

# Refugee Resettlement Program

COME CLOSER SPARTANBURG

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On March 8, 2015, the *Spartanburg Herald-Journal*<sup>1</sup> ran an article announcing the formation of a local refugee office, "Come Closer Spartanburg", in conjunction with refugee resettlement contractor, World Relief.<sup>2</sup> Jason Lee, a former pastor at Oak Grove Baptist Church, was named as director. A group of area pastors, churches and businesses met with Reverend Lee and agreed to aid "Come Closer Spartanburg" in resettling 65 refugees from predominately Middle-eastern and North African countries. The article stated the first of the refugees would arrive in Spartanburg before the end of the year (2015).

Since the first announcement that Spartanburg would become a "receiving community," community residents and leaders have raised questions in order to learn more about this program.

- What is the refugee resettlement program?
- What impact might it have on our community?
- How does it work?

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.goupstate.com/article/20150308/ARTICLES/150309721/1002/sports04?p=1&tc=pg&tc=ar>

<sup>2</sup> World Relief was founded in 1944 as the humanitarian arm of the National Association of Evangelicals. Its mission: "We practice principles of transformational development to empower local churches in the United States and around the world so they can serve the vulnerable in their communities" (<http://worldrelief.org/what-we-stand-for>). Over time, the organization included additional foreign missions work. It provided modernity, technology and medical care to remote and needy parts of the world. Following the 1980 Refugee Act, World Relief refocused its mission again to domestic refugee resettlement and to transforming American communities into "adapting" to the foreign cultures and societies they once aided abroad. Prior to refugee resettlement, World Relief relied mainly on private donations for its operating expenses.

- What has been the experience of other receiving communities?
- Should we welcome it as an act of charity?
- Are there other, perhaps better, ways to finance providing aid to refugees while remaining capable of taking care of our own community?
- What effects will the program have on Spartanburg's current efforts to address social and financial concerns, such as employment, education, wages, medical services and crime rate?

In an effort to better understand the Refugee Resettlement Program, its practices, procedures, policies and the status of the program internationally and nationally, this paper addresses:

- 1) a summary to help the Spartanburg community and its leaders understand the program's structure.
- 2) the potential impact on communities.
- 3) potential larger national issues.

## The Refugee Resettlement Program:

The Refugee Resettlement Program is a 35-year-old federally funded program. Until the end of the 1990's, the U.S. chose the refugees the U.S. would accept from foreign countries. Since then, the U.S. State Department has relied more and more on the United Nations High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR) to make those choices. In recent years, 95% of refugees to the U.S. have been chosen by the UNHCR.

The UNHCR aids resettlement of displaced persons who have fled their home country. Refugee camps are initially established to provide food, shelter and medical care in neighboring or nearby countries the refugees may reach by land or sea. From these camps, the UNHCR chooses refugees to be resettled around the world to receiving countries.

Once refugees are chosen by the UNHCR for resettlement in the U.S., the U.S. Department of State is notified. The State Department is responsible for allotting funding to resettlement agencies and ensuring refugees are vetted before placement within the U.S. is made. Homeland Security (DHS) and The Federal

Bureau of Investigation (FBI) are tasked with vetting each refugee candidate.

When the State Department receives the personal information on refugees and the number chosen for relocation to the U.S.,<sup>3</sup> nine major contractors apply to the State Department for their share of refugees to be resettled within their specific areas of operation. The contractors determine where the refugees will be placed within their territory.

The refugee contractors also employ lobbyists to petition Washington to increase the numbers of refugees allowed into the country each year. The nine major contractors have established important allies in their efforts. On April 14, 2015, a group of Senators signed a letter to the President to "dramatically increase the number of Syrians that we accept for resettlement."<sup>4</sup> The UNHCR is currently lobbying the U.S. to take an additional 65,000 Syrians before the end of next year. They are also lobbying the West to take an additional one million refugees over the next five years.

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<sup>3</sup> The cost of relocating and supporting one refugee in the U.S. is \$20-30,000 per year. This same amount would provide aid for 200 refugees overseas per year until the conflict is resolved and the refugees can return home.

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.wnd.com/2015/05/democrats-call-for-flood-of-muslims-to-u-s/>.

Additional information regarding how federal funding benefits other organizations and enterprises can be found in an April 15, 2015 story at Grassroots.org: <http://grassrootsleadership.org/releases/2015/04/new-report-rise-profit-detention-corresponds-millions-lobbying-private-prisons>.

