

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 792

Reaffirming the United States commitment to the protection of refugees
and displaced persons.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 20, 2016

Mr. TED LIEU of California (for himself, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. GALLEGRO, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. LOFGREN, and Ms. MCCOLLUM) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Reaffirming the United States commitment to the protection
of refugees and displaced persons.

Whereas World Refugee Day, commemorated on June 20, is a global day to acknowledge the courage, strength, and determination of women, men, and children who are forced to flee their homes due to conflict, violence, and persecution;

Whereas according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (referred to in this preamble as “UNHCR”)—

(1) there are more than 65,300,000 displaced people worldwide, the highest levels ever recorded, including al-

most 21,300,000 refugees, 40,800,000 internally displaced people, and 3,200,000 people seeking asylum;

(2) children account for 51 percent of the refugee population in the world, millions of whom are unable to access basic services including education;

(3) nearly 4,800,000 refugees have fled Syria since the start of the Syrian conflict and more than 6,600,000 people are internally displaced within Syria;

(4) since January 2014, more than 3,300,000 Iraqis fleeing violence have been internally displaced, and 228,000 refugees have fled to neighboring countries;

(5) ongoing conflict, violence, and persecution have resulted in the displacement of millions across Afghanistan, Somalia, South Sudan, Ukraine, Colombia, Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, the Central African Republic, and other countries;

(6) since April 2015, sporadic outbursts of violence in Burundi have prompted more than 265,000 Burundians to flee to the neighboring countries of Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

(7) violent insurgent attacks in Nigeria have forced 220,000 people to flee to the neighboring countries of Cameroon, Chad, and Niger, and have internally displaced nearly 2,200,000 people;

(8) between January and June of 2016, more than 206,000 refugees and migrants have crossed the Mediterranean Sea attempting to reach Europe and at least 2,800 women, men, and children have died during such crossings or are missing after such attempts; and

(9) approximately 95,000 women, men, and children, including many persecuted Rohingya refugees from Burma, have departed on the boats of smugglers in the

Bay of Bengal since 2014, more than 1,100 of whom have died at sea;

Whereas refugees who are women and girls are often at a greater risk of sexual violence and exploitation, forced or early marriage, human trafficking, and other forms of gender-based violence;

Whereas the United States provides critical resources and support to UNHCR and other international and non-governmental organizations working with refugees around the world; and

Whereas since 1975, the United States has welcomed more than 3,000,000 refugees who are resettled in communities across the country: 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, and
4 well-being of the millions of refugees, including the
5 education of refugee children and displaced persons
6 who flee war, persecution, or torture in search of
7 peace, hope, and freedom;

8 (2) calls upon the United States Government—

9 (A) to continue its international leadership
10 role in response to those who have been dis-
11 placed, including the most vulnerable popu-
12 lations who may endure sexual violence, human
13 trafficking, forced conscription, persecution, ex-
14 ploitation, hunger, disease, unsafe water and
15 sanitation, or inadequate shelter;

1 (B) to find political solutions to existing
2 conflicts and prevent new conflicts from begin-
3 ning;

4 (C) to provide humanitarian and develop-
5 ment support to countries around the world
6 that are hosting millions of refugees to alleviate
7 social and economic strains placed on host com-
8 munities; and

9 (D) to encourage the international commu-
10 nity to increase resources to address current
11 and protracted refugee crises;

12 (3) commends those who have risked their lives
13 working individually and for nongovernmental orga-
14 nizations and international agencies such as
15 UNHCR that have provided life-saving assistance
16 and helped protect those displaced by conflict
17 around the world; and

18 (4) reiterates the strong bipartisan commitment
19 of the United States to protect and assist millions
20 of refugees and other forcibly uprooted persons
21 worldwide.

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