



JUDICIAL ORDER

ORDER OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE

NORTH CAROLINA JUDICIAL BRANCH

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS REFERRED TO AS A PUBLIC HEALTH, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND A PUBLIC SAFETY ISSUE. IN RECOGNITION OF THAT IMPORT THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2022 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, DEBT BONDAGE, OR WHEN ANY COMMERCIAL SEX ACT IS COMMITTED UPON A MINOR; AND

WHEREAS, OUR STATE CONTINUES TO SEE CASES OF BOTH SEX AND LABOR TRAFFICKING CROSSING ALL DEMOGRAPHIC LINES AND ACKNOWLEDGES THAT IT WILL TAKE EVERYONE WORKING TOGETHER TO END THIS VICTIMIZATION; AND

WHEREAS, THE IMPACTS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ARE WIDESPREAD AND ONGOING, AND INCREASE THE VULNERABILITIES OF NORTH CAROLINIANS TO EXPLOITATION THROUGH HUMAN TRAFFICKING; AND

WHEREAS, INCREASED COMMUNITY EDUCATION ON HOW TO IDENTIFY VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING ALONG WITH STRENGTHENED CAPACITY TO RESPOND TO VICTIMS WITH APPROPRIATE SERVICES CAN HELP RESTORE FREEDOM AND DIGNITY TO IDENTIFIED SURVIVORS; AND

WHEREAS, THE NORTH CAROLINA HUMAN TRAFFICKING COMMISSION WORKS DILIGENTLY TO BUILD PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS ACROSS OUR STATE TO INCREASE AWARENESS AND END THESE HORRIFIC CRIMES; 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 PROCLAIM THAT THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2022 BE DECLARED "HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH" FOR THE JUDICIAL BRANCH OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

THIS THE 6TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2022.

PAUL NEWBY, CHIEF JUSTICE
SUPREME COURT of NORTH CAROLINA