



City of Takoma Park, Maryland

Mayoral Proclamation

WORLD REFUGEE DAY 2023

WHEREAS, World Refugee Day is an annual commemoration adopted by the United Nations in 2000 to honor and raise awareness of refugees; and

WHEREAS, the City of Takoma Park is a welcoming city that celebrates the growing diversity of its residents and acknowledges that refugees, immigrants, and all newcomers enhance the culture and the economy; and

WHEREAS, as of the end of 2022, more than 108 million people have been forcibly displaced from their homes worldwide, more than any time in recorded history, including 35 million refugees and 5.4 million people seeking asylum; and

WHEREAS, refugees are people who have fled their country because they have a well-founded fear of persecution because of their race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group; and

WHEREAS, seeking asylum is a protected right under domestic and international law; and

WHEREAS, resettlement provides safe haven when refugees cannot return home and rebuild their lives in the country they fled due to lack of access to safety, shelter, health care, education, or protection; and

WHEREAS, the City of Takoma Park is home to a diverse population of refugees and immigrants, adding to the economic strength and cultural richness of our community; and

WHEREAS, residents of Takoma Park aspire to live up to our highest societal values of acceptance and equity, and treat newcomers with decency and respect, creating a vibrant community for all to live in.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TALISHA SEARCY, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND, recognize June 20, 2023, as World Refugee Day in Takoma Park.

Dated this 21st day of June, 2023.

Talisha Searcy
Mayor