

career and technical exploration programs. This legislation will provide support for middle schools to create career and technical education programs that will provide students with introductory courses, hands-on learning, or afterschool programs. Career guidance and academic counseling is vital to ensuring that our students understand the educational requirements for high-growth, in-demand career fields. Many times students receive this information too late in their academic careers.

We need to work to improve middle school education to prepare students for cutting-edge careers and expose students to the variety of career pathways. This legislation also requires that programs help students draft a high school graduation plan that demonstrates what courses would prepare them for a given career field. If we provide youth with applied career exploration opportunities, they will be more informed about future paths and what they need to do to pursue them. I am hopeful this bill will help highlight current shortcomings in middle schools, and instigate further discussion on the importance of educating youth early on the multitude of educational and career pathways.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Ms. MIKULSKI):

S. 1610. A bill to eliminate racial profiling by law enforcement officers, promote accountability for State and local law enforcement agencies, re-enfranchise citizens, eliminate sentencing disparities, and promote re-entry and employment programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I have introduced legislation along with Senator CARDIN called the Building And Lifting Trust In order to Multiply Opportunities and Racial Equity, or the BALTIMORE Act.

The people of Sandtown-Winchester, the people of Baltimore, and all Americans need to know they have a government on their side. Right now there is a trust gap between the people and the police department.

Baltimore is my hometown. I have lived there all my life. But what happened in Baltimore earlier this year could have happened anywhere, in anyone's hometown. I don't want to see this happen anywhere else. Where there is broken trust, we must rebuild it. And where there is lost hope, we must restore it.

That is why I joined Senator CARDIN in introducing the BALTIMORE Act. This bill is a package of reforms intended to reestablish a sense of trust between communities and the police departments that protect them.

First, the bill would ban discriminatory profiling by State and local law enforcement based on race, ethnicity, religion, or national origin. The bill makes sure that if police departments are receiving Federal funding, they are also adopting practices to cease the use

of discriminatory profiling. It holds police departments accountable by requiring them to share officer training information, including how officers are trained in the use of force, racial and ethnic bias, de-escalating conflicts, and constructive engagement with the public. It also authorizes a grant program to assist local law enforcement agencies in purchasing body-worn cameras.

We need to look at how our sentencing laws contribute to racial disparity in our justice system. That is why this bill would reclassify specific, low-level, non-violent drug possession felonies as misdemeanors. The bill also eliminates the distinction between crack and powder cocaine.

Finally, the bill authorizes \$200 million annually for the Department of Labor's Reentry Employment Opportunities Program through the Workforce Investment Opportunity Act. This is important funding to give people a hand up—not a hand out. It also encourages the White House to "ban the box" in the Federal contracting process. This would allow employers to eliminate questions about criminal convictions on initial job applications.

Baltimore has begun to heal. We will come together as a community and a city to rebuild. But I do not want to see another great American hometown follow in Baltimore's footsteps. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

By Mr. DAINES:

S. 1625. A bill to require a report on the location of C-130 Modular Airborne Firefighting System units; to the Committee on Armed Services.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1625

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. REPORT ON THE LOCATION OF C-130 MODULAR AIRBORNE FIREFIGHTING SYSTEM UNITS.**

Not later than September 30, 2016, the Secretary of the Air Force shall submit to Congress a report setting forth an assessment of the locations of C-130 Modular Airborne Firefighting System (MAFFS) units. The report shall include the following:

- (1) A list of the C-130 Modular Airborne Firefighting System units of the Air Force.
- (2) The utilization rates of the units listed under paragraph (1).
- (3) A future force allocation determination with respect to such units in order to achieve the most efficient use of such units.
- (4) An assessment of the feasibility and advisability of modifications to the C-130 Modular Airborne Firefighting System program to enhance firefighting capabilities.

By Mr. DAINES:

S. 1628. A bill to preserve the current amount of basic allowance for housing for certain married members of the uniformed services; to the Committee on Armed Services.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1628

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. PRESERVATION OF CURRENT BASIC ALLOWANCE FOR HOUSING FOR CERTAIN MARRIED MEMBERS OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES.**

Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, the amount of basic allowance for housing payable under section 403 of title 37, United States Code, as of September 30, 2015, to a member of the uniformed services who is married to another member of the uniformed services shall not be reduced unless—

- (1) the member and the member's spouse undergo a permanent change of station requiring a change of residence; or
- (2) the member and the member's spouse move into or commence living in on-base housing.

**SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS**

**SENATE RESOLUTION 204—RECOGNIZING JUNE 20, 2015 AS "WORLD REFUGEE DAY"**

Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. COONS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. KAINE, Ms. STABENOW, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. KING, Mr. BROWN, Mr. REED of Rhode Island, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. CASEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 204

Whereas World Refugee Day is a global day to honor the courage, strength, and determination of women, men, and children who are forced to flee their homes under the threats of conflict, violence, and persecution;

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

- (1) there are nearly 60,000,000 displaced people worldwide, the highest levels ever recorded, including almost 20,000,000 refugees, 38,000,000 internally displaced people, and 1,800,000 people seeking asylum;
- (2) children account for 51 percent of the refugee population in the world;
- (3) nearly 4,000,000 refugees have fled Syria since the start of the Syrian conflict and more than 7,600,000 people are internally displaced;
- (4) approximately 1,325,000 people are displaced within Ukraine with approximately 800,000 Ukrainians seeking protection in other countries as a result of a worsening humanitarian situation in nongovernment controlled areas;
- (5) since April 2015, sporadic outbursts of violence in Burundi have prompted more than 100,000 Burundians to flee to the neighboring countries of Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo;
- (6) violent insurgent attacks in Nigeria have forced 167,000 people to flee to the neighboring countries of Cameroon, Chad,

and Niger, and have internally displaced nearly 1,500,000 people;

(7) more than 88,000 women, men, and children, including many persecuted Rohingya refugees from Burma, have departed on smugglers' boats from the Bay of Bengal since 2014, more than 1,000 of whom have died at sea;

(8) as of June 2015, more than 100,000 refugees and migrants have crossed the Mediterranean Sea from North Africa and at least 1,800 women, men, and children have died during such crossings or are missing;

(9) more than 180,000 Iraqi refugees and nearly 3,000,000 internally displaced Iraqis;

(10) nearly 6,000,000 internally displaced Colombians;

(11) nearly 700,000 South Sudanese refugees in neighboring countries; and

(12) more than 465,000 refugees from the Central African Republic;

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 the UNHCR and other international and nongovernmental 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

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) reaffirms the bipartisan commitment of the United States to promote the safety, health, and well-being of the millions of refugees and displaced persons who flee war, persecution, and torture in search of peace, hope, and freedom;

(2) calls upon the United States Government—

(A) to continue its international leadership role in response to those who have been displaced, including the most vulnerable populations who endure sexual violence, human trafficking, forced conscription, genocide, and exploitation; and

(B) to find political solutions to existing conflicts and prevent new conflicts from beginning;

(3) commends those who have risked their lives working individually and for the countless nongovernmental organizations and international agencies such as UNHCR that have provided life-saving assistance and helped protect those displaced by conflict around the world; and

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

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today to submit a resolution to mark World Refugee Day, June 20, and to address the growing global crisis of people forcibly displaced by persecution or conflict.

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, for the first time since World War II, over 60 million people have been forced from their homes and displaced in their own countries or forced to flee abroad. Last year alone, 14 million people were uprooted by violence and persecution, most escaping conflicts in Syria, Iraq, South Sudan, Ukraine, Burma, and Afghanistan. There are more and more protracted crises, and the result is an exponential increase in humanitarian needs.

The worldwide displacement from wars, conflict, and persecution in 2014

was the highest level recorded and accelerating fast, escalating to 60 million last year from 51.2 million in 2013, and a dramatic increase from the 37.5 million of a decade ago. We are on course to over double the number of refugees worldwide.

The increase since 2013 was the highest ever seen in a single year.

Syria is still the world's largest producer of internally displaced persons at 7.6 million and refugees at nearly 4 million.

The 60 million that I previously mentioned can be broken down to 20 million refugees, over 38 million internally displaced persons, and 1.8 million asylum seekers.

The magnitude of the Syrian disaster is perhaps the most shocking. After 4 years of conflict, the situation is increasingly desperate for both the refugees and the host countries such as Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, and northern Iraq. Since 2011, 4 million people have fled Syria. The futures of over 3 million Syrian children have been stolen because they have no access to education. Over 2 million Syrian women are in the neighboring countries trying to survive. Dangerous coping mechanisms are on the rise. More and more families are forced to send their children to work or marry off their young daughters. In the tiny country of Lebanon alone, there are over 300,000 Syrian refugee children who have no access to school.

It is hard to comprehend the demographic, economic, and social impact of millions of refugees in Lebanon, Jordan, and Turkey. The number of refugees in Lebanon will be equivalent to 88 million new refugees arriving in the United States. Turkey has already spent \$6 billion in direct assistance for refugees in its care. At the same time, many countries in the West have been extraordinarily reluctant to admit the most vulnerable Syrians as refugees. While contributing generously to humanitarian funding, the United States has only accepted about 900 Syrian refugees. Because Syrians are finding it increasingly difficult to find safety, they are being forced to move further afield. Since January, over 100,000 people, mostly from Syria, have crossed the Mediterranean in boats in search of protection in Europe—an extremely dangerous journey.

