



Resolution Reaffirming Support for the Resettlement of Refugees to Wake County

WHEREAS, there are more refugees in the world today than at any time since World War II, and more than half of the world's refugees are children; and

WHEREAS, refugees are fleeing armed conflict and human rights abuses in many areas around the world; and

WHEREAS, more than half of the world's refugees are hosted by only ten countries, and many of these countries do not have adequate resources to keep refugees fed, housed, or safe, leaving some refugees to survive on less than fifty cents a day; and

WHEREAS, refugees who need to be resettled include torture survivors, people with severe medical conditions, LGBTI individuals, children alone, and women and children at risk – all of whom can neither return home nor stay in their host country due to their extreme vulnerability; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has determined that 1.2 million refugees are in need of immediate resettlement, but fewer than 150,000 resettlement places are available worldwide; and

WHEREAS, we applaud the historic, bi-partisan tradition of the United States in welcoming refugees, in keeping with our national values and respect for human rights; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations resettlement process does not allow refugees to choose the country to which they will be sent; and

WHEREAS, even if a refugee is a candidate for resettlement in the United States, he or she must still be found admissible under U.S. immigration law; and

WHEREAS, every single refugee must undergo a security vetting process that is lengthy, extremely detailed, and very safe, taking 18 to 24 months and involving multiple law enforcement and intelligence agencies; and

WHEREAS, refugees are the most vetted individuals to enter the United States and are not permitted to travel to the U.S. until all security screenings have been successfully completed; and

WHEREAS, Lutheran Services Carolinas and the US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI), the organizations responsible for resettling refugees in this community, as well as numerous other community organizations and religious institutions, have declared their support for resettling refugees in Wake County; and

WHEREAS, Lutheran Services Carolinas and the US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI) have resettled over 1,000 refugees in the Wake County area since 2015 from more than 17 countries; and

WHEREAS, Wake County has a long-standing commitment not only to being open and welcoming to refugees, but also to understanding that refugees so far resettled in our community have and will continue to make significant, positive, and lasting contributions to the life of our county.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wake County Board of Commissioners declares its support for the resettlement of refugees no matter their religion, race, nationality, or country of origin, in Wake County and calls upon other North Carolina communities to join them in supporting a stronger national effort to resettle the most vulnerable refugees.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Wake County Board of Commissioners reaffirms that Wake County is open and welcoming to refugees.

ADOPTED this 7th day of November 2018.

Jessica N. Holmes, Chair
Wake County Board of Commissioners