



Ethiopian Community Development Council, Inc.

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Empowering refugees and immigrants since 1983

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Arlington, VA—In commemoration of World Refugee Day, Dr. Tsehaye Teferra, President of the Ethiopian Community Development Council, released the following statement.

“World Refugee Day is a time to celebrate the resilience of the human spirit as embodied by the world’s 22.5 million refugees. Today’s refugees are tomorrow’s doctors, lawyers, teachers and elected officials. They are our neighbors and friends.

“New data released by the UN Refugee Agency, UNHCR, indicates that globally there are 66.6 million people forcibly displaced. This means that 1 of every 113 people in the world is forcibly displaced from their homes due to conflict or persecution. Equally noteworthy is that half of those who are refugees are children. This crisis is the worst it has been since recording began on this issue.

“Therefore, now is the time for our continued resolve as advocates for our new neighbors. ECDC and its network of affiliate resettlement agencies, along with our partners and the support of the community, will continue to welcome refugees. Today we all pause to acknowledge their struggles and celebrate their strengths and hopes for a brighter future.”

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ECDC is one of nine resettlement 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. ECDC promotes cultural, educational and socio-economic development programs to assist refugees and immigrants in becoming productive members of their new homeland.