at increased risk of being victims of human trafficking; therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the North Dakota Public Health Association advocates for, supports, and where appropriate, engages in activities to end human trafficking in North Dakota from a victim centered approach, including immigration relief and with an increased focus in tribal communities in Indian Country and urban areas.

This may include, but is not limited to, increasing awareness of the signs of human trafficking and education regarding assisting victims amongst our members, public health professionals across North Dakota and citizens of North Dakota. This may also include, but is not limited to, supporting victim care and support, risk reduction and trafficker prosecution advocacy efforts.

Sources:

1. Department of Homeland Security, Blue Campaign website [www.dhs.gov/bluecampaign](http://www.dhs.gov/bluecampaign)
2. "Trafficking in Native Communities" by Victoria Sweet, Indian Country Today, 5.24.15  
<http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/2015/05/24/trafficking-native-communities-160475>
3. North Dakota Compass [www.ndcompass.org](http://www.ndcompass.org)
4. The Polaris Project <https://polarisproject.org>
5. National Human Trafficking Resource Center [www.traffickingresourcecenter.org](http://www.traffickingresourcecenter.org)
6. "Feds award \$1.5 million to help human trafficking victims in North Dakota" by Amy Dalrymple, Grand Forks Herald, 9.24.15