

Resolution

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS

WHEREAS, September 12, 2024, the Carrboro Town Council unanimously resolved to advocate for Women’s Health and Comprehensive Reproductive Rights as a Human Right, affirmed that all people deserve access to high-quality healthcare without fear of government interference or punishment, and affirmed that North Carolina has an obligation to implement and protect human rights.

WHEREAS with this resolution, the Town of Carrboro reaffirms the stand for Women’s Health and Comprehensive Reproductive Rights as a Human Right; and

WHEREAS the Carrboro Town Council has a history of supporting full access to safe, comprehensive reproductive health care—such as by unanimously adopting “A Resolution Calling for Repeal of the Hyde Amendment and Supporting the Right of All Women to Safe and Comprehensive Health Care” in 2018—and rejects in the strongest terms legislation aimed at limiting or denying access to abortion; and

WHEREAS, the Carrboro Town Council further resolved to urge the delegation in the North Carolina General Assembly to prioritize the health care needs of all residents, to reject further attempts to restrict access to abortion, and to increase investment in access to health care, affordable birth control including emergency contraception, and comprehensive age-appropriate sex education, and

WHEREAS, the Carrboro Town Council further resolved to encourage residents of Carrboro to speak out against these egregious attacks on bodily autonomy and make their views known to members of the General Assembly. and

WHEREAS, on August 27, 2025, in an attempt to evade accountability for grave, ongoing human rights violations in the country, the U.S. State Department sent a letter to the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights stating that the Administration will not participate in its upcoming Universal Periodic Review, a mandatory UN process through which countries review each other’s human rights records; and

WHEREAS, every UN member country participates in the Universal Period Review process and to date, only two other countries, Israel and Nicaragua, have ever attempted to evade review and no country has ever fully done so; and

WHEREAS, a government that silences accountability while expanding repression cannot be ignored and must be held accountable on a global stage; and

WHEREAS, many residents of the Town of Carrboro are not aware of their universal human rights and do not know that the United States is a signatory to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and has ratified three human rights treaties, which have legal authority; and

WHEREAS, December 10 of each year is celebrated around the world as “Human Rights Day”;

Resolution

WHEREAS, treaties ratified by the United States should be upheld at the federal, state and local level as they are considered binding on individual States and are the “supreme Law of the Land” under clause 2 of Article VI of the United States Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the United States has ratified, and is bound by, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD), and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT); and

WHEREAS, the United States has joined the international community in identifying reproductive rights as human rights, including in connection with the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, and the 1995 Beijing World Conference on Women; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations Human Rights Committee has repeatedly found that abortion bans violate multiple human rights the United States is bound to protect, including the rights to life, privacy, freedom from torture, cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment, and equal protection; and

WHEREAS, Indigenous people, Black people, People of Color, people with low incomes, people living in rural areas, people with disabilities, immigrants, LGBTQ+ individuals, and other marginalized individuals are disproportionately likely to be surveilled, arrested, charged, prosecuted, convicted, and heavily punished within the American criminal justice system and, due to systemic discrimination, to experience additional scrutiny from the American legal system; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Carrboro aligns itself with its human rights obligations under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, in accordance with Article VI, Clause 2 of the United States Constitution, and stands in solidarity with local, national, and international efforts to protect and expand human rights for all; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Carrboro Town Council does hereby recognize December 10, 2025, as Human Rights Day in the Town of Carrboro, Orange County, North Carolina and commits to uphold and defend freedom, democracy, and human rights in our own Town of Carrboro, Orange County, North Carolina, in our country, and around the world.

This the 21st day of October, 2025.


Barbara M. Foushee

