



International Rescue Committee  
625 North Maryland Avenue  
Glendale, California 91206  
Tel +1 818 550 6220  
Fax +1 818 550 6277  
www.rescue.org

November 22, 2019

Mr. Herb Wesson  
Council President  
Los Angeles City Council  
200 North Spring Street, Room 430  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Mr. Wesson:

On behalf of the International Rescue Committee and the refugees we serve, I write to urge your support for the resolution presented by Councilmembers Blumenfield and O'Farrell declaring Los Angeles a welcoming city for refugees.

Over the past 40 years refugees have enriched our city and our region economically and culturally. And yet the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program is under threat as never before. Recently, the Trump administration took the next step to gut this country's safest and most successful response to humanitarian crises. After setting the ceiling for refugee admissions at their lowest levels ever in his first three years in office, the president issued Executive Order 13888,\* which for the first time requires state and local consent for refugee resettlement. The Councilmembers' resolution is a vital and important statement of our city's opposition to this administration's inhumane refugee policies and is an important step to support refugees abroad and their families here.

If you have any questions about refugee resettlement in our city or this request, I would be happy to speak with you or your staff any time. Thank you for your consideration and support.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Martin Zogg'.

Martin Zogg  
Executive Director  
The International Rescue Committee in Los Angeles

cc: Councilmember Bob Blumenfield ✓  
Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell

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\*Although I am communicating with you about the implementation of the EO, communication about or participation in the implementation of Executive Order 13888 is not in any way an endorsement of the legality of the EO.

**IRIS** *Los Angeles*  
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES  
**INTERFAITH REFUGEE AND  
IMMIGRATION SERVICE**

November 25, 2019

Mr. Herb Wesson  
Council President  
Los Angeles City Council  
200 North Spring Street, Room 430  
Los Angeles, California 90012

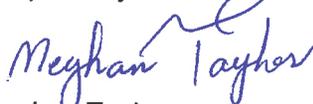
Dear Mr. Wesson:

On behalf of Interfaith Refugee and Immigration Service and the refugees we serve, I write to urge your support for the resolution presented by Councilmembers Blumenfield and O'Farrell declaring Los Angeles a welcoming city for refugees.

Over the past 40 years, refugees have enriched our city and our region economically and culturally. And yet the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program is under threat as never before. Recently the Trump administration took the next step to gut this country's safest and most successful response to humanitarian crises. After setting the ceiling for refugee admissions at their lowest levels ever in his first three years in office, the president issued Executive Order 13888,\* which for the first time requires state and local consent for refugee resettlement. The Councilmembers' resolution is a vital and important statement of our city's opposition to this administration's inhumane refugee policies and is an important step to support refugees abroad and their families here.

If you have any questions about refugee resettlement in our city or this request, I would be happy to speak with you or your staff any time. Thank you for your consideration and support.

Respectfully submitted,



Meghan Taylor  
IRIS Executive Director

cc: Councilmember Bob Blumenfield  
Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell

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**Senior Investigative**

**Researcher and Director, Special Projects**

Joanna Mendelson

**Western States Counsel**

Kimberley Plotnik



November 21, 2019

**By electronic delivery only**

Honorable Herb Wesson  
President, Los Angeles City Council  
Members of the Los Angeles City Council  
200 North Spring Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

RE: ADL's Support of resolution declaring Los Angeles as a "Welcoming City" for refugees

Dear Council President Wesson and Council Members,

On behalf of ADL Los Angeles (Anti-Defamation League) I write in support of the resolution introduced on November 8, 2019 by Council Members Blumenfield and O'Farrell which declares that "the City of Los Angeles is a Welcome City" and affirms the support of resettling refugees no matter their race, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, nationality or country of origin, resolves that the city will improve refugee integration, and calls for the president to increase the refugee resettlement cap for 2020.

ADL, founded in 1913 to stop the defamation of the Jewish people and to secure justice and fair treatment to all, represents a community that has experienced the plight of living as refugees throughout its history. We recall all too well when Jewish refugees fleeing the Holocaust were denied entry into the U.S. As a matter of principle, ADL has advocated for fair and humane immigration policies since its founding. ADL views this as an important priority and has been a leader in exposing anti-immigrant rhetoric and the mainstreaming of hate, as well as government action motivated by racial and religious animus.

