



STATE *of* MINNESOTA

Proclamation

WHEREAS: The United Nations General Assembly has designated June 20, 2017, as World Refugee Day; and

WHEREAS: Refugees are a specific category of immigrants with legal permanent status, based on a legal definition that includes the experience or well-founded fear of persecution because of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or social group; and

WHEREAS: People with refugee status are part of Minnesota's rich immigrant history with origins from 100 different countries; and

WHEREAS: More than 90 percent of Minnesota's resettlement work reunites families separated by war and violence; and

WHEREAS: Minnesota is home to more than 100,000 refugees who have fled persecution to find safety in the United States; and

WHEREAS: People with refugee status contribute to Minnesota's diverse and competitive economy by providing entrepreneurial innovation, vital workforce skills, and global networks; and

WHEREAS: Immigrants, including refugees, make up nine percent of Minnesota's workforce and six percent of the state's business owners; refugee resettlement is focused on self-sufficiency through employment; and

WHEREAS: Refugees offer stories of resilience and hope to our communities – having restarted started their lives and careers over again, with little more than courage and determination; and

WHEREAS: Many of our legislators, school board members, teachers, state workers, nurses, factory workers, and business owners were once refugees, and their tenacity strengthens the future of Minnesota.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Tuesday, June 20th, 2017, as:

REFUGEE RECOGNITION DAY

in the State of Minnesota.



Steve Pinnon

SECRETARY OF STATE

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 16th day of June.

Mark Dayton
GOVERNOR