



**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A JUST AND WELCOMING MINNESOTA
(Adopted by Minnesota AFL-CIO Executive Board – 1/14/2020)**

WHEREAS: Since our nation’s founding, successive waves of immigrants and refugees have enriched the fabric of our communities, our workforce and our labor movement; and

WHEREAS: Real security can only be achieved through humane approaches, which are needed now more than ever, as the world is experiencing the largest refugee displacement since World War II; and

WHEREAS: As a labor movement, we represent tens of thousands of refugee members, as well as the front-line service providers who ensure that refugees are properly screened and have their basic human needs addressed; and

WHEREAS: The Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution, the Equal Protection Clause, guarantees to all persons the “equal protection of the laws”; and

WHEREAS: Counties across the United States, through Presidential Executive Order, have been asked to vote on accepting or not to accept the resettlement of refugees in their communities; and,

WHEREAS: The Refugee Act of 1980 directs federal agencies to develop and implement policies and strategies for the placement and resettlement of refugees within the United States; and

WHEREAS: The Refugee Act of 1980 does not create a mandate for local city and county governments; and

WHEREAS: Pursuant to Article 1, Section 8, Clause 4 of the United States Constitution, Congress has the sole power to set national immigration policy including placement and relocation of refugees; and

WHEREAS: Immigrants and refugees of all faiths are a vibrant part of our labor movement today, and any attack on them is an attack on us all; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED BY THE MINNESOTA AFL-CIO, AN AFFILIATE OF THE AMERICAN
FEDERATION OF LABOR AND CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS (AFL-CIO),
THAT**

- 1) We stand in solidarity with all those who face persecution and violent upheaval around the world and pledge to resist the xenophobic rhetoric of lawmakers who seek to prey on our fears to promote isolationist responses; and be it further**
- 2) RESOLVED: We urge our elected officials to provide support to those fleeing oppression and violence to build a better life among us; and be it further**

- 3) **RESOLVED; That the Minnesota AFL-CIO supports the United States Constitution and all laws welcoming refugees to Minnesota without regard to age, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, race, ethnicity, religion or country of origin; and be it further**
- 4) **RESOLVED: We renew our commitment to foster a community in which all people have the right to pursue life, liberty and happiness; and be it further**
- 5) **RESOLVED: The labor movement remains committed to the ongoing struggle to ensure that we are all able to live and work with dignity, regardless of where we were born, and we will continue to demand justice for long-term members of our communities, our workforce, and our unions, as well as for those who newly seek refuge in our country and our state.**