For decades the U.S. has served as a global leader and a model, accepting large numbers of refugees and asylees and facilitating their integration into our society. But throughout our history, and frequently with respect to immigration, when prejudice and fear predominate over reason and compassion, we have faltered from these ideals – often with devastating consequences. According to the Pew Research Center, California has resettled more refugees since 2002 than any other state. Refugees have contributed to the state and local economy, as well as benefitting local communities with diversity and culture.

ADL stands with our allies in immigrant community to support this resolution and to re-affirm our support of its aims. We believe that immigrants and refugees have strengthened this nation, the state of California, and the City of Los Angeles, and that to turn our backs on some of the most desperate people seeking safety and a better life for their families is a betrayal of the values that make us great.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amanda Susskind".

Amanda Susskind  
Regional Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K. Plotnik".

Kimberley Plotnik  
Western Counsel

profoundly dangerous conditions in refugee camps at the southern border, wealth taxes on would-be immigrants, drastic cuts in the number of people eligible for entry and massive fee hikes on desperate asylum and countless attacks on low-income immigrant communities.

This Resolution — a statement that may have been completely unremarkable just a few years ago — now provides a critically important ray of light and hope in these dark times.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rick Zbur". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rick" and last name "Zbur" clearly legible.

Rick Zbur  
Executive Director  
Equality California



December 3, 2019

The Honorable Bob Blumenfield and The Honorable Mitch O'Farrell  
200 N Spring St.  
Los Angeles, California 90012

RE: "Welcoming City" Resolution – SUPPORT

Dear Councilmembers Blumenfield and O'Farrell,

Equality California is pleased to support your resolution declaring Los Angeles a "Welcoming City" for refugees, spurred in response to the horrible Executive Order that allows for states and counties to deny resettlement of federally-approved refugees.

For most of our nation's history, the United States of America has projected a light of hope and comfort to desperate people seeking asylum and refuge from danger and persecution in their home countries. Countless millions have turned their faces to this light for centuries – entering the United States and helped to build this country we collectively call home.

Within the first few weeks of taking office, President Donald Trump turned his back on this historic role when he abruptly announced the first of his Muslim bans, stranding people in air and seaports around the country. At the president's direction, the Trump-Pence Administration has continued to adopt increasingly vicious policies aimed at blocking the paths of immigrants and refugees to enter our nation, many of them with nowhere else to go.

This is why Equality California supports a strong statement by the City of Los Angeles expressing our values of welcome and inclusion to refugees and asylum seekers, including those who are LGBTQ and their families. These people are arguably the most vulnerable of all – not only did they face persecution and extreme violence at home, but discrimination, isolation, violence and abuse along their journey to the United States, and now at our doorstep.

The Resolution drafted by Councilmembers Blumenfield and O'Farrell is as simple as it is humane. It reaffirms the commitment of the City of Los Angeles – home to some of the largest, most diverse populations of refugees and immigrants in the world – to support refugees regardless of gender, gender identity and sexual orientation, in addition to race, religion, nationality or country of origin. Further, it calls on President Trump to reverse his announcement that a mere 18,000 people – the lowest levels since the program was created – will be eligible for resettlement in the United States in 2020.

LGBTQ people are represented in every community in the City of Los Angeles, across California and throughout the country, including in undocumented and immigrant communities. Equality California, the nation's largest statewide LGBTQ civil rights organization, believes that until our nation has a just and functional immigration system, we do not have full and lasting LGBTQ equality. Since the first days of the Trump-Pence Administration, we have fought rounds of Muslim bans, the termination of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and Temporary Protected Status (TPS) programs, forcible family separations at the border,

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**Equality California**

3701 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 725

Los Angeles, CA 90010



**Welcome the stranger.  
Protect the refugee.**

December 2, 2019

Councilmember Herb Wesson, Jr.  
President, Los Angeles City Council  
200 North Spring Street, Room 430  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear President Wesson,

On behalf of HIAS, I urge you and your colleagues to support **RESOLUTION 19-1385 to declare Los Angeles a “Welcoming City” for refugees**. Introduced by Councilmembers Blumenfield and O’Farrell and seconded by Councilmember Rodriguez, this resolution is critical to the future of refugee resettlement in our community.

For nearly 140 years HIAS, the American Jewish community’s global refugee organization, has been dedicated to helping millions of people across the globe, including countless refugees, asylum seekers, and their descendants who now call Los Angeles home. It is our shared history that guides our work to ensure that refugee protection remains a cornerstone of our nation’s legacy.

