

RESOLUTION

PARLIAMENT

WHEREAS We the People of Barbados inspired by the fact that it was at twelve o'clock noon on the Twenty Fifth Day of March in the year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Seven that His Majesty King George 111 of Great Britain gave assent to the Bill and signed into law *The Abolition of the Slave Trade Act*

AND WHEREAS the Government and People of Barbados strongly support the Resolution on the Commemoration of the Two Hundredth Anniversary of the Abolition of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade which was co-sponsored by the Caribbean Community Secretariat at the sixty-first Session of the United Nations General Assembly in the year Two Thousand and Six and designate the Twenty Fifth Day of March Two Thousand and Seven as International Day for the Commemoration

AND WHEREAS the Societies in Barbados and the Caribbean are a result of the cultural interactions emanating from the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade and it is recognised that the majority of persons in these Societies are descendants of West Africans displaced by that Slave Trade

AND WHEREAS it is necessary to sensitise all Barbadians to our history and to highlight the fortitude of our African ancestors who endured the inhuman and degrading violations of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, some of them paying the ultimate sacrifice

BE IT RESOLVED that We, the People of Barbados, pay tribute to our African foreparents, the survivors of slavery, and to their descendants for the unparalleled contribution they have made and are continuing to make to the development of freedom and democracy in the Western World

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that tangible memorials be established in honour of

- (a) those redoubtable men and women who engaged in sustained resistance and fought valiantly against almost insuperable odds to effect their own emancipation in Barbados
- (b) the untold millions of Africans who, having been captured and brutally treated on board slave ships, did not survive the crossing from West Africa to the New World
- (c) the freedom fighters of the Caribbean region who gave their lives in the struggle for liberation of all enslaved Africans in the New World, and
- (d) the Abolitionist Movement which led a strong moral crusade against this genocidal commerce and whose efforts contributed greatly to the formal ending of the British Slave Trade in the year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Seven

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that extensive research and documentation of the identities and roles of enslaved Barbadians who were engaged in resistance during slavery be carried out in order to highlight their impact on post emancipation Barbados

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT We the People of Barbados recommit ourselves and call on all countries and people everywhere to recommit themselves to the removal of all vestiges of slavery and discrimination wherever they still exist.

