

**Item #1: Draft Resolution from Amnesty International Group 1107 for the Human Relations Commission consideration:**

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT**

WHEREAS the world is facing the largest refugee crisis since World War II, with over 21 million refugees, 86% of whom are hosted by developing countries, which do not have the resources to adequately support such large numbers;

WHEREAS refugee; refers to any person who is outside the country of origin and has well-founded fear of being persecuted should he or she return;

WHEREAS 51% of refugees are children;

WHEREAS the largest number of refugees, almost 5 million, are Syrians who have fled the conflict which began in 2011;

WHEREAS 21.3 million refugees are registered with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR);

WHEREAS the UNHCR has determined that 1,100,000 refugees are in need of immediate resettlement due to a height vulnerability to further harm, but less than 200,000 resettlement places have been pledged by nations;

WHEREAS refugees in most urgent need of resettlement are identified based on their vulnerabilities and risk of further exposure to violence and exploitation - including children traveling alone, female-headed households, victims of torture, the physically disabled and members of the LGBT community;

WHEREAS the former U.S. administration pledged only 10,000 place to the most vulnerable this year and the present administration has temporarily suspended all resettlement of refugees for 120 days, from March 16, 2017;

WHEREAS the United States has resettled nearly 800,000 refugees since 9/11;

WHEREAS President Obama committed to in a total of 110,000 refugees in 2017, but President Trump in his March 6 Executive Order reduced that number to 50,000;

WHEREAS we commend the United States for the resettlement of many refugees, including over 14,000 Syrian refugees since the beginning of the conflict in 2011, but note the ability of and need for our country to do more;

WHEREAS the vetting process for admitting refugees involves screening by the UNHCR and then vetting process by multiple U.S. security and intelligence agencies, lasting 18 to 24 months, before the candidate can enter the country, with a "substantial number" of candidates being rejected;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Palo Alto City Council declares its support for the resettlement of refugees in Santa Clara County and calls on upon other communities in Santa Clara County to join in supporting the effort to resettle the most vulnerable refugees.