

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; every year, World Refugee Day provides an opportunity to acknowledge and reflect on the resilience refugees have shown in the face of unimaginable circumstances, the new lives they have built for themselves and their families, and the positive impact they have on our local communities, which is reflected in this year's theme, "healing"; 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; in the past year alone, the state of Wisconsin has aided in the resettlement of nearly 13,000 Afghan refugees who temporarily called Fort McCoy home through Operation Allies Welcome, and has welcomed more than 800 Afghan refugees as neighbors in communities across our state; 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 vast and valuable contributions to our communities and state as a whole; 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, Catholic Charities of Green Bay, the Multicultural Community Center of Wausau, 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 and their families here in Wisconsin, throughout our nation, and around the world;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim June 20, 2022, 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 3rd day of June 2022.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State