

1 **TOPIC:** **IN SUPPORT OF INCREASING AWARENESS OF THE ROLE OF THE NURSE**
2 **IN COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING**
3

4 **SUBMITTED BY:** **California State University, Sacramento**
5

6 **AUTHOR:** **Melissa Byrne**
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8 WHEREAS, in 2010, the National Students’ Nursing Association House of Delegates
9 passed a resolution to increase awareness of human trafficking seeking
10 to reaffirm the need for education of health care providers’ ability to
11 serve this vulnerable population, and address the gaps that exist in
12 meeting this goal; and (NSNA, 2010)

13 WHEREAS, the American Nurses Association declared a position statement in 2010
14 identifying the nurse’s role in “advocating for human rights” as it
15 pertains to human rights violations and the upholding of human rights
16 and methods for reporting violations and taking action to prevent it
17 from happening again; and (ANA, 2010)

18 WHEREAS, according to the United Nations, human trafficking is defined as
19 including, but not limited to: movement of persons by threat or use of
20 force, of abduction, or other methods to gain control over another
21 person for the purpose of exploitation that includes sexual exploitation,
22 forced labor/services, slavery, and/or removal of organs (UN, 2000, p.2)
23 affecting over 20.9 million individuals in a \$150 billion industry
24 worldwide (Polaris Project, 2015); and

25 WHEREAS, human trafficking is a public health concern as victims are subject to
26 sexually transmitted diseases, vaginal and or rectal trauma, unintended
27 pregnancies, infertility, urinary tract infections, malnutrition,
28 dehydration, exhaustion, dental problems, visual problems, depression,
29 anxiety, suicidal ideation, PTSD, addiction, and tuberculosis as some of
30 the potential health concerns (Sabella, 2011, pp. 27-28); and

31 WHEREAS, research has estimated that over 5,000 victims of human trafficking
32 receive medical care every year in the United States while in the control
33 of their trafficker, and that health care providers often unknowingly
34 encounter these victims in providing all forms of health care services
35 (Baldwin, 2011, pp. 36-39), and

36 WHEREAS, research has identified increasing education among health care
37 providers about human trafficking can improve self-rated level of
38 knowledge by over 50%, increase utilization of available reporting
39 resources from 26% to 99%, and doubled suspected trafficking victim
40 identification (Grace, 2014, pp. 856-861); therefore be it

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42 **RESOLVED,** that the California Nursing Students Association support increased
43 awareness of the nurse's role in combating human trafficking by
44 encouraging constituents to advocate for improved nursing education in
45 community, clinical, and academic environments regarding the use of

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46 screening tools, victim hotlines, risk factor identification, and other
47 appropriate resources; and be it further
48 RESOLVED, that CNSA increase awareness and advocacy about human trafficking,
49 when feasible, through articles in the *Range of Motion* newsletter,
50 website information dissemination, appropriate CNSA committee
51 action, and information at the annual CNSA convention; and be it
52 further
53 RESOLVED, that CNSA send a copy of this resolution to the American Nurses
54 Association\California, the California Board of Registered Nursing,
55 Association of California Nurse Leaders, California Association of Public
56 Hospitals and Health Systems, the California Organization of
57 Associate/Baccalaureate Degree Nursing, the California Institute for
58 Nursing and Health Care, California Emergency Nurses Association, the
59 American Psychiatric Nurses Association California and any others
60 deemed appropriate by the Board of Directors.