January is National Human Trafficking Prevention Month

Human trafficking victims live among us. There were approximately 7,500 tips to the U.S. National Human Trafficking Hotline in 2016, more than 25 percent of which involved children and youth under the age of 18.

These modern-day slaves may grow our food, make our clothes, serve us in a restaurant, style our hair or nails, or be forced into prostitution. Help is available to support victims in our community, but unfortunately trafficked persons often go unnoticed.

As people of faith, let us take a stand to change this reality.

Let’s keep our eyes and our hearts open to the needs of those around us and respond when we see something of concern.

If you suspect that someone may be a victim, call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1.888.373.7888. To learn more about human trafficking health care response efforts, visit www.dignityhealth.org/human-trafficking-response.