

## PROCLAMATION

### Honoring World Refugee Day 2023

- WHEREAS, World Refugee Day was held globally for the first time on June 20, 2001, commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees.
- WHEREAS, this year's theme is: Be a Friend to refugees in your community;
- WHEREAS, World Refugee Day is a global day to commemorate the courage, strength, and determination of the women, men, and children who are forced to flee their homes under the threats of conflict, violence, and persecution;
- WHEREAS, At least 79.5 million people around the world have been forced to flee their homes. Among them are nearly 26 million refugees, around half of whom are under the age of 18;
- WHEREAS, children account for 40 percent of the refugee population in the world, millions of whom are unable to access basic services including education;
- WHEREAS, on World Refugee Day we recognize not only the challenges and uncertainty refugees face, but also their will to survive and rebuild their lives. Refugees have made invaluable contributions, expanding our worldviews and enriching our communities with their diverse traditions, perseverance, ingenuity, and hard-earned wisdom;
- WHEREAS, the Refugee Forum of Orange County (RFOC) was formed in 1976 as an umbrella group of organizations such as Access California Services, Cal Optima, World Relief, United Nations Association, Orange County Social Services, Orange County Health Care Agency, American Red Cross, Salvation Army, Heart of Mercy, Uplift Charity, Sabil USA, and individuals who work with refugees to assist with their successful resettlement in Orange County;
- WHEREAS, more than four decades, the rich diversity of refugees in Orange County included Vietnamese, Cambodians, Cham, Iraqis, Afghans, Syrians, Iranians, East Africans, Mexicans, Salvadorians, Cubans, and many other communities that have contributed to Orange County's economic and civic prosperity; and
- WHEREAS, refugees are public officials, entrepreneurs, doctors, lawyers, teachers, business owners, our neighbors and contributing citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, by the Garden Grove City Council that June 20th be officially recognized as World Refugee Day in Garden Grove.

June 13, 2023