

June 06, 2023

**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR JANICE HAHN**

**Proclaim Refugee Awareness Month**

The United States is a land of opportunity for many people around the world, and home to many refugees and their families who have been forced to flee their homelands due to religious and political persecution, war, and civil turmoil. Refugees recognize the autonomy of our nation and seek opportunities to thrive and prosper. Many decide to pursue their dreams and resettle in Los Angeles County, due to a greater level of acceptance and openness for immigrants and refugees. Based on information from the California Department of Social Services Refugee Program Bureau, nearly 2,000 refugees arrived in Los Angeles County in the past five years. Additionally, as of March 14, 2023, there are approximately 8,550 approved Uniting for Ukraine supporters from Los Angeles County, which have resulted in approximately 2,300 Ukrainian citizens and non-citizen adult recipients for Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services benefits and services.

Refugees share a common goal with other immigrants, to achieve the American dream; and through their many skills, talents, faiths and shared common values, they enrich our nation both culturally and economically. Notwithstanding their shared goals and values, numerous refugees that resettle here experience language, educational, and cultural barriers that hinder a successful transition to life in the United States. The Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office's

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Office of Emergency Management, Department of Consumer and Business Affairs' Office of Immigrant Affairs, Public Health and Public Social Services, along with local refugee service organizations, play an integral part in empowering and assisting refugees and their families to transition to self-sufficiency. This is achieved by providing culturally and linguistically sensitive resettlement and supportive services. Local refugee service organizations include but are not limited to:

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

As our nation continues to commemorate the strength, courage, and perseverance of refugees, we persist with our commitment of compassion, generosity and support for those who have been forced to flee their homelands. As the California Department of Social Services annually declares June as "Immigrant Heritage Month" and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees annually proclaims June 20th as "World Refugee Day," the Board of Supervisors of Los Angeles County embraces and celebrates the contributions that refugees

bring to our County.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors:

- 1) Join with local refugee service organizations, the Chief Executive Office's Office of Emergency Management and Departments of Consumer and Business Affairs' Office of Immigrant Affairs, Public Health, and Public Social Services to proclaim June 2023 as "Refugee Awareness Month" throughout the County of Los Angeles; and
- 2) Commend the invaluable efforts of local refugee service organizations; and
- 3) Recognize the significant contributions of refugees to Los Angeles County.

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