



GOVERNOR BRIAN P. KEMP OFFICE *of the* GOVERNOR

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Governor Kemp Announces New Investigative Unit to Fight Against Human Trafficking

The Governor held a joint conference to inform constituents on action being taken against human trafficking in Georgia

Atlanta, GA – Governor Brian Kemp, First Lady Marty Kemp, Georgia Bureau of Investigation Director Vic Reynolds, Attorney General Chris Carr, and Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Executive Director Jay Neal announced the creation of a new HEAT (Human Exploitation and Trafficking) Unit. This unit will focus both on the rescue of trafficking victims and on the enforcement efforts of commercial sex trafficking and labor trafficking.

"I am proud of the work that the Georgia Bureau of Investigation has done in the fight against human trafficking," **said Governor Kemp**. "With this new HEAT Unit, Director Reynolds will have the resources he needs to crack down on this criminal enterprise and ensure that perpetrators are held accountable. By coordinating our efforts with the First Lady's GRACE Commission, Attorney General Chris Carr, and our federal, state, and local law enforcement partners, Georgia is making huge strides in combating this evil industry."

The GRACE Commission, co-chaired by First Lady Marty Kemp, is made up of public officials, law enforcement, for-profit and non-profit organizations, faith-based institutions, and subject matter experts to end human trafficking and seek justice for victims. Approximately 374 girls are commercially sexually exploited monthly in Georgia, with an average age of entry into the commercial sex market for girls being 12 and 14 years.

The city of Atlanta serves as a hotspot for human trafficking victims to be both recruited into trafficking and transported around the world. According to the Center for Public Policy's 2013 study, "around 65% of men who buy sex with young females do so in and around suburban and metro Atlanta with 9% near the airport."

"Today, we take another important step forward in the fight to end human trafficking," **said First Lady Marty Kemp**. "I want to applaud Director Reynolds and his team for

their hard work in creating this new unit. I am confident it will be a force for good in our state."

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