



PROCLAMATION

International Day of Remembrance of Slavery Victims and the Transatlantic Slave Trade 2026

WHEREAS, the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade is observed annually on March 25, as it commemorates the 1807 abolition of the transatlantic slave trade in the United Kingdom and its designation by the United Nations as a day of remembrance, to honor and remember the millions of people of African descent who endured the profound inhumanity and atrocities of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade; and

WHEREAS, between the fifteenth and nineteenth centuries, the transatlantic slave trade subjected millions to kidnapping, starvation, disease, sexual violence, torture, forced labor, and death during capture, transport, and enslavement, inflicting trauma that extended across lifetimes and generations while generating immense wealth for colonial and imperial powers; and

WHEREAS, the transatlantic slave trade stands as one of the most horrific crimes in human history, making it imperative for the nation to confront its enduring legacy and take meaningful, sustained efforts to right these historic wrongs; and

WHEREAS, this system was maintained by ideologies of white supremacy and racial inferiority that denied the humanity of African people and continue to fuel racism, discrimination, and structural inequities affecting Afro-descendant communities, including locally; and

WHEREAS, enslaved Africans resisted their dehumanization through survival, cultural preservation, and organized resistance, asserting their humanity despite extraordinary violence; and

WHEREAS, remembrance of this history compels each of us to reckon with centuries of injustice and to take action against the inequities that persist today; to take ownership for each of our roles in perpetuating these injustices and inequities; to confront the root causes and systems of oppression that gave rise to the transatlantic slave trade and enabled it to persist for generations; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Board of Joliet Township Government recognizes March 25 as the **International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade**, and calls upon governments, institutions, and communities to confront this history honestly and advance reparative actions that promote repair, healing, and justice.

ADOPTED this 10th day of March of 2026.

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Cesar Guerrero", is written over a horizontal line.

Cesar Guerrero, Township Supervisor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kendra Landfair", is written over a horizontal line.

Kendra Landfair, Township Clerk