

House Resolution

No. 23

Introduced by Assembly Member McCarty

March 2, 2017

House Resolution No. 23—Relative to World Refugee Day.

1 WHEREAS, World Refugee Day is a global day to honor the
2 courage, strength, and determination of women, men, and children
3 who are forced to flee their homes under the threats of conflict,
4 violence, and persecution; and

5 WHEREAS, There are nearly 65,300,000 displaced people
6 worldwide, the highest levels ever recorded, including almost
7 21,300,000 refugees, 40,800,000 internally displaced people, and
8 3,200,000 people seeking asylum; and

9 WHEREAS, Children account for 51 percent of the refugee
10 population in the world, millions of whom are unable to access
11 basic services including education; and

12 WHEREAS, Nearly 4,800,000 refugees have fled Syria since
13 the start of the Syrian conflict and more than 6,600,000 people are
14 internally displaced; and

15 WHEREAS, Since January 2014, more than 3,300,000 Iraqis
16 fleeing violence have been internally displaced, and 277,000
17 refugees have fled to neighboring countries; and

18 WHEREAS, Approximately 1,325,000 people are displaced
19 within Ukraine with approximately 800,000 Ukrainians seeking
20 protection in other countries as a result of a worsening humanitarian
21 situation in areas not controlled by the government; and

22 WHEREAS, Since April 2015, sporadic outbursts of violence
23 in Burundi have prompted more than 265,000 Burundians to flee

1 to the neighboring countries of Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, and
2 the Democratic Republic of the Congo; and

3 WHEREAS, Violent insurgent attacks in Nigeria have forced
4 167,000 people to flee to the neighboring countries of Cameroon,
5 Chad, and Niger, and have internally displaced nearly 1,500,000
6 people; and

7 WHEREAS, More than 95,000 women, men, and children,
8 including many persecuted Rohingya refugees from Burma, have
9 departed on smugglers' boats from the Bay of Bengal since 2014,
10 more than 1,000 of whom have died at sea; and

11 WHEREAS, As of June 2015, more than 100,000 refugees and
12 migrants have crossed the Mediterranean Sea from North Africa
13 and at least 1,800 women, men, and children have died during
14 such crossings or are missing; and

15 WHEREAS, Nearly 6,000,000 Colombians are internally
16 displaced; and

17 WHEREAS, Nearly 700,000 South Sudanese are refugees in
18 neighboring countries; and

19 WHEREAS, More than 465,000 people from the Central African
20 Republic are refugees; and

21 WHEREAS, Refugees who are women and girls are often at a
22 greater risk of sexual violence and exploitation, forced or early
23 marriage, human trafficking, and other forms of gender-based
24 violence; and

25 WHEREAS, The United States provides critical resources and
26 support to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
27 (UNHCR) and other international and nongovernmental
28 organizations working with refugees around the world; and

29 WHEREAS, Since 1975, the United States has welcomed more
30 than 3,000,000 refugees who have resettled in communities across
31 the country; and

32 WHEREAS, Since the enactment of the United States Refugee
33 Act of 1980, the State of California has greatly benefited from
34 being a national leader in welcoming refugees from all faiths and
35 regions of the world; and

36 WHEREAS, From October 2015 to September 2016, 7,900
37 refugees have settled in California, most of them residing in the
38 Counties of Los Angeles, Sacramento, and San Diego; and

39 WHEREAS, California maintains a proud history of diversity
40 and inclusion by resettling refugees from countries around the

1 world, including: Afghanistan, Algeria, Armenia, Austria,
2 Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bhutan, Bosnia & Herzegovina,
3 Burma, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic,
4 Chad, China, Columbia, Congo, Cote D'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba,
5 Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Eritrea,
6 Estonia, Ethiopia, Gambia, Georgia, Haiti, Hungary, India,
7 Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Korea,
8 Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Lithuania, Malaysia,
9 Mauritania, Moldova, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, North Korea,
10 Pakistan, Palestine, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland,
11 Romania, Russia, Rwanda, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South
12 Africa, former Soviet Union, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, Tajikistan,
13 Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda,
14 Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Yemen, and Zimbabwe; and

15 WHEREAS, The well-established refugee communities in the
16 State of California have significantly strengthened the worldwide
17 economic positioning of California and contributed to advancing
18 the state as the sixth largest economy on earth; now, therefore, be
19 it

20 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, That the*
21 *Assembly does all of the following:*

22 (a) Reaffirms the bipartisan commitment of the United States
23 to promote the safety, health, and well-being of the millions of
24 refugees and displaced persons who flee war, persecution, and
25 torture in search of peace, hope, and freedom in the state.

26 (b) Calls upon the federal government to do all of the following:

27 (1) Continue its international leadership role in response to those
28 who have been displaced, including the most vulnerable
29 populations who endure sexual violence, human trafficking, forced
30 conscription, genocide, and exploitation.

31 (2) Find political solutions to existing conflicts and prevent new
32 conflicts from beginning.

33 (c) Commends those who have risked their lives working
34 individually and for the countless nongovernmental organizations
35 and international agencies, such as the UNHCR, that have provided
36 life-saving assistance and helped protect those displaced by conflict
37 around the world.

38 (d) Iterates the strong bipartisan commitment of the United
39 States and the State of California to protect and assist millions of

1 refugees and other forcibly uprooted persons worldwide; and be
2 it further
3 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmits copies
4 of this resolution to each Senator and Representative from
5 California in the Congress of the United States and to the author
6 for appropriate distribution.

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