The United States has a longstanding history of offering safe haven to persecuted people looking to rebuild their lives. Since the implementation of the United States Refugee Admissions Program in 1980, there has been an average annual refugee admissions goal of 95,000. However, recently significant cuts have threatened the future of this lifesaving program. In 2019, the admissions goal was drastically cut to 30,000. The goal was further slashed this past October when the Administration announced that the 2020 admissions goal would be a historical low of 18,000.

In addition to these cuts, on September 26 the White House issued [Executive Order](#) (EO 13888), which for the first time in the history of the program would require states and localities to opt in to receiving refugees. Given the uncertainty about the future of refugee resettlement and support, we are deeply concerned that this executive order will prolong family separation for refugee families, create chaos and confusion about where refugees can be resettled, and where refugees already resettled in the United States can access the services they need.

Resettlement is a last option for refugees who cannot return home and cannot rebuild their lives in their country of asylum. Refugees undergo rigorous security checks, including interviews with Department of Homeland Security officers and numerous other federal agencies. The U.S. Refugee Admissions Program is a public-private partnership between the federal government, state governments, local non-profit organizations, communities of faith, and volunteers. Unfortunately, we are already seeing the negative impacts of these policy changes on not only the refugees in our state who are awaiting family

reunification, but on the people of faith and the volunteers who dedicate their time and life to welcoming refugees, and the businesses across our state that employ and count on refugees.

Los Angeles is home to a diverse population of refugees and immigrants who add to its economic strength and cultural richness, as entrepreneurs, taxpayers, home buyers, and civically engaged neighbors. This city serves as a glowing example of a hospitable and welcoming place for newcomers, where the contributions of all are celebrated and valued. The refugees in this community are resilient, and hard-working.

The Los Angeles Jewish community, especially Holocaust survivors and Jews who fled persecution in Iran and the former Soviet Union, would not be in the U.S. today if not for our country's history of welcoming refugees.

HIAS urges you to swiftly pass **RESOLUTION 19-385** to demonstrate that the **City of Los Angeles** welcomes refugees and believes in sustaining the successful and lifesaving U.S. refugee resettlement program.

With appreciation,



Melanie Nezer  
Senior Vice President, Public Affairs

**CC: Mayor Eric Garcetti**  
**Councilmember Gil Cedillo**  
**Councilmember Paul Krekorian**  
**Councilmember Bob Blumenfield**  
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**Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell**  
**Councilmember Jose Huizar**  
**Councilmember Joe Buscaino**



November 27, 2019

Mr. Herb Wesson  
Council President  
Los Angeles City Council  
200 North Spring Street, Room 430  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Mr. Wesson:

On behalf of Pacific Asian Consortium in Employment (PACE) and the refugees we serve, I write to urge your support for the resolution presented by Councilmembers Blumenfield and O'Farrell declaring Los Angeles a welcoming city for refugees.

Over the past 40 years, refugees have enriched our city and our region economically and culturally. And yet the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program is under threat as never before. Recently the Trump administration took the next step to gut this country's safest and most successful response to humanitarian crises. After setting the ceiling for refugee admissions at their lowest levels ever in his first three years in office, the president issued Executive Order 13888,\* which for the first time requires state and local consent for refugee resettlement. The Councilmembers' resolution is a vital and important statement of our city's opposition to this administration's inhumane refugee policies and is an important step to support refugees abroad and their families here.

If you have any questions about refugee resettlement in our city or this request, I would be happy to speak with you or your staff any time. Thank you for your consideration and support.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kerry N. Doi", is written over a faint circular stamp.

Kerry N. Doi  
President and CEO

cc: Councilmember Bob Blumenfield  
Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell



A family of services.  
A family that serves.

November 25, 2019

Mr. Herb Wesson  
Council President  
Los Angeles City Council  
200 North Spring Street, Room 430  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Mr. Wesson:

On behalf of Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles and the people we serve, I write to urge your support for the resolution presented by Councilmembers Blumenfield and O'Farrell declaring Los Angeles a welcoming city for refugees.

Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles (JFS) has 165 years of proven experience meeting the evolving needs of our diverse and changing community. Each year, our comprehensive family of services improves the quality of life for tens of thousands of people throughout Los Angeles. JFS has resettled over 27,000 refugees from the Former Soviet Union and Iran. As one of the most diverse cities in the world, Los Angeles has embraced its multicultural, multilingual, multiethnic heritage, providing a welcoming home to immigrants arriving from near and far.

