



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 6/27/17

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United States Should Continue Resettlement of Refugees in Light of Supreme Court Decision

Denver, CO—Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning and ECDC African Community Center express our deep disappointment over yesterday’s decision by the Supreme Court of the United States to allow most elements of the Trump Administration’s Executive Order to go into effect until a hearing takes place in October. We continue to stand behind the American tradition and policy of refugee resettlement.

The SCOTUS decision upholds the latest Executive Order, which put in place a 120-day moratorium on all refugee resettlement and a 90-day travel ban on individuals from six predominantly Muslim countries, but adds an important exception for “foreign nationals who have a credible claim of a bona fide relationship with a person or entity in the United States.”

“While neither the 90-day travel ban nor the halting of refugee resettlement appear to be justified for genuine security purposes, we are pleased that the ban will not be applied to students, family members, academics and others whose travel here enriches our society. We further hope the decision by the Supreme Court will be interpreted to continue the resettlement of refugees with family members here in the U.S. and those who have already been vetted,” said Paula Schriefer, President and CEO of Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning.

There are currently over 65 million displaced persons in the world with over 21 million refugees. Over half of the world’s refugees are children. The United States has successfully resettled over three million refugees since 1980 and already has in place the most rigorous vetting process for any individuals who enter the country.

“We have seen a sharp decline in refugee resettlement in the past five months, leaving many individuals who had previously gone through the lengthy vetting process to come to the United States stranded, and leaving family members already here without hope of

being reunited with their children, parents or siblings,” states Melissa Theesen, Managing Director of ECDC African Community Center.

The resettlement of refugees not only provides an opportunity for people who are victims of persecution and conflict to build new lives, but it also strengthens our own communities in the United States. A new [report](#) by the National Bureau of Economic Research finds that despite the need for housing, food and medical assistance when they first arrive in the United States, refugees pay nearly \$20,000 more in taxes over time than they receive in benefits.

We affirm our commitment to the wellbeing of the refugees already resettled in Colorado, and we call for the broadest interpretation of this recent decision to allow for these vulnerable populations overseas to join their families and communities through resettlement in the United States.

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[Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning](#) is a nonprofit organization with a mission to empower people and organizations to succeed across languages and cultures. To find out more, visit our website at www.springinstitute.org or visit us on [Facebook](#).

[ECDC ACC](#) is a branch office of the Ethiopian Community Development Council. ECDC ACC is authorized by the Department of State to resettle refugees in the U.S. and has been welcoming refugees into the Denver metro area for 15 years. ECDC ACC helps refugees build safe, sustainable lives. ECDC ACC is a 501(c)(3) entity. For more information about ECDC ACC, visit <http://www.acc-den.org> and follow on [Facebook](#).