A list of the nine major contractors, and the most recent report of the percentage of their budget funded by U.S. tax dollars and top salaries is as follows:

\* All information is from 2012.

Church World Services:

60% of budget funded by U.S.

\$286,000 top salary (includes benefits)

Ethiopian Community Development Council:

96% of budget funded by U.S.

\$233,228 top salary

Episcopal Migration Services:

Percentage of budget funded by U.S. unknown  
but received more than \$17 million in 2012  
from the U.S.

Hebrew Immigration Aid Society:

61% of budget funded by U.S.

\$323,162 top salary

International Rescue Committee:

73% of budget funded by U.S.

\$485,321 top salary

U.S. Commission for Refugees and Immigrants:

99% of budget funded by U.S.

\$289,192 top salary

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services:

97% of budget funded by U.S.

\$214,237 top salary

World Relief:

68% of budget funded by U.S.

\$211,651 top salary (includes compensations)

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops:

98% of budget funded by U.S.

Unknown salaries.

No longer makes information available.

Combined, U.S. taxpayer funding for the nine major contractors exceeds a billion dollars per year. This does not include additional federal, state and local expenditures for social programs, cash allotments, translators, medical care, housing and education. When the additional federal, state and

local expenditures are added in, the total cost falls between \$10-20 billion a year.

The parent contract organizations, also called Voluntary Agencies (Volags), establish satellite offices throughout the U.S. to oversee resettlement at the local level. There are approximately 350 local offices in 190 cities countrywide. Two of the contractors have established offices in South Carolina thus far: Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services in Columbia and World Relief in Spartanburg. Each office resettles refugees within a 100 mile radius of their location.

The local contractor's responsibility is to secure services, such as tax-payer subsidized housing, welfare, food stamps, medical care, education, cash assistance and job counseling and training, etc.

Through the Bureau of Population, Refugee and Migration (PRM) at the State Department, funding is provided to the contract agency (Volag) which in turn provides funding to the local satellite office. For each refugee, the local office receives approximately \$1,875.00. To defray operational costs for staff salaries, office space, etc. the local office retains \$750.00 per refugee for its own use and is expected to use the balance for settling the refugees until enrollment in public aid programs is secured. Employment is hopefully secured, as well,

for able-bodied refugees, but rarely impacts eligibility for public aid. Payments per refugee to the local office continues for approximately four to six month. In order for the local office to continue to operate, a constant stream of refugees must be maintained.

Volunteer services provided by local churches and individuals are converted to estimated dollar amounts to satisfy requirements for the small percentage of matching funds the Volags must provide.

Policy for the Refugee Resettlement Program is administered through the White House. On November 21, 2014, President Obama signed an executive order establishing the White House Task Force on New Americans. Cecilia Munoz<sup>5</sup> was appointed co-chairman of the Task Force by the president and is the Assistant to the President and Director of the Domestic Policy Council in the White House. (See Appendix A)

## White House Task Force "Open Door Immigration Initiative

On April 15, 2015, the White House Task Force on New Americans released a report titled: "Strengthening Communities

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<sup>5</sup> See Appendix A for a short review of Ms. Munoz's previous associations

by Welcoming all Residents: A Federal Strategic Action Plan on Immigrant and Refugee Integration." <sup>6</sup>

*"STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES BY WELCOMING ALL RESIDENTS  
A Federal Strategic Action Plan on Immigrant & Refugee  
Integration: The White House Task Force on New Americans."*

A sampling of goals and objectives contained in the White House task force's 70-page report:

- Reduce "barriers to citizenship," such as making the citizenship test easier for elderly immigrants.
- Train immigrants and refugees to be citizen activists, expanding opportunities for them to "engage in their receiving communities," because, coming from various Third World environments "they may not be aware of its importance or how they can effect change at the local, state and federal levels."
- Lower citizenship fees for some immigrants and allow others to pay by credit card.
- Make sure immigrants and refugees wanting to start small businesses have access to start-up capital.

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<sup>6</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2015/04/15/strengthening-communities-welcoming-and-integrating-immigrants-and-refugees>

- The federal government will actively “encourage local governments to develop and implement local immigrant and refugee integration strategies - providing technical assistance and other opportunities to participating communities and put them on the path to building welcoming communities.”
- The federal task force will provide a toolkit to the “willing but unable” cities and counties “to guide these communities in their welcoming efforts and share information on federal funding streams and initiatives.”
- A New Americans Corps will be created through the existing AmeriCorps volunteer program and these armies of volunteers will work to “build capacity” in the movement to welcome and integrate New Americans into communities nationwide.
- Emphasize existing funding opportunities to assist new Americans.
- Increase opportunities for communities to use federal funding streams to develop and implement local integration plans.
- “Culturally and linguistically appropriate services” must be delivered to immigrants in health and health care and other areas of need.

- Organizations are expected "to provide effective and respectful quality care and services that are responsive to diverse cultural practices, preferred languages, health literacy levels, and other communication needs."<sup>7</sup>

## Partner Contractors

The White House Task Force on New Americans also coordinates with community and ideologically compatible non-government organizations (NGOs) that share their goals to further immigration and refugee resettlement.

One prominent organization working with the White House Task Force is "Welcoming America". Welcoming America was founded by David Lubell in Tennessee.

*Welcoming America's website states:*

In 2005 the Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition (TIRRC), inspired by the Iowa campaign's message and approach, started to make plans for a "Welcoming Tennessee Initiative" (WTI). Since launching in 2006, The Welcoming Tennessee Initiative - the model for all subsequent welcoming initiatives - has substantially improved the climate for immigrants within the state. Statewide polling by Middle Tennessee State University has demonstrated an increase in positive opinions towards immigrants, and thousands of Tennessee residents have become active supporters of Tennessee's

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<sup>7</sup> [https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/final\\_tf\\_newamericans\\_report\\_4-14-15\\_clean.pdf](https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/final_tf_newamericans_report_4-14-15_clean.pdf)

increased diversity as a result of the project. In 2009 WTI was awarded the E Pluribus Unum Prize for exceptional immigrant integration initiatives.

The success of Welcoming Tennessee inspired several additional immigrant support organizations across the country to follow its lead. In July of 2007, seven organizations interested in starting Welcoming campaigns met to combine efforts and expand Welcoming campaigns past Tennessee. Hosting the meeting was Four Freedoms Fund<sup>8</sup>, a funding collaborative that has played a crucial role in the formation and development of Welcoming America.<sup>9</sup>

Welcoming America's stated mission is "promoting understanding and support for refugees."

The value of The Task Force's alliance with Welcoming America is to "get right the hearts and minds of Americans" to be receptive to receiving refugees into their communities, providing the necessary resources and adapting the community to the refugees.

Welcoming America receives grants from the federal government for the task of dealing with "pockets of resistance" that may spring up in communities. Forms of "resistance" include working to learn more about the program, what impact it may have on the community, and how many additional refugees might be expected.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> The Four Freedoms Fund is listed as one of the many groups supported by the Open Society Institute.

<http://www.discoverthenetworks.org/groupProfile.asp?grpid=7557>

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.welcomingamerica.org/about-us/why-we-are-needed/>

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.welcomingamerica.org/2012/11/12/welcoming-america-orr-gran/>

One method used by Welcoming America is encouraging newspaper articles that promote "diversity" or stories that subtly cast questioning people in a negative light. In an article recently published in *The State* newspaper, the article suggested that the reason for resistance in Germany to mass refugee resettlement within Germany was because of lingering Nazism<sup>11</sup>. Other methods encouraged by Welcoming America include:

- cultural exchanges at colleges and universities
- cultural festivals
- interfaith groups
- literature
- story time at local libraries about diversity
- controlled/moderated town hall meetings
- public speakers/commentaries
- letters to the editor in newspapers or online that promote diversity and differences over unity in American culture.

Within their narratives, questions and disagreement are characterized as hate, fear, Islamophobia, anti-Muslim, anti-immigration or conspiracy theory.

A recent article in the *Spartanburg Herald-Journal* announcing the arrival of the first refugees, with responding

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<sup>11</sup><http://www.thestate.com/news/nation-world/world/article20261904.html>

comments numbering more than 145, was posted on the paper's website. The comments were largely unfavorable to the refugee program. Commenters frequently asked questions about the impact of the program on existing citizenry or commented on their disagreement with the program and the lack of public awareness about the program before it was implemented. For reasons unknown, the comments were taken down and commenting stopped.<sup>12</sup>

An additional organization partnering with the White House Task Force is the "National Conference of State Legislators." The NCSL's role is to ensure that anti-refