



# PROCLAMATION A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

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NORTH CAROLINA JUDICIAL BRANCH

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH JANUARY 2023 HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS DAY JANUARY 11, 2023

**WHEREAS**, HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS A PUBLIC SAFETY, PERSONAL LIBERTY, AND PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE WHICH DENIES THE HUMAN DIGNITY AND FREEDOM OF VICTIMS REGARDLESS OF RACE, RELIGION, GENDER, AGE, CITIZENSHIP, OR SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS; AND

**WHEREAS**, THE CRIME OF 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 PERSON WHO HAS NOT REACHED 18 YEARS OF AGE; AND

**WHEREAS**, THE NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE AS WELL AS PARTNER AGENCIES WITHIN NORTH CAROLINA NOTE A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN REPORTS REGARDING FAMILIAL TRAFFICKING AND ONGOING VULNERABILITIES OF FAMILIES DUE TO THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC, PERSISTENT IMPACTS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, AND OTHER SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS; AND

**WHEREAS**, THE NORTH CAROLINA INTERNET CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN TASK FORCE REPORTS AN INCREASE IN CYBER TIPS FROM A TOTAL OF 4,930 IN 2019 TO 17,591 IN 2022 AS OF OCTOBER 1; AND

**WHEREAS**, THE NORTH CAROLINA HUMAN TRAFFICKING COMMISSION, AS THE LEGISLATIVELY MANDATED LEADER OF ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING EFFORTS IN THE STATE, AND THE NORTH CAROLINA JUDICIAL BRANCH CONTINUE TO STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIPS AND SUPPORT EFFORTS TO BUILD AWARENESS OF THE MANY FORMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING, TO PROTECT AND SERVE VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS, AND TO INCREASE THE PREVENTION AND PROSECUTION OF THESE EGREGIOUS CRIMES; AND

**WHEREAS**, THE NORTH CAROLINA HUMAN TRAFFICKING COMMISSION IS CHARGED WITH EXAMINING AND COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING, FUNDING AND FACILITATING RESEARCH, CREATING MEASUREMENT, ASSESSMENT, AND ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES, INFORMING AND EDUCATING LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL, SOCIAL SERVICE PROVIDERS, AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC, SUGGESTING NEW POLICIES, PROCEDURES, AND LEGISLATION, DEVELOPING REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAMS, AND IDENTIFYING GAPS IN LAW ENFORCEMENT OR SERVICE PROVISION AND RECOMMENDING SOLUTIONS; AND

**WHEREAS**, HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY TO RECOGNIZE THAT ALL NORTH CAROLINIANS CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE PREVENTION OF THIS CRIME AND IN THE CREATION OF SOLUTIONS THAT ADDRESS IT AND SERVE VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I DO HEREBY PROCLAIM JANUARY 2023 AS "HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH" AND JANUARY 11, 2023 AS "HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS DAY," FOR THE JUDICIAL BRANCH OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

PAUL NEWBY, CHIEF JUSTICE  
SUPREME COURT of NORTH CAROLINA