

# Appendix C

## Sample City or County “Refugees Welcome” Resolution

WHEREAS there are more refugees in the world today than at any time since World War II, including almost 5 million Syrians who have fled their homes since the Syrian conflict began in 2011, and tens of thousands of Central American refugees from Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador as murder rates have skyrocketed;

WHEREAS the United States has agreed to allow for 85,000 refugees, with a commitment to only 10,000 from Syria and a cap of only 9,000 from Central America;

WHEREAS Syrian and Central American refugees in need of resettlement are identified based on their vulnerabilities and risk of further exposure to violence and exploitation – including children traveling alone, female-headed households, victims of torture, the physically disabled, and members of the LGBTI community;

WHEREAS hundreds of thousands of Syrian and Central American refugees are making life and death decisions to flee their homes and neighboring countries because they are unable to access shelter, health care, education, or protection, and neighboring countries have either closed their borders to new arrivals or violence persists in those countries as well;

WHEREAS nearly 4,000 refugees died trying to cross the Mediterranean and Aegean seas into Europe in 2015, and two children die every day in this crossing, and the death rate for migrants crossing Arizona’s Sonoran desert and the Texas plains continues to rise each year;

WHEREAS all refugees resettled by the United States undergo an extensive and rigorous security screening process including biometric analysis, and all Syrian refugees go through an additional screening procedure;

WHEREAS [RESETTLEMENT ORGANIZATIONS IN THE COMMUNITY], 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 Syrian and Central American refugees in [CITY];

WHEREAS [RESETTLEMENT ORGANIZATIONS] have resettled more than [NUMBER] refugees in [CITY] since 2011 from more than [NUMBER] countries including [LIST COUNTRIES], and the individuals who have resettled here have made numerous contributions to our community;

WHEREAS The Refugee Act of 1980 declared that it is “the historic policy of the United States to respond to the urgent needs of persons subject to persecution in their homelands” and gave the President the power to handle an “unforeseen emergency refugee situation” such as one involving “grave humanitarian concerns” [12];

BE IT RESOLVED, that we the members of the [NAME] City Council hereby declare [CITY] to be a welcoming city for refugees and a sanctuary city for all fleeing violence regardless of legal status, and we affirm our support for the resettlement of Syrian and other refugees in [CITY].

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED that [CITY] urges the U.S. Congress to streamline the current two-year vetting process for Syrian refugees and appropriate sufficient funds to enable the country to accept its fair share of refugees; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the [CITY] City Council hereby urges city departments, local businesses, and charitable organizations to work with refugee organizations to provide shelter and sustenance for refugee families relocating to [CITY] and integrating into our communities, and calls upon other [STATE] communities to join them in supporting a stronger national effort to resettle the most vulnerable refugees worldwide.

\*Text adapted from Amnesty International’s sample resolution to expand beyond Syrian refugees.