

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 444

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 14, 2019

Mr. TED LIEU of California (for himself, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. NEGUSE, and Mr. DIAZ-BALART) 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 the United States has historically served as the benchmark for establishing a comprehensive response to displacement crises around the world, as well as for promoting the safety, health, and well-being of refugees and displaced persons;

Whereas June 20 is observed as World Refugee Day, a global day to acknowledge the courage, strength, resilience, and determination of women, men, and children who are

forced to flee their homes due to conflict, violence, and persecution;

Whereas, in 2017, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees—

(1) there were more than 68,500,000 displaced persons worldwide, the worst displacement crisis in global history, including more than 25,400,000 refugees, over 40,000,000 internally displaced persons, and 3,100,000 people seeking asylum;

(2) on average, 44,400 people were forced from their homes each day in the absence of peace and reconciliation in countries where armed conflict, violence, and persecution continue to reign;

(3) 16,200,000 new individuals and families were displaced, the majority of whom were displaced within the borders of their own countries;

(4) 60 percent of preventable maternal deaths occur in situations of conflict and displacement, and 1 in 5 refugees or displaced women in situations of humanitarian crisis suffer sexual violence, a figure which is likely underestimated;

(5) children accounted for 52 percent of all refugees, only half of them attend school;

(6) refugee children were five times more likely to be out of school than children who are not displaced, with refugee girls having less access to school than refugee boys;

(7) 68 percent of all refugees came from Syria, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Myanmar, and Somalia, including 6,300,000 refugees from Syria alone;

(8) there were more than 12,600,000 forcibly displaced Syrians, including 6,300,000 refugees, 6,200,000

internally displaced people, and 146,700 asylum-seekers; and

(9) 85 percent of all refugees were hosted by developing nations, and less than 1 percent of vulnerable refugees in need of resettlement had the opportunity to resettle because sufficient numbers of places do not exist; and

Whereas the United States resettlement program is a life-saving solution critical to global humanitarian efforts, which serves to strengthen global security, advance United States foreign policy goals, and support regional host countries while serving individuals and families in need: 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, edu-
4 cation, and well-being of the millions of refugees and
5 displaced persons uprooted by war, persecution, and
6 violence in search of peace, hope, and freedom;

7 (2) supports those who have risked their lives,
8 working either individually or for nongovernmental
9 organizations or international agencies such as the
10 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to
11 provide life-saving assistance and protection to those
12 displaced around the world;

13 (3) underscores the importance of the United
14 States refugee resettlement program as a critical
15 tool for United States global leadership to leverage
16 foreign policy, strengthen national and regional secu-

1 rity, and encourage international solidarity with host
2 countries;

3 (4) calls upon the United States Secretary of
4 State and United States Ambassador to the United
5 Nations to—

6 (A) continue supporting robust funding for
7 refugee protection and humanitarian response
8 overseas and resettlement to the United States;

9 (B) uphold the United States international
10 leadership role in responding to displacement
11 crises with humanitarian assistance, and restore
12 its leadership role in the protection of vulner-
13 able refugee populations that endure sexual vio-
14 lence, human trafficking, persecution and vio-
15 lence against religious minorities, forced con-
16 scription, genocide, and exploitation;

17 (C) work in partnership with the inter-
18 national community to find solutions to existing
19 conflicts, promote peace and reconciliation, and
20 prevent new conflicts from beginning;

21 (D) continue supporting the efforts of the
22 United Nations High Commissioner for Refu-
23 gees and to advance the work of nongovern-
24 mental organizations to protect refugees regard-

1 less of their country of origin or religious be-
2 liefs;

3 (E) continue to alleviate pressures on
4 frontline refugee host countries that absorb the
5 majority of the world's refugees through hu-
6 manitarian and development support; and

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

9 (5) reaffirms the goals of World Refugee Day
10 and reiterates the strong commitment to protect the
11 millions of refugees who live without material, social,
12 or legal protections.

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