



Dena Murphy  
Director

January 13, 2020

**- 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, which will be proclaimed by the Kern County Board of Supervisors during their January 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Kern County’s **Human Trafficking Awareness Month** will be marked by the ringing of the Kern County Liberty Bell in front of the Superior Court building **Tuesday, January 14, 2020, beginning at noon.** A press conference will promptly follow, with opportunity to ask questions.

For this declaration, media is invited to attend both the **ringing of the Liberty Bell and press conference in front of the Superior Court building at 1415 Truxtun Avenue.** Please arrive early and allow extra time to set up as we will begin promptly at noon. We will have multiple human trafficking experts available to speak to the media. Dustin Contreras with the Kern Coalition Against Human Trafficking will ring the Liberty Bell and share how the community can fight this epidemic. Erin Gillespie with the Kern County Department of Human Services will share local human trafficking statistics. Jana Slagle and Ally Triolo will be on hand to assist in this process.

Some of our partners for this event include Superior Court of Kern County and the Kern Coalition Against Human Trafficking, along with the many wonderful social workers and staff assisting in making this month of awareness possible.

Throughout the last two years, the Kern County Department of Human Services has received 175 referrals alleging allegations of human trafficking and exploitation of children. Approximately 200 children have been identified as victims of exploitation and trafficking and hundreds more have been identified at-risk.

For more information or for special arrangements, contact Ally Triolo at (661) 556-0374.

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