We know that the Syrian humanitarian disaster, which has destabilized an entire region, is not the accidental byproduct of conflict. It is instead one result of a strategy pursued by the Assad regime. The United Nations Commission of Inquiry in Syria has documented that the Assad regime intentionally engages in the indiscriminate bombardment of homes, hospitals, schools, and water and electrical facilities in order to terrorize the civilian population. ISIL and al-Nusra have also shelled areas with high concentrations of civilians.

In Syria's neighbor next door, Iraq, the number of people requiring human-

itarian assistance has grown to 8.2 million people. Three million people have been forced from their homes. Half of the displaced are children.

To the south, in Yemen, there is a grave and escalating humanitarian crisis. The country was particularly vulnerable even before this conflict. Now civilians throughout the country are facing alarming levels of suffering and violence. Over 1 million have been forced from their homes and are now living in empty schools and other public buildings or along highways.

We are also witnessing religious and ethnic persecution become part of the violent conflict that has pushed millions of people out of the regions of Sub-Saharan Africa. The unfolding human tragedy in South Sudan, which is perhaps the most frustrating to me, never should have happened. The violence engulfing that small country is entirely manmade and wholly the responsibility of the President and opposition leader and their affiliate militias and armed groups.

Each leader refuses to prioritize the well-being of his own people and instead continues to seek military advantage, violating multiple ceasefire agreements and refusing to meet numerous deadlines for reaching a peace deal. It is hard to overstate the gravity of conditions in South Sudan. I fear there is no end in sight to the suffering of the people there.

The 18-month conflict in South Sudan has already killed an estimated 50,000 people and has displaced over 2 million more, including one-half million who fled to neighboring countries and over 120,000 sheltering in United Nations peacekeeping bases across the country. A nationwide famine was averted in 2014, thanks largely to the assistance from international community.

But the World Food Programme recently warned that 4.6 million people, nearly half the population, will need food aid by the end of this month. Conditions in the country of Sudan are hardly better for those affected by the continuing conflict in Darfur. Attacks on U.N. peacekeepers are on the rise in Darfur. Military offenses by the Khartoum have caused well over 50,000 people to flee their homes this year. The Khartoum has also expelled international nongovernmental organizations, NGOs, and is trying its best to drive out the U.N. peacekeeping mission in Darfur. This number does not include the hundreds of thousands of people who have fled the violence in the South Kordofan and Blue Nile states. But there has been little information about conditions in government-held areas in both of these states, as Sudan has not allowed human rights investigators access.

In northeastern Nigeria, 1.5 million people have fled their homes due to attacks by the terrorist group Boko Haram. Boko Haram is estimated to have killed over 12,000 people, kidnapped thousands, including 276 girls

from the Chibok School whose whereabouts remain unknown.

Over 74,000 Nigerians are refugees in Cameroon, another 100,000 refugees are in the area. The global refugee trends are indeed alarming. The international assistance being provided is not keeping pace with the scale of the problem. For example, almost halfway through 2015, the United Nation's humanitarian appeal for Syria is only 20 percent funded. Yet, in the spirit of World Refugee Day, we must redouble our efforts to prevent conflicts that force families to flee their homes, villages, and cities. We must also then create the conditions to get these refugees safely back home.

First, we need to ask ourselves hard questions about how we can increase the effectiveness of the assistance we provide. Most refugees live in urban areas, not in traditional refugee camps. Refugees who live in cities face unique vulnerabilities, which must change how international assistance is now being given. Moreover, protracted crises are the new normal. Seventy-five percent of the world refugees are caught in long-term crisis situations, with many refugees displaced for an average of 17 years. We need to use our humanitarian and development dollars more skillfully so we are providing durable solutions to chronic vulnerabilities.

Second, the international community must get serious about protecting the most vulnerable refugees: women and children. Women are facing horrible threats in conflicts across the globe, where rape and sexual assault are being used as weapons of war, and as vulnerable refugees they continue to be targets of gender-based violence. Moreover, children now make up half of all refugees worldwide. We must do more to protect them from sexual exploitation and abuse, recruitment as child soldiers, and early marriages. The United Nations Population Fund, Mercy Corps, the International Rescue Committee, and Catholic Relief Services know how to provide targeted support and protection to women and children refugees, but we in the international community must fund them adequately to do the job.

Third, we must strengthen the capacity of U.N. peacekeeping. As David Miliband, former British Foreign Secretary, now head of the International Rescue Committee noted:

At a time of cuts in defense budgets, new and asymmetric threats, and record numbers of people fleeing conflict, the case of strengthened and more fairly shared UN peacekeeping is overwhelming. Peacekeepers, properly resourced and led, have never been more needed and the consequences of inaction never more evident.

Finally, we must do more to hold accountable the leaders who are responsible for mass humanitarian atrocities. The U.N. Commissioner for Refugees recently commented that he continues to be shocked by the indifference of those who carry the political responsi-

bility for millions of people being uprooted from their homes. They accept forced displacement, with an impact on individuals, on countries, communities, and entire regions, as normal collateral damage of the wars they lead.

They act with the conviction that humanitarian workers will come and pick up the pieces. It is clear the international humanitarian community can no longer stanch the human misery brought on by this callous indifference and criminal leadership. The international community must hold those responsible accountable, those who break all the rules in pursuit of their war aims.

To that end, it was a grave mistake that between October 2011 and July 2012, Russia and China vetoed three Security Council resolutions which were designed to hold the Syrian Government to account for its mass atrocities. It was also unfortunate that Sudanese President Umar al-Bashir was allowed to depart South Africa earlier this week without being detained again, escaping an arrest warrant from the International Criminal Court, where he would be on trial for crimes against humanity in Darfur.

In closing, we must recognize that as these conflicts proliferate, no corner of the world will be left unaffected. On World Refugee Day, we recognize that every person fleeing his or her home deserves compassion and help and to live in safety and dignity. We must recommit to work smarter and harder to assist the world's most vulnerable people.

Next year on this day, I want to stand before the Senate again and speak of the progress we have made and the lives we have saved by our collective efforts. History will judge us accordingly if we fail.

#### WORLD REFUGEE DAY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, the United States has long been a safe and welcoming home for those fleeing persecution around the world. The refugees and asylum seekers who join our communities help to create new businesses, build more vibrant neighborhoods, and enrich us all. They are also a reminder of our history as a nation of immigrants and our American values of generosity and compassion. Saturday marks World Refugee Day, and to honor it we must renew our commitment to the ideal of America as a beacon of hope for so many who face human rights abuses abroad.

Millions of refugees remain displaced and warehoused in refugee camps in Eastern Africa, Southeast Asia, and other parts of the world. Ongoing political struggles and military conflicts in the Middle East and North Africa are dislocating large populations. Too many are without their families or safe places to find refuge. Some, though far too few, have been able to flee and rebuild their lives.

Peter Keny, one of the "Lost Boys" of South Sudan, is one of those inspiring refugees who escaped a civil war in his home country and has rebuilt his life in my home State of Vermont. He is just one of thousands of refugees Vermonters have welcomed over the years. Peter was 19 when he came to Burlington in 2001, and in the years since he has learned English, completed high school, and is earning a college degree. In describing his voyage to the United States and ultimately to Vermont, Peter told "The Burlington Free Press" that arriving here "was like a dream come true." I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the article, "A Found Man Returns to South Sudan."

I am proud of Vermont's long history of supporting refugees by opening its communities, schools, and homes to those in need. It is not always easy, but it is a powerful example of our belief in the most basic ideals of human dignity and hope, and our commitment to responding to the suffering of others. We are fortunate to have remarkable organizations like the Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program leading the effort with its decades of experience and award-winning volunteer program, and the tremendous legal advocacy provided by the Vermont Immigration and Asylum Advocates. The hard work of these and other organizations and the daily welcoming gestures of Vermonters all over the State have made Vermont a role model for the rest of the country.

On this year's World Refugee Day, it is also important to acknowledge that there is more that we as a country can and must do. I remain deeply concerned about the administration's expanded family detention policy. The women and children it is placing in prolonged detention have fled extreme violence and persecution in Central America. They come seeking refuge from three of the most dangerous countries in the world, countries where women and girls face shocking rates of domestic and sexual violence and murder. Here in the United States, we recently celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act, a law we hold out as an example of our commitment to take these crimes seriously and to protect all victims. The ongoing detention of asylum-seeking mothers and children who have made credible claims that they have been victims of these very same crimes is unacceptable. I again urge the administration to end the misguided policy of family detention.

We must also do more to address the humanitarian crisis in Syria. Almost 4 million Syrians are officially recognized as refugees by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The vast majority of these are women and children, including hundreds of thousands of children under the age of 5. The United States traditionally accepts at least 50 percent of resettlement cases from UNHCR. However, we