



Ethiopian Community Development Council, Inc.

901 S. Highland St. ▪ Arlington, VA 22204 ▪ Tel (703) 685-0510 ▪ Fax (703) 685-0529

Empowering refugees and immigrants since 1983

For Immediate Release

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ECDC Calls on President Trump to Continue the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program

Arlington, VA—The history of America is a history of immigrants. The Immigration Act of 1980, signed into law by Jimmy Carter, was created to provide a permanent and systematic procedure for the admission to the United States of refugees of special humanitarian concern to the U.S. Today, Americans stand tall on the shoulders of their immigrant forefathers. Refugee resettlement is the personification of human kindness, and it embodies the traditions and core values of our nation.

Dr. Tsehaye Teferra, ECDC's President said, "Refugee resettlement is a part of the legacy of America and core to the American value of inclusivity. For us, the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program is a humanitarian response to the civil and human rights violations and persecution experienced by people of diverse cultural, ethnic, religious, and linguistic backgrounds around the world. We should aim to maintain this legacy."

ECDC also understands the current security concerns. Securing the well-being of Americans is the responsibility of every citizen. Yet the tools in place for vetting refugees are thorough and adequate. The Executive Order banning refugees from certain countries and suspending the refugee program undermines our security and values. Americans can be secure, while continuing to uphold the legacy of the resettlement program.

The Refugee Program is also about the thousands of Americans, including teachers, doctors, and community leaders, who get involved with the resettlement process every year. Volunteers become first friends and help newcomers in so many ways. The relationships that develop between newcomers to the country and volunteers are positive and life changing for each.

For further information, contact:

Solace Duncan, sduncan@eccdcus.org, (703) 685-0510 ext. 246

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ECDC is one of nine voluntary agencies working in partnership with the Department of State and the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) to provide initial placement and support services to refugees being resettled in the United States. With a special focus on African refugees, ECDC promotes cultural, educational and socio-economic development programs to assist refugees and immigrants in becoming productive members of their new homeland.