



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey, shares the values of the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR), that every person has the right to seek safety—whenever they are, wherever they come from and whenever they are forced to flee; and

WHEREAS, protecting people forced to flee is a collective global responsibility, and once refugees are out of harm's way, benefit from opportunities to learn, work, and thrive in their new homes; and

WHEREAS, once refugees settle in cities and towns across our nation as new Americans, they make positive contributions to our local communities, economies, workforce and culture; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey is part of the United States resettlement program that is critical to global humanitarian efforts and reflects America's finest values and strengthens global security; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey believes that refugees have the right to seek safety, refuge and opportunity and have the right to be treated with humanity, dignity and respect; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey has an ever-growing and ever-evolving population of refugees, including asylees, victims of trafficking, and many others seeking refuge from persecution and severe hardship worldwide; and

WHEREAS, in the last year alone, New Jersey has proudly welcomed more than 1000 refugees from around the world including from Afghanistan through Operation Allies Welcome, from Central America and the Caribbean, from Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and the Middle East, and now standing ready to welcome those from Ukraine and from other conflicts that may arise; and

WHEREAS, in 2019 New Jersey resumed its role as the State Refugee Coordinator, restoring state oversight of this critical program that serves refugees and asylees resettling in New Jersey providing critical services and supports to refugees and their families, and in 2021 the refugee program was integrated into the Office of New Americans; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Human Services' Office of New Americans leads as the official Refugee Coordinator and directly oversees the Refugee State Plan, the Refugee Health Program and Refugee Medical Assistance, and the International Rescue Committee coordinates with the state and oversees social support programs that include English language training, employment supports, and school and educational supports critical to successful resettlement, and

WHEREAS, New Jersey and the United States Army Post Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst therein played a major and outstanding role in Operation Allies Welcome and the support of our allies evacuated from Afghanistan in 2021; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey has been and continues to be a welcoming state to a diverse and growing population of refugees and immigrants who add to the economic strength and cultural richness of this State;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip D. Murphy, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim:

JUNE 20, 2022
AS
WORLD REFUGEE DAY

in New Jersey.




Lt. GOVERNOR

GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this twenty-seventh day of May in the year two thousand twenty-two, the two hundred forty-sixth year of the Independence of the United States.


GOVERNOR