

WHEREAS; World Refugee Day was first celebrated on June 20, 2001, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees; and

WHEREAS; Wisconsin has a rich history of opening its doors to people of all backgrounds, experiences, and walks of life, and it is estimated that our state has welcomed over 16,000 refugees from all over the world in the last 20 years; and

WHEREAS; our state strives to always serve our refugee communities with respect and dignity, acknowledging the hardships they have encountered, recognizing their courage, sacrifice, and resilience, and celebrating their incredible contributions to our communities; and

WHEREAS; we recognize that refugees around the world, along with hosts and aid workers, have been on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic, which is reflected in the 2021 World Refugee Day theme, “Together we heal, learn and shine”; and

WHEREAS; on this occasion, we acknowledge the essential efforts of the International Institute of Wisconsin, Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, Jewish Social Services of Madison, World Relief Fox Valley, and all other agencies working to provide services to refugees as they navigate the resettlement process in our state; and

WHEREAS; today, the state of Wisconsin proudly joins all Wisconsinites in spreading awareness of the issues affecting the world’s refugees, honoring our refugee communities, and supporting local agencies that serve refugees;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,  
do hereby proclaim June 20, 2021, as

## **WORLD REFUGEE DAY**

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance  
to all our state’s residents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of June 2021.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State