



# State of New York

## Executive Chamber

### Proclamation

**Whereas**, our nation is strengthened by its diversity of people and New York State has an especially proud history of welcoming immigrants from all countries of the world, recognizing that our progress as a society is advanced and enriched by the intellect, talents, and cultural contributions of immigrants, who are the foundation on which America is built and thrives; and

**Whereas**, throughout history, generations of immigrants have arrived on our shores, many of them coming through Ellis Island where they first set sight on the Statue of Liberty standing in New York Harbor – one of the most respected symbols of democracy – and they have become leaders not only in securing their own rights and access to equal opportunity, but advocating to create a more inclusive and just society for all Americans; and

**Whereas**, New York State welcomes immigrants who want to become part of the family of New Yorkers and contribute to our society, and has established the Office for New Americans (ONA) to help newcomers fully participate in civic and economic life, which celebrates its 10 year anniversary in 2022; and

**Whereas**, ONA is committed to strengthening a welcoming environment for all new Americans and facilitating their success through its statewide network of immigrant service providers hosted within existing culturally competent, language-accessible, community-based organizations that provide a range of services, such as citizenship preparation, English language assistance, workforce development, comprehensive legal services, mental health support, and access to developmental disability resources and services; and

**Whereas**, over the centuries, generations of immigrants from every corner of the globe have helped build our economic and social structure, contributing to the unique character of New York State and all of America, and immigrants continue to add to our society through business growth, innovation, cultural enrichment, neighborhood revitalization, and job creation; and

**Whereas**, during this month, we also join in the observance of June 20<sup>th</sup> as *World Refugee Day* and honor the contributions of New York State's diverse refugee populations, welcoming recent arrivals from Afghanistan and Ukraine who have demonstrated their commitment alongside our country in defending democracy; and

**Whereas**, New York State's immigrant communities have been particularly important throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and as we continue to recover from this crisis, and we thank them for honorably continuing their professional responsibilities and services that have been critical to our lives during this difficult time; and

**Whereas**, immigrants have an immeasurable influence and impact on the economic, social, and cultural framework of the United States and New York State, and we join in recognizing our immigrant communities for their achievements in all areas of endeavor and their positive contributions to our daily lives;

**Now, Therefore**, I, Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim June 2022 as

## IMMIGRANT HERITAGE MONTH

in the Empire State.



**G i v e n** under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the Capitol in the City of Albany this first day of June in the year two thousand twenty-two.

*Kathy Hochul*  
Governor

*Karen Persichilli Keogh*

Secretary to the Governor  
Karen Persichilli Keogh