



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

March 19, 2018

Dear Agency Head:

As you know, my office is committed to ending the atrocity that is human trafficking. With The University of Texas estimating that there are over 300,000 victims of human trafficking in Texas, including 79,000 young victims of sex trafficking, we cannot do this alone. We need everyone in our state to join us in the fight. One of the most powerful things we can do is to educate all Texans about the risks and indicators of human trafficking and to equip them with the knowledge about how to respond appropriately when they see it.

The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) recently released an excellent training video: *Be the One in the Fight Against Human Trafficking*. This digital training tool uses actual cases prosecuted in our state to educate the audience about the realities of this criminal industry and equips viewers with the necessary tools to recognize red flags and respond appropriately. The film shows how each of us can “be the one” to help another person escape from trafficking. I know the Lone Star State is full of extraordinary people who will take us to the next level in this fight, including our state employees.

I am requiring all current employees of the Office of the Governor (OOG) to view this training video in the next 120 days and will be requiring new employees to view the video within 60 days of hire.

In addition, I challenge all state agencies to join OOG by requiring the same of their employees. The training is currently available on the OAG website, and the video is available on both DVD and USB. Contact betheone@oag.texas.gov if your agency would like a copy of the training, and know that my office is also available if you ever have questions or ideas about how your agency can be a partner in this fight.

Together, we can protect the vulnerable, help victims find healing, and bring offenders to justice. I am confident state employees can rise to the challenge in identifying trafficking and eradicating it from Texas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Abbott".

Greg Abbott
Governor

GA:jck