

## RESOLUTION ON REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

WHEREAS Jesus clearly states in Matthew 25:35, “For I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty, and you gave me drink, I was a stranger, and you welcomed me.”; and

WHEREAS Lutheran Social Ministries’ work is rooted in this call to hospitality and care; and

WHEREAS Lutheran Services Carolinas (LSC) is one of the affiliates of Global Refuge (formerly Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, LIRS) that resettles legally vetted refugees from across the world in North and South Carolina; and

WHEREAS “the resettlement of legal refugees through LSC’s New Americans Program is consistent with our biblical foundation and American values,” LSC President and CEO Ted W. Goins, Jr. said in a statement; and

WHEREAS on February 2, 2025, representatives of the Executive Branch of the Federal Government singled out “Lutheran Family Services” around the country and said, “Now it’s the ‘Lutheran’ faith (this use of ‘religion’ as a money laundering operation must end).” The Department of Government Efficiency, said, “The DOGE team is rapidly shutting down these illegal payments.”; and

WHEREAS in this country, one in 50 Americans is served through a Lutheran Social Ministry. These social ministries provide food, clothing, behavioral health lifelines, and many more essentials for disaster victims, those fighting for recovery, and the less fortunate in our society; and

WHEREAS the finances of organizations like Lutheran Services Carolinas are public information, and anyone can view the 990 forms on the organization’s website at [www.lscarolinas.net](http://www.lscarolinas.net); and

WHEREAS on January 24, 2025, LSC, Global Refuge, and other resettlement organizations across the country were notified of the stop-work order halting the longstanding, bipartisan-supported resettlement of legal refugees. Since the beginning of the fiscal year (October 2024), LSC has welcomed 435 refugees to North and South Carolina; and

WHEREAS there are tens of thousands of refugees who have already been approved by an extensive vetting process and are now stranded overseas with few or no belongings because they were waiting for their travel schedules. Many of these refugees have lived in refugee camps for more than 20 years or now are the second generation living in refugee camps waiting for their applications to be reviewed; and

WHEREAS resettlement organizations like Lutheran Services Carolinas, Global Refuge, and many others are waiting for reimbursement for services already delivered to refugees who arrived in the United States since October, prior to the January stop-work order. Lack of payment for services already completed is creating hardships for the organizations, and they have been forced to lay off or furlough employees due to the payments that have been withheld by the federal government; and

WHEREAS the work of Lutheran Services Carolinas' New Americans Program has been a staple in its services for over 50 years beginning with work of resettlement completed by Lutheran Social Services (LSS). LSC has worked with the U.S. Office of Refugee Resettlement and as an affiliate of Global Refuge to help immigrants and refugees integrate into communities across North and South Carolina; and

WHEREAS refugees arrive with little more than the clothes on their backs, relying on resettlement organizations like LSC for assistance with housing, healthcare access, English education, school enrollment, and job placement. These services have been stripped away from the recently arrived refugees who have come to the U.S. since October 2024; therefore be it

RESOLVED that, the NC Synod, gathered in Assembly May 29-31, 2025, condemn, through the passing of this resolution, the false accusations lodged against our humanitarian work through LSC, Lutheran Social Service (LSS) agencies, and Global Refuge; and

Be it further RESOLVED that the bishop of the NC Synod send letters to all NC congressional representatives, senators, and the White House calling on policymakers from North Carolina to urge the White House and Congress to reinstate these vital services immediately. Refugee resettlement is a shared responsibility between federal, state, and local partners, and without swift action, countless families will face devastating uncertainty; and

Be it further RESOLVED that the bishop of the NC Synod additionally request that the above stated reimbursements for services completed be paid in full to refugee resettlement organizations like Lutheran Services Carolinas and Global Refuge; and

Be it further RESOLVED that the bishop of the NC Synod send correspondence to congregations urging all members of synod congregations to stand in solidarity with legal refugees and immigrants by contacting their NC congressional representative and both senators to urge the White House and Congress to reinstate these vital services immediately. Furthermore, this correspondence shall urge members to support Lutheran Services Carolinas and Global Refuge in the holy work of welcoming the stranger, helping resettle refugees vetted and entrusted to our care by the U.S. government, with or without the government's financial assistance; and

Be it further RESOLVED that the bishop of the NC Synod send correspondence to the presiding bishop and secretary of the ELCA; to state leaders of our Full Communion partners as well as to the statewide leaders of other faith traditions communicating this resolution and encouraging them to also contact elected leaders about this concern; and

Be it further RESOLVED the contact information (to find your representative click here: [Find Your Representative | house.gov](#)) for all congressional representatives and both senators be included with the correspondence to each congregation.

Submitted by the Rev. Greg Williams, retired  
March 2025

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Mr. John Fleming, Christ the King, Cary  
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Mr. David Charters, Christ the King, Cary  
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