A RESOLUTION

Recognizing January 9, 2018, as Georgia Stands with the United Nations Human Trafficking Awareness Day; and for other purposes.

WHEREAS, the Organization of World Leaders, Trinity Girls Network Corp., the United Nations Global Awards, and Trinity International University of Ambassadors are advocates against human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking is a borderless crime against individuals, which violates the most basic human rights and deprives victims of every shred of personal freedom; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking occurs when a person is recruited, harbored, obtained, or exported through force, fraud, or coercion for the purposes of sexual or labor exploitation, involuntary servitude, and other types of mental and physical abuse; and

WHEREAS, human traffickers target impoverished and marginalized children, women, and men, isolating them from society and supportive networks and exploiting them for personal and monetary gain; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking is the fastest-growing criminal enterprise in the world today and is tied with arms smuggling as the second largest international criminal industry, falling only behind the illicit drug trade; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations' International Labour Organization has estimated that at least 12.3 million adults and children worldwide are currently in forced labor, bonded labor, or forced prostitution; and it is estimated that more people are now harmed by human trafficking worldwide than have been at any other point in human history; and

WHEREAS, approximately 80 percent of victims are women and girls, and 50 percent are younger than age 18; and
WHEREAS, many victims trafficked into the United States do not speak or understand English and are unable to communicate to seek rescue; and

WHEREAS, under United States law, any person under 18 that is involved in the commercial sex industry is considered a human trafficking victim; and

WHEREAS, victims include United States citizens and documented immigrants; and

WHEREAS, the State of Georgia recognizes that Atlanta is a prime location for human trafficking because it is a major national and international transportation corridor, as well as a culturally diverse state.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that the members of this body recognize January 9, 2018, as Georgia Stands with the United Nations Human Trafficking Awareness Day and commend the aforementioned organizations and others, in this state and nationwide, for their efforts to end the criminal activity of human trafficking and to assist its survivors in restoring their freedom and dignity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the public and the press.