Over the past 40 years, refugees have enriched our city and our region economically and culturally. And yet the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program is under threat as never before. Recently the Trump administration took the next step to gut this country's safest and most successful response to humanitarian crises. After setting the ceiling for refugee admissions at their lowest levels ever in his first three years in office, the president issued Executive Order 13888,\* which for the first time requires state and local consent for refugee resettlement. The Councilmembers' resolution is a vital and important statement of our city's opposition to this administration's inhumane refugee policies and is an important step to support refugees abroad and their families here.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [nvolpert@jfsla.org](mailto:nvolpert@jfsla.org). Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nancy Volpert", with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Nancy Volpert  
Director of Public Policy & Strategic Initiatives

cc: Councilmember Bob Blumenfield  
Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell

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*\*Although I am communicating with you about the implementation of Executive Order 13888, communication about or participation in the implementation of the EO is not in any way an endorsement of its legality.*



**PROGRAM** *for*  
**TORTURE VICTIMS**

**LOS ANGELES OFFICE**

3550 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 1906  
Los Angeles, CA 90010  
213-384-4PTV (4788)  
ptvla.org

**MEDICAL CLINIC**

PTV Human Rights Health  
Clinic at USC Eisner  
1400 S. Grand Ave, Suite 101  
Los Angeles, CA 90015

**SANTA ANA OFFICE**

450 W Fourth St, Second Floor  
Santa Ana, CA 92701  
714-783-2224

**MAILING ADDRESS**

3550 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 1906  
Los Angeles, CA 90010

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*Medical Director*

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November 26, 2019

Mr. Bob Blumenfield  
Councilmember, 3<sup>rd</sup> District  
Los Angeles City Council  
200 North Spring Street, Room 430  
Los Angeles, California 90012

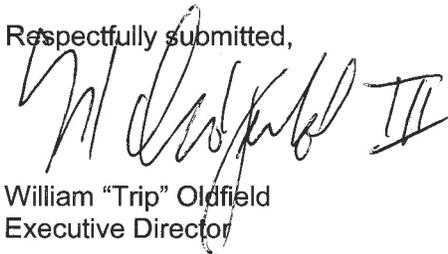
Dear Mr. Blumenfield:

On behalf of the Program for Torture Victims, one of the longest-standing organizations serving those seeking asylum in Southern California, I'm writing to ensure your support of the resolution declaring Los Angeles a welcoming city for refugees.

Over the past 40 years, refugees have enriched our city and our region economically and culturally. And yet the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program is under threat as never before. Recently the Trump administration took the next step to gut this country's safest and most successful response to humanitarian crises. After setting the ceiling for refugee admissions at their lowest levels ever in his first three years in office, the president issued Executive Order 13888, which for the first time requires state and local consent for refugee resettlement. The Councilmembers' resolution is a vital and important statement of our city's opposition to this administration's inhumane refugee policies and is an important step to support refugees abroad and their families here.

If you have any questions about refugee resettlement in our city or this request, I would be happy to speak with you or your staff any time. Thank you for your consideration and support.

Respectfully submitted,



William "Trip" Oldfield  
Executive Director



Councilmember Blumenfield &lt;councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org&gt;

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## Ask the LA City Council to Pass the "Welcoming City" Resolution

1 message

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**chaskes@twc.com** <chaskes@twc.com>

Mon, Nov 25, 2019 at 8:12 PM

To: councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org

Dear Council Member Blumenfield,

As your constituent in the City of Los Angeles, I urge you to vote in favor of Resolution 19-1385, which declares Los Angeles a "Welcoming City" for refugees. Resettlement is a strong American legacy that extends hospitality and offers refugees a chance to rebuild their lives in safety and dignity.

In September, the White House issued an Executive Order (EO 13888) that gives states and municipalities the authority to deny the resettlement of refugees in their communities. The executive order is an abdication of federal authority, and flies in the face of our long history of helping refugees start their lives anew in the U.S.

The City of Los Angeles is home to a diverse population of refugees and immigrants who add to its economic strength and cultural richness. Refugees are resilient, and hard-working members of our community. They contribute to our state's economy as workers and entrepreneurs, pay taxes, start businesses, revitalize towns, and buy homes.

We urge you to pass Resolution 19-1385 to demonstrate that the City of Los Angeles welcomes refugees and believes in sustaining the U.S. refugee resettlement program.

With appreciation,

Michael Chaskes  
Los Angeles, CA



Councilmember Blumenfield &lt;councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org&gt;

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## Ask the LA City Council to Pass the "Welcoming City" Resolution

1 message

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**noldak@tioh.org** <noldak@tioh.org>

Tue, Nov 26, 2019 at 8:51 AM

To: councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org

Dear Council Member Blumenfield,

As your constituent in the City of Los Angeles, I urge you to vote in favor of Resolution 19-1385, which declares Los Angeles a "Welcoming City" for refugees. Resettlement is a strong American legacy that extends hospitality and offers refugees a chance to rebuild their lives in safety and dignity.

In September, the White House issued an Executive Order (EO 13888) that gives states and municipalities the authority to deny the resettlement of refugees in their communities. The executive order is an abdication of federal authority, and flies in the face of our long history of helping refugees start their lives anew in the U.S.

The City of Los Angeles is home to a diverse population of refugees and immigrants who add to its economic strength and cultural richness. Refugees are resilient, and hard-working members of our community. They contribute to our state's economy as workers and entrepreneurs, pay taxes, start businesses, revitalize towns, and buy homes.

We urge you to pass Resolution 19-1385 to demonstrate that the City of Los Angeles welcomes refugees and believes in sustaining the U.S. refugee resettlement program.

With appreciation,

Noa Oldak-Moradian  
Los Angeles, CA



Councilmember Blumenfield &lt;councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org&gt;

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## Ask the LA City Council to Pass the "Welcoming City" Resolution

1 message

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patnjeff@keyway.net <patnjeff@keyway.net>

Tue, Nov 26, 2019 at 6:18 PM

To: councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org

Dear Council Member Blumenfield,

As your constituent in the City of Los Angeles, I urge you to vote in favor of Resolution 19-1385, which declares Los Angeles a "Welcoming City" for refugees. Resettlement is a strong American legacy that extends hospitality and offers refugees a chance to rebuild their lives in safety and dignity.

In September, the White House issued an Executive Order (EO 13888) that gives states and municipalities the authority to deny the resettlement of refugees in their communities. The executive order is an abdication of federal authority, and flies in the face of our long history of helping refugees start their lives anew in the U.S.

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We urge you to pass Resolution 19-1385 to demonstrate that the City of Los Angeles welcomes refugees and believes in sustaining the U.S. refugee resettlement program.

With appreciation,

Jeff Warner  
Los Angeles, CA



Councilmember Blumenfield &lt;councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org&gt;

---

## Ask the LA City Council to Pass the "Welcoming City" Resolution

1 message

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**acohen@bendthearc.us** <acohen@bendthearc.us>  
To: councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org

Wed, Nov 27, 2019 at 8:51 AM

Dear Council Member Blumenfield,

As your constituent in the City of Los Angeles, I urge you to vote in favor of Resolution 19-1385, which declares Los Angeles a "Welcoming City" for refugees. Resettlement is a strong American legacy that extends hospitality and offers refugees a chance to rebuild their lives in safety and dignity.

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We urge you to pass Resolution 19-1385 to demonstrate that the City of Los Angeles welcomes refugees and believes in sustaining the U.S. refugee resettlement program.

With appreciation,

Aryeh Cohen  
Los Angeles, CA



Councilmember Blumenfield &lt;councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org&gt;

---

## Ask the LA City Council to Pass the "Welcoming City" Resolution

1 message

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**mgalvan@unicefusa.org** <mgalvan@unicefusa.org>  
To: councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org

Mon, Dec 2, 2019 at 1:27 PM

Dear Council Member Blumenfield,

As your constituent in the City of Los Angeles, I urge you to vote in favor of Resolution 19-1385, which declares Los Angeles a "Welcoming City" for refugees. Resettlement is a strong American legacy that extends hospitality and offers refugees a chance to rebuild their lives in safety and dignity.

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We urge you to pass Resolution 19-1385 to demonstrate that the City of Los Angeles welcomes refugees and believes in sustaining the U.S. refugee resettlement program.

With appreciation,

Monica Galvan  
Los Angeles, CA



Councilmember Blumenfield &lt;councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org&gt;

---

## Ask the LA City Council to Pass the "Welcoming City" Resolution

1 message

---

**mgalvan@unicefusa.org** <mgalvan@unicefusa.org>  
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With appreciation,

Monica Galvan  
Los Angeles, CA