

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MAY 29, 2026

CONTACT: Amanda Bent, Dir. of Communications & Advocacy
Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning,
Phone: (720) 863-4674, outreach@springinstitute.org



REFUGEE ACTION COALITION OF COLORADO CONDEMNS REVISED PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION ON REFUGEE ADMISSIONS THAT DESIGNATES 10,000 ADDED SPOTS SOLELY FOR AFRIKANERS

Denver, CO—Members of the Refugee Action Coalition of Colorado strongly condemn the May 21st [Emergency Presidential Determination on Refugee Admissions](#) that changes the refugee admissions ceiling originally set for fiscal year 2026. While RACC has [previously called on the Trump Administration to increase the maximum number of admitted refugees](#) above the egregiously and alarmingly low figure originally set for FY26, this revision problematically designates all 10,000 additional refugee admissions spots exclusively for Afrikaners.

With decades of bipartisan support associated with passage and implementation of the [Refugee Act of 1980](#), the United States has historically upheld a strong moral commitment to refugee resettlement and asylum. However, aligned with tactics from Trump’s first term, the current presidential administration [suspended USRAP indefinitely](#), stranding over 100,000 vetted and approved refugees in refugee camps and secondary countries. Allocating refugee resettlement places primarily to Afrikaners, as also emphasized in the initial [FY26 Presidential Determination](#) published last October, displaces opportunities for these more vulnerable refugees who have been awaiting resettlement for years or even decades. This misguided approach limits and diverts the role of the U.S. in responding adequately to the worldwide plight of [refugees](#), preventing states like Colorado from fully embracing newcomers who can make vital contributions to our economy and cultural fabric in peace and safety after escaping [humanitarian crises](#) and other dire conditions.

Organizations and community members associated with RACC join our partners at [Church World Service](#) in calling on the Administration to “broaden U.S. Refugee Admissions Program and keep its promises to the people it has left stranded in extremely dangerous circumstances.” The USRAP has historically served a diverse group of refugees from all over the world, [who are displaced from their home countries and cannot return due to a well-founded fear of persecution](#), and it must return to its intended usage. “We must continue to resist the Trump administration’s flagrantly lawless yet persistent goal of erasing the longstanding role of the U.S. as a humanitarian enclave for those fleeing violence and persecution elsewhere in the world,” says Paula Schriefer, President & CEO of Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning, the Denver-based nonprofit organization that coordinates RACC.

“Setting this low and exclusionary Presidential Determination in the name of our national interest is unconscionable,” added Ron Buzard, Managing Director, African Community Center. “It results in turning our backs on persecuted populations, and it ignores the contributions of refugees from which we all benefit today. To act as though the U.S. does not have the capacity and resources to offer protection and refuge to more individuals from other regions of the world is, at its core, inhumane and un-American.”

Echoing advocacy demands from their [March 2025 letter to the Departments of State and Homeland Security](#) and in solidarity with national allies who co-endorsed a recent [public letter to Congress](#) organized by [Refugee Council USA](#) and those who have [condemned the initial 2026 Presidential Determination on Refugee Admissions announced in October 2025](#), RACC insists that Colorado’s Congressional delegation and other leaders do everything in their power to:

- Urge the administration to fulfill its legal responsibilities under the *Refugee Act of 1980* by conducting meaningful consultations with Congress in setting annual refugee admissions goals and to set a future

refugee admissions goal of at least 125,000 – a level that both better reflects the global scale of need and would accommodate the more than 120,000 refugees already conditionally approved for resettlement.

- Pressure the administration to welcome the most vulnerable, at-risk refugees through the refugee admissions program, including by prioritizing those who have been waiting for years in the pipeline and have been stranded by the refugee ban.
- Insist that the federal administration [cease terrorizing tactics](#) being used against already-resettled refugees and other immigrants who are valued contributors and cherished members of our communities.

###

The [Refugee Action Coalition of Colorado \(RACC\)](#) advocates for and with refugees to promote a welcoming community and to advance opportunities where refugees thrive. [Learn more](#), [apply to join RACC](#), and connect on [Facebook](#).