

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HILDA L. SOLIS

June 3, 2025

AND LINDSEY P. HORVATH

Proclaiming June 2025 as “Refugee and Immigrant Heritage Awareness Month”

The County of Los Angeles (County) is home to more than 10 million residents, one-third of whom are immigrants. This makes the County one of the most culturally diverse counties in the United States. Forced to flee their native lands, many refugees and immigrants settle in our County hoping to start new lives free of political, religious, and human rights persecution and violations; torture; imprisonment, or war. According to the California Department of Social Services, nearly 4,000 refugees have arrived in the County over the past five years. In addition, there have been more than 16,000 approved Uniting for Ukraine (U4U) financial supporters from the County since the inception of the U4U program in 2022. As a result, the County Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) Refugee Employment Program assists a monthly average of 3,300 participants with employment, training, acculturation, and support services.

The County’s support for refugees and immigrants was cemented in September 2017 when the Board made Immigration a Board-directed Priority. More recently, the Board further reinforced its commitment to supporting immigrants by launching a Countywide initiative to strengthen language access in County services, which included

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adopting a Countywide Language Access Policy in April 2024. By welcoming and supporting immigrants and refugees, the County is enriched by their valuable cultural, economic, and social contributions.

To celebrate, honor, and uplift the diversity and numerous contributions refugees and immigrants have made to the County, in past years, the Board has proclaimed June as “Refugee and Immigrant Heritage Awareness Month.” The County’s recognition coincides with the State of California’s annual “Refugee Awareness Month” observance and the United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees declaration of “World Refugee Day” on June 20. This annual observance serves as an opportunity to highlight the collaboration between County, advocates, and service providers, including:

- Catholic Charities of Los Angeles;
- Church World Service;
- Interfaith Refugee and Immigration Service;
- International Institute of Los Angeles;
- International Rescue Committee;
- Jobs Vision Success SoCal;
- Refugee Forum of Los Angeles;
- Uplift Charity.

Once again this year, the Office of Immigrant Affairs in the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs, DPSS, the Refugee Forum of Los Angeles, and local

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key stakeholders are collaborating to celebrate World Refugee Day on June 20, 2025. The event will raise awareness about refugees and immigrants in the County and provide them with information on vital resources and services, such as linkage to employment opportunities, family reunification, and public benefits enrollment. These efforts create pathways for refugees and immigrants to rebuild their lives, so they may reach their full potential and thrive in our communities.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Proclaim June 2025, as “Refugee and Immigrant Heritage Awareness Month” to honor the valuable contributions of refugees and immigrants to the County;
2. Praise the tireless efforts of local refugee and immigrant service organizations who assist refugees and immigrants in navigating the complexities of resettling, promoting a sense of belonging and dignity, and empowering them to pursue pathways to become full contributing members in their new communities; and
3. Recognize and celebrate the significant contributions of refugees and immigrants to the County, to value their experiences and sacrifices and support greater understanding, empathy, and solidarity for them throughout the County.

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