

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 395

Reaffirming the leadership of the United States in promoting the safety,
health, and well-being of refugees and displaced persons.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 20, 2017

Mr. TED LIEU of California (for himself, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. BERA, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. GALLEG0, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. HULTGREN, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KEATING, Mr. KIND, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. NADLER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. POCAN, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. SIRES, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. SOTO, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. TONKO, Mrs. TORRES, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. BEYER, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. WELCH, Ms. TSONGAS, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. SERRANO, and Mrs. DAVIS of California) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Reaffirming the leadership of the United States in promoting
the safety, health, and well-being of refugees and dis-
placed persons.

Whereas the United States has been a global leader in re-
sponding to displacement crises around the world and

promoting the safety, health, and well-being of refugees and displaced persons;

Whereas many around the world observe June 20 as World Refugee Day, 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—

(1) there are more than 65,600,000 displaced people worldwide, the worst displacement crisis in global history, including almost 22,500,000 refugees, over 40,300,000 internally displaced people, and 2,800,000 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) on average, 20 people are displaced from their homes every minute;

(4) 10,300,000 individuals were newly displaced due to conflict or persecution in 2016 alone, including 6,900,000 displaced within the borders of their own countries and 3,400,000 new refugees and asylum seekers;

(5) over 5,500,000 refugees have fled Syria since the start of the Syrian conflict and more than 6,300,000 people are internally displaced within Syria;

(6) since January 2014, more than 3,000,000 Iraqis fleeing violence have been internally displaced, and 257,000 refugees have fled to neighboring countries; and

(7) South Sudan is now the largest refugee crisis in Africa and the third largest worldwide, responsible for

approximately 1,800,000 refugees, including 1,000,000 children;

Whereas 84 percent of the world's refugees are hosted in developing regions, with more than a quarter in the world's least developed countries;

Whereas refugee children are 5 times more likely to be out of school than non-refugee children;

Whereas refugees who are women and children are often at greater risk of violence, human trafficking, exploitation, and gender-based violence; and

Whereas the United States continues to be the single largest refugee resettlement country in the world and the single largest donor of humanitarian assistance: 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) recognizes those who have risked their lives,
9 working either individually or for nongovernmental
10 organizations and international agencies such as the
11 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to
12 provide life-saving assistance and help protect those
13 displaced by conflict around the world;

14 (3) calls upon the United States Government—

1 (A) to uphold its international leadership
2 role in responding to displacement crises with
3 humanitarian assistance and protection of the
4 most vulnerable populations who endure sexual
5 violence, human trafficking, persecution and vi-
6 olence against religious minorities, forced con-
7 scription, genocide, and exploitation;

8 (B) to work in partnership with the inter-
9 national community to find solutions to existing
10 conflicts and prevent new conflicts from begin-
11 ning;

12 (C) to continue to support the efforts of
13 the United Nations High Commissioner for
14 Refugees and to advance the work of non-
15 governmental organizations to protect refugees
16 regardless of their country of origin or religious
17 beliefs; and

18 (D) to continue to mitigate through hu-
19 manitarian and development support the burden
20 placed on frontline refugee host countries that
21 absorb the majority of the world's refugees; and

22 (4) reaffirms the goals of World Refugee Day
23 and reiterates the strong commitment to protect the

- 1 millions of refugees who live without material, social,
- 2 or legal protections.

