

I Welcome Resolution

WHEREAS, refugees are forced to flee their country because they have a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group;

WHEREAS, there are more refugees in the world today than at any time in recorded history, and half of the world's refugees are children;

WHEREAS, refugees are fleeing armed conflict and persecution in Africa, the Middle East, Southeast Asia, Central America, and other regions;

WHEREAS, there is a continued lack of funding for humanitarian aid for host countries, and food rations and medical aid have been repeatedly cut for refugees;

WHEREAS, refugees who need to be resettled include torture survivors, people with severe medical conditions, LGBTI individuals, and children alone – none of whom can return home or stay in their host country due to their extreme vulnerability;

WHEREAS, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has determined that 1.4 million refugees are in need of immediate resettlement in 2019, but fewer than 75,000 resettlement places were available in 2017 and the number continues to shrink;

WHEREAS, we applaud the historic, bipartisan tradition of the United States in welcoming refugees, in keeping with our country's values and commitments to human rights;

WHEREAS, the number of refugees allowed into the United States has been slashed to the lowest number in decades, at the very time that the refugee crisis merits a powerful international response;

WHEREAS, a refugee has no choice about where they are resettled;

WHEREAS, even if a refugee is conditionally offered resettlement in the United States, they must still be found admissible under U.S. immigration law;

WHEREAS, few refugees from Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Libya, Mali, North Korea, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen are now permitted to resettle in the United States;

WHEREAS, 215,000 refugees await interviews for resettlement while resources have been diverted from the resettlement program.

WHEREAS, the security vetting process now takes over three years at a minimum due to diverted resources as well as even more security checks and onerous new biographical data collection that clog up the process without providing benefit;

WHEREAS, refugees are the most vetted individuals to enter the United States, undergoing security checks by multiple law enforcement and intelligence agencies, and are not permitted to travel to the U.S. until all security screenings have been successfully completed;

WHEREAS, Catholic Charities of Louisville, the organization that coordinates refugee resettlement services throughout the state, as well as numerous other community organizations and religious institutions, have declared their support for resettling refugees in Kentucky.

WHEREAS, Kentucky has resettled more than 16,500 refugees in Kentucky since 2009 from more than 40 countries including Somalia, Iraq and Bhutan.

RESOLVED, the City Council of Midway, Kentucky declares its support for the resettlement of refugees no matter their religion, race, nationality, sexual orientation, gender identity or country of origin in Kentucky and calls upon other Kentucky communities to join them in supporting a stronger national effort to resettle refugees around the world in need of a home.