



GOVERNOR BRIAN P. KEMP
OFFICE *of the* GOVERNOR

**GEORGIA GOVERNOR AND FIRST LADY ANNOUNCE NEW TASK
FORCE TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

August 19, 2020

ATLANTA – Today, Georgia Governor Brian Kemp and First Lady Marty Kemp announced the creation of the new Human Exploitation and Traffic (HEAT) Unit. The HEAT Unit will be under the guidance of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) and aims to prevent human trafficking in the State of Georgia.

"I am proud of the work that the Georgia Bureau of Investigation has done in the fight against human trafficking," Governor Brian Kemp said.

The new unit will give GBI Director Vic Reynolds more resources to help fight the issue of human trafficking across Georgia. By working with Attorney General Chris Carr, the [GRACE commission](#) and federal, state and local law enforcement, the HEAT Unit will have a broad array of resources to combat this evil industry in Georgia.

"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," Governor Brian Kemp said.

According to the [Federal Human Trafficking Report](#) from 2019, seven of the 100 human trafficking cases in the United States occurred in Georgia. As a result, to help combat these numbers, the HEAT Unit has been added to Georgia's growing advocacy efforts to combat human trafficking.

The HEAT Unit will begin with four special agents under the direction of a special agent in charge and an assistant special agent in charge, which will all be underneath the GBI.

"Today, we take another important step forward in the fight to end human trafficking," said First Lady Marty Kemp.

###

Contact Press Secretary

Cale Ledford | 706-428-1528 | cale.ledford@uga.edu