



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CITY OF CHICAGO

LORI E. LIGHTFOOT  
MAYOR

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, throughout the course of history and even into modern times, there have arisen conflicts between nations or peoples that have inhibited and assailed the freedom and safety of countless people around the world;

WHEREAS, during these trying times, many courageous individuals have made – and continue to make – the difficult decision to leave their native country in search of safety and opportunity;

WHEREAS, currently there are 25.4 million refugees and more than 68.5 million people across the globe who have been forcibly displaced as a result of persecution, conflict, violence, or human rights violations; and

WHEREAS, since 1980, the U.S. Refugee Act has represented the United States government's commitment to protecting refugees through resettlement and asylum programs, and the State of Illinois is home to more than 129,000 refugees from 86 countries; and

WHEREAS, diverse refugee communities have made lasting positive impacts on Chicago's cultural, spiritual, and economic vitality by spurring change and transformation in many of the city's historic neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, dedicated and compassionate staff and volunteers from refugee resettlement agencies and mutual aid organizations have assisted refugees and asylum seekers in rebuilding new lives in Chicagoland for more than 40 years; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has recognized and commemorated June 20th as World Refugee Day since 2001 and this year marks the City of Chicago's 17th Annual World Refugee Day Celebration; and

WHEREAS, refugee communities near and far, along with supporters and friends, will observe World Refugee Day on June 29, 2019 at Pottawattomie Park with cultural celebrations, a march of solidarity, and outreach activities open to the entire community:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LORI E. LIGHTFOOT, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO, do hereby proclaim June 20, 2019 to be WORLD REFUGEE DAY IN CHICAGO and urge all Chicagoans to recognize the enduring contributions of refugee communities within our city and the ongoing challenges facing refugees around the globe.

Dated this 18th day of June, 2019.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lori E. Lightfoot".

Mayor