

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 1195

Reaffirming the importance of the United States to promote the safety,
health, and well-being of refugees and displaced persons.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 21, 2022

Mr. LIEU (for himself, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. NORTON, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CORREA, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. RUSH, Mr. SUOZZI, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. POCAN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. TRONE, Ms. JACOBS of California, Mr. COHEN, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. PETERS, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. BASS, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. KIND, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. SWALWELL, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. KILMER, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. SIRES, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. JONES, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. EVANS, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. MENG, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. TITUS, Mr. BERA, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. NADLER, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. NEWMAN, and Ms. MATSUI) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

RESOLUTION

Reaffirming the importance of the United States to promote
the safety, health, and well-being of refugees and displaced persons.

Whereas June 20, 2022, is observed as “World Refugee Day”, a global event to honor refugees around the globe and celebrate the strengths and courage of people who have been forced to flee their home country to escape conflict or persecution due to their race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group;

Whereas July 28, 2022, is the 71st anniversary of the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, held in Geneva on July 28, 1951, which defines the term “refugee” and outlines the rights of refugees and the legal obligations of States to protect them;

Whereas, in 2022, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)—

(1) there are more than 100,000,000 displaced people who have been forced from their homes worldwide, more than any time in recorded history, including over 27,100,000 refugees and at least 53,200,000 internally displaced people as of the end of 2021;

(2) 66 percent of the world’s refugees came from Syria, Venezuela, Afghanistan, South Sudan, and Burma;

(3) there have been more than 7,500,000 border crossings from Ukraine since February 24, 2022, with nearly 5,000,000 having been recorded as refugees across Europe as of June 9, 2022, and nearly 12,800,000 people were internally displaced in Ukraine as of May 5, 2022;

(4) there are 2,700,000 registered Afghan refugees in the world, of whom nearly 2,100,000 are registered in Iran and Pakistan alone, in addition to another 3,500,000 people who are internally displaced, having fled their homes in search of refuge within the country;

(5) more than 50 percent of the population of Syria, at least 13,500,000 people, have been displaced since the start of the conflict, either across the international border or within Syria, which represents the largest displacement crisis in the world today;

(6) 1 in 4 people of concern to UNHCR lives in the Americas, up from 1 in 6 in 2018;

(7) over 6,000,000 Venezuelans have fled the country, representing the largest exodus in Latin America's recent history and one of the largest displacement crises in the world;

(8) children account for 31 percent of the world's population and 41 percent of all forcibly displaced people, millions of whom are unable to access basic services, including education; and

(9) 83 percent of all refugees are hosted by developing nations, and fewer than 1 percent of vulnerable refugees in need of resettlement have had the opportunity due to lack of resettlement places;

Whereas thousands of immigrant neighbors in the United States, including people from Ethiopia, Cameroon, Haiti, Mauritania, and South Sudan, face harm if deported to their home countries due to violent crime and political instability;

Whereas refugees are major contributors to local economies and serve as critical frontline health care professionals and essential workers combating the COVID-19 pandemic worldwide;

Whereas welcoming the oppressed and persecuted is a core tenet of this great Nation, and the United States is home to a diverse population of refugees and immigrants who

have added to the economic strengths and cultural richness of United States communities;

Whereas, consistent with domestic and international law, all foreign nationals arriving in the United States, regardless of their nationality, must be given an opportunity to seek asylum;

Whereas the United States must restore a humane and functioning asylum system in order to meet its obligations under domestic and international law with respect to those fleeing persecution;

Whereas the United States supports the UNHCR in its efforts to increase protection for LGBTQI+ refugees overseas and to support their global resettlement;

Whereas the United States Refugee Admissions Program, which was established over 40 years ago, is a lifesaving pillar of global humanitarian efforts, advances United States foreign policy goals, and supports regional host countries;

Whereas resettlement is an essential part of a comprehensive strategy to respond to refugee crises, promote responsibility sharing, and strengthen United States national security by ensuring access to legal migration pathways;

Whereas the infrastructure for the United States refugee resettlement pipeline has been dismantled, limiting access to the United States Refugee Admissions Program globally;

Whereas, for the first time in recent history, following the destruction of the United States refugee resettlement pipeline, large numbers of desperate migrants from as far as Cameroon and Ukraine have sought refuge from persecution at the United States-Mexico border;

Whereas, in fiscal year 2021, the United States only resettled 11,500 refugees, the lowest figure since the passage of the Refugee Act of 1980, and as of May 31, 2022, the United States has only resettled 12,641 refugees in fiscal year 2022;

Whereas, as of May 31, 2022, in fiscal year 2022, only 5,070 refugees were admitted from Africa, only 1,296 from Latin America and the Caribbean; and only 1,060 from East Asia;

Whereas resettlement organizations, as well as other community and faith-based groups, offer support for refugees who resettle in the United States;

Whereas resettlement to the United States is available for the most vulnerable refugees who undergo a rigorous security vetting and medical screening process;

Whereas, according to New American Economy, between 2005 and 2014, refugees contributed an estimated \$269,100,000,000 to the national economy, far surpassing the \$206,100,000,000 spent by the United States to assist refugees; and

Whereas refugees integrate and quickly become self-sufficient by paying taxes, supporting local commerce, joining the workforce, and creating jobs: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) reaffirms the bipartisan commitment of the
3 United States to promote the safety, health, and
4 well-being of millions of refugees and asylum seek-
5 ers, including the education of refugee children and
6 displaced persons who flee war, persecution, or tor-

1 ture in search of protection, peace, hope, and free-
2 dom;

3 (2) recognizes those individuals who have risked
4 their lives working, either individually or for non-
5 governmental organizations and international agen-
6 cies, such as the United Nations High Commissioner
7 for Refugees (UNHCR), to provide lifesaving assist-
8 ance and protection for people displaced around the
9 world;

10 (3) reaffirms the imperative to fully restore
11 United States asylum protections by terminating
12 policies that deny access to asylum or externalize
13 United States asylum obligations;

14 (4) underscores the need for the United States
15 Government to fully rebuild the Nation's refugee re-
16 settlement infrastructure in order to strengthen na-
17 tional and regional security and encourage inter-
18 national solidarity with host countries; and

19 (5) calls upon the Secretary of State, the Sec-
20 retary of Homeland Security, and the United States
21 Ambassador to the United Nations to—

22 (A) continue providing robust funding for
23 refugee protection overseas and resettlement in
24 the United States;

1 (B) revive the United States international
2 leadership role in responding to displacement
3 crises with humanitarian assistance, and restore
4 its leadership role in the protection of vulner-
5 able refugee populations that endure gender-
6 based violence, human trafficking, persecution
7 and violence against religious minorities, forced
8 conscription, genocide, and exploitation;

9 (C) work in partnership with the inter-
10 national community to find solutions to existing
11 conflicts and prevent new conflicts from begin-
12 ning;

13 (D) continue supporting the efforts of the
14 UNHCR and advance the work of nongovern-
15 mental organizations to protect refugees and
16 asylum seekers regardless of their country of
17 origin, race, ethnicity, or religious beliefs;

18 (E) continue to alleviate pressures on
19 frontline refugee host countries that absorb the
20 majority of the world's refugees through hu-
21 manitarian and development aid;

22 (F) respond to the global refugee crisis by
23 meeting robust refugee admissions goals; and

24 (G) reaffirm the goals of “World Refugee
25 Day” and reiterate the strong commitment to

- 1 protect refugees and asylum seekers who live
- 2 without material, social, or legal protections.

