



State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

REFUGEES WELCOME WEEK

2019

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, millions of refugees – of many faiths or countries of origin – are making life and death decisions to flee their homes in need of shelter or protection; and

WHEREAS, welcoming the oppressed and persecuted is a foundation of our state and nation; North Carolina has been a pillar of hospitality, home to a diverse population of refugees and immigrants who have added to the economic strength and cultural richness of our communities; and

WHEREAS, resettlement to the United States is available only for those refugees who demonstrate the greatest and most immediate need for protection – such as children traveling alone, female-headed households, victims of torture, the physically disabled and members of the LGBTI community – and takes place only after eligible refugees undergo a rigorous selection, security vetting and medical screening process; and

WHEREAS, between 2005 and 2014, refugees contributed a total of \$269.1 billion to the national economy, far surpassing the \$206.1 billion spent by the United States to assist refugees; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina was one of the first states to welcome refugees into the United States after the signing of the United States Refugee Act of 1980 by President Jimmy Carter; and

WHEREAS, organizations responsible for resettling refugees, as well as many other community and faith-based groups, offer support for refugees who resettle in our state; and

WHEREAS, refugees integrate and quickly become self-sufficient, paying taxes, supporting local commerce, joining the workforce, and providing jobs; refugees have started more than 200 small businesses across the state in the last three years; and

WHEREAS, World Refugee Day is celebrated annually on June 20 to raise awareness of the millions of refugees worldwide who have no other option but to flee their homes to save themselves and their families from persecution, war or violence due to their race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina encourages people to commemorate World Refugee Day by participating in local events and by expanding their knowledge of refugees, as well as the global issues and conflicts that bring them into our communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim the week of June 20 – 26, 2019, as “**REFUGEES WELCOME WEEK**” in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.



Roy Cooper
Governor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this twelfth day of June in the year of our Lord two thousand and nineteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-second.