

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

JUNE 9, 2026

Proclaiming June 2026 as “Refugee Awareness and Immigrant Heritage Month”

Refugees and immigrants have long shaped the identity, resilience, and prosperity of the United States. June is recognized nationally and internationally as a time to honor their contributions and raise awareness of the challenges faced by displaced populations.

World Refugee Day, observed on June 20, recognizes the strength and courage of people forced to flee their homes due to war, violence, persecution, humanitarian crises, or climate-related displacement. Immigrant Heritage Month celebrates the history, cultures, and enduring contributions of immigrants across the nation. Together, these observances provide an opportunity to reflect on the global realities of displacement and the local impact of immigrant and refugee communities.

Los Angeles County (County) has long been a place of refuge, opportunity, and cultural richness. Home to residents from more than 140 countries who speak over 220 languages, the County is one of the most diverse regions in the world. Approximately 3.5 million immigrants—nearly one in three residents—live in the County and contribute to every aspect of community life. As workers, entrepreneurs, caregivers, educators, and civic leaders, immigrants and refugees strengthen the County’s economy, enrich its cultural landscape, and help build vibrant communities.

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At the same time, many immigrants and refugees continue to face significant challenges, including immigration case backlogs, delays in work authorization, uncertainty surrounding humanitarian protections, and barriers to housing, healthcare, and language access. These challenges can create instability for individuals and families seeking safety and self-sufficiency, particularly asylum seekers, unaccompanied children, mixed-status families, and survivors of trauma.

Despite these challenges, the County remains committed to supporting immigrant and refugee communities through coordinated services, inclusive policies, and strong community partnerships. The Los Angeles County Office of Immigrant Affairs advances equity through multilingual outreach and engagement, delivery of immigration legal services, and advocating for policies that advance the wellbeing of immigrants and their families across the County. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) administers vital cash, food, and health benefits programs. DPSS also administers the Refugee Employment Program, which provides case management, acculturation, employment, training, housing and utilities assistance, and supportive services to an average of 2,100 participants each month. Additionally, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health provides free comprehensive health assessments to newly arrived refugee populations, such as asylees, federal certified victims of severe forms of human trafficking, Special Immigrant Visa holders, and humanitarian parolees from certain countries.

In partnership with County departments, the Refugee Forum of Los Angeles and

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a network of community-based organizations provide culturally and linguistically responsive services, including immigration legal assistance, workforce development, housing navigation, health access, and community integration support. Together, these partners organize World Refugee Day celebrations, resource fairs, and other activities that foster belonging and connection.

Community members, faith-based organizations, mutual aid networks, and local leaders also play a critical role in supporting immigrant and refugee families through direct assistance, advocacy, and community-building efforts. These collective actions reflect Los Angeles County’s commitment to dignity, inclusion, and opportunity for all.

As the County observes Refugee Awareness and Immigrant Heritage Month, it reaffirms its commitment to being a welcoming region that values diversity as a strength and recognizes the lasting contributions of those who have come here in search of safety, opportunity, and a better future.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Proclaim June 2026 as “Refugee Awareness and Immigrant Heritage Month” throughout the County of Los Angeles; and
2. Recognize World Refugee Day on June 20, 2026, and encourage participation in local events that promote awareness, solidarity, and celebration of refugee and immigrant communities.

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