



State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH

2020

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, human trafficking is the recruiting, harboring, obtaining or transporting of people through force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of sexual exploitation or labor; it can also include any commercial sex act committed upon a minor; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking is the second-most lucrative illicit industry in the world, and North Carolina is believed to have one of the top-ten highest rates of human trafficking in the United States; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking can happen to anyone in North Carolina including women, men, and children across all demographic lines, regardless of race, gender, age, immigration status, and socioeconomic status; and

WHEREAS, even though awareness of this crime is growing, human trafficking continues to go unreported or underreported due to its isolating nature, the misunderstanding of its definition, lack of awareness about its indicators, and victim fears of coming forward; and

WHEREAS, children are particularly vulnerable to human trafficking, especially those with a history of sexual, emotional, or physical abuse; children struggling with learning disabilities, substance abuse issues, or sexual identity; children who have experienced the loss of a parent through death, divorce, abandonment, or incarceration; and children who have been, are, or will be involved in the child welfare system; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking is a public safety issue, a public health issue, and a human rights issue, requiring a collaborative, multi-disciplinary response involving the skills, expertise, and resources of every individual and agency in North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Human Trafficking Commission is committed to remaining informed about the problem, working to protect victims of human trafficking with effective services and support, encouraging prosecution of traffickers through consistent enforcement of the law, and preventing human rights abuses by examining the causes of this horrific crime; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina recognizes the strength and resilience of individuals in our communities who have survived human trafficking and encourages people to raise awareness, promote education, and support initiatives to address human trafficking as a social justice issue;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim January, 2020, as “**HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH**” in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.





Roy Cooper
Governor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this twentieth day of December in the year of our Lord two thousand and nineteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-fourth.