



JUDICIAL ORDER

ORDER OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE

NORTH CAROLINA JUDICIAL BRANCH

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS A PUBLIC HEALTH, SOCIAL JUSTICE, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND PUBLIC SAFETY ISSUE. IN RECOGNITION OF THAT IMPORT, THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2020 IS HEREBY DECLARED “HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH” FOR THE NORTH CAROLINA JUDICIAL BRANCH.

WHEREAS, HUMAN TRAFFICKING OCCURS WHEN A PERSON IS RECRUITED, HARBORED, OBTAINED, OR TRANSPORTED THROUGH FORCE, FRAUD, OR COERCION FOR THE PURPOSE OF SEXUAL OR LABOR EXPLOITATION, INVOLUNTARY SERVITUDE, OR DEBT BONDAGE, OR WHEN ANY COMMERCIAL SEX ACT IS COMMITTED UPON A MINOR; AND

WHEREAS, NORTH CAROLINA CONTINUES TO SEE CASES OF BOTH SEX AND LABOR TRAFFICKING CROSSING ALL DEMOGRAPHIC LINES; AND

WHEREAS, IN 2006, THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA CRIMINALIZED THE ACT OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING FOR THE FIRST TIME AND SINCE THEN HAS CONTINUED TO STRENGTHEN ITS LAWS IN ORDER TO EQUIP LAW ENFORCEMENT AND PROSECUTORS ACROSS THE STATE WITH AVENUES TO SUCCESSFULLY INVESTIGATE AND PROSECUTE THESE CRIMES; AND

WHEREAS, INCREASED COMMUNITY EDUCATION ON HOW TO IDENTIFY VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING ALONG WITH INCREASED KNOWLEDGE OF LOCAL RESOURCES AND SERVICES FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY THESE CRIMINAL ACTIONS CAN HELP RESTORE FREEDOM AND DIGNITY TO IDENTIFIED SURVIVORS; AND

WHEREAS, THE NORTH CAROLINA HUMAN TRAFFICKING COMMISSION HAS WORKED TO BUILD PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS ACROSS OUR STATE TO INCREASE AWARENESS AND END THIS HORRIFIC CRIME; AND

WHEREAS, THE NORTH CAROLINA JUDICIAL BRANCH IS A VITAL PARTNER IN THOSE EFFORTS TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC AND INCREASE AWARENESS WITH THE GOAL OF ROOTING OUT AND ENDING HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN NORTH CAROLINA.

NOW, THEREFORE, I DO HEREBY ORDER THAT THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2020 BE DECLARED “HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH” FOR THE JUDICIAL BRANCH OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

THIS THE 15TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2020.

CHERI BEASLEY, CHIEF JUSTICE
SUPREME COURT of NORTH CAROLINA