



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Advocates for Human Rights stands with Governor Tim Walz in rejecting Trump's recent resettlement order

Minneapolis, MN (December 13, 2019) Governor Tim Walz has just released a letter giving his written consent to refugee resettlement in Minnesota and welcoming all refugees. He also rejected the intent of the President's recent executive order and reserved the right to challenge its requirements. The Advocates for Human Rights endorses the Governor's letter and further asks for all counties to affirmatively agree to accept refugees in our communities.

"As the Holiday Season approaches, we are reminded of the importance of welcoming all who seek shelter. The inn is not full in Minnesota," Governor Tim Walz stated in his letter to the Trump Administration.

The *Executive Order on Enhancing State and Local Involvement in Refugee Resettlement* requires states and localities to provide written consent before refugees are resettled within the state or locality. The executive order could disrupt the asylum process, prevent the reunification of immigrant family members and delay refugees' societal integration.

"Requiring state and local governments to affirmatively agree to refugee resettlement is yet another move by the administration to stall migration to the US," said Michele Garnett McKenzie, Deputy Director of The Advocates for Human Rights. "We want to thank Governor Tim Walz for standing with refugees by welcoming all who seek shelter and rejecting the *Executive Order on Enhancing State and Local Involvement in Refugee Resettlement*."

As Governor Walz stated later in the letter, "refugees strengthen our communities. Bringing new cultures and fresh perspectives, they contribute to the social fabric of our state."

The Advocates for Human Rights will continue to serve refugees and immigrants seeking asylum. We welcome immigrants to our local communities and celebrate their contributions to our communities and nation. As part of The Advocates' mission to protect human rights for everyone in our community, we join Governor Walz in rejecting this executive order.

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About The Advocates for Human Rights

Envisioning a world in which every person lives with dignity, freedom, justice, equality, and peace, The Advocates for Human Rights works to change systems and conditions that cause human rights abuses. The Advocates investigates and exposes human rights violations; represents people seeking asylum; trains and assists human rights defenders; and develops partnerships and mobilizes volunteers to address some of the most pressing issues of our time. www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org.