



## STATE *of* MINNESOTA

# Proclamation

- WHEREAS: People and countries around the world will observe World Refugee Day on June 20, 2018, to commemorate the strength, courage and perseverance of millions of refugees; 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: People with refugee status contribute to Minnesota's diverse and competitive economy by contributing their entrepreneurial spirits, 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; and
- WHEREAS: Refugees offer stories of resilience and hope to our communities – having restarted their lives and careers 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 the month of June 2018, as:

## REFUGEE RECOGNITION MONTH

in the State of Minnesota.



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 31<sup>st</sup> day of May.

  
GOVERNOR



SECRETARY OF STATE