



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, refugees have been forced to flee their countries because of war, violence, or persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political viewpoint, or membership in a particular social group and, because of the difficult and dangerous circumstances surrounding their emigration, refugees most likely cannot return home or are afraid to do so; and

Whereas, according to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, there were, by the end of 2017, 70.8 million individuals worldwide who were forcibly displaced as a result of persecution, conflict, violence, or human rights violations, representing an increase of 2.3 million people from the previous year, and today the world's forcibly displaced population remains at a record high; and

Whereas, on February 12, 2001, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 55/76, establishing June 20th as "World Refugee Day," in commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, which articulates the fundamental concepts for international refugee protection; and

Whereas, the United States resettlement program is the largest in the world and the United States has been the global leader in resettling refugees for the past half century; since 1975, this country has welcomed more than three million refugees from around the world, and these refugees have built new lives for their families in all 50 states and have been assimilated and accepted into American society; and

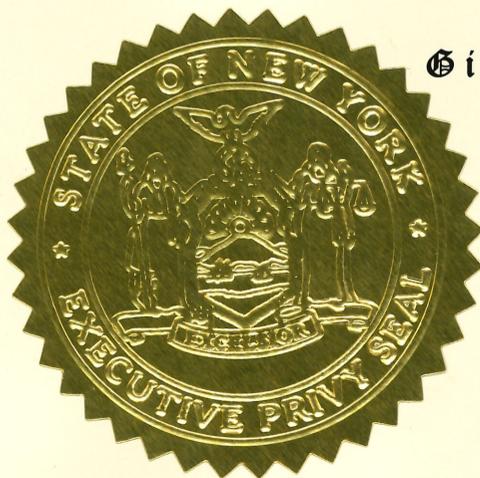
Whereas, New York State stands as a beacon of hope and opportunity for people worldwide and has a long tradition of supporting refugees to resettle by providing dedicated state resources and cultivating partnerships with diverse local community organizations that help refugees find safe harbor; a recognized leader in assisting in refugee resettlement, in 2018 the Empire State ranked second in the number of refugees welcomed, resettling approximately 1,281 last year, including over 1,130 individuals in upstate regions where they helped to revitalize communities and stimulate local economies; and

Whereas, New York State remains a global example of cultural unity and humanitarianism, and our refugee population brings a wealth of social, cultural, and economic benefits to our nation and state; we recognize the many important and valuable contributions made by refugees and acknowledge the continued need to support individuals and families seeking refuge and assistance in times of crisis in their homelands;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim June 20, 2019 as

WORLD REFUGEE DAY

in the Empire State.



Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the Capitol in the City of Albany this eighteenth day of June in the year two thousand nineteen.


Governor


Secretary to the Governor
Melissa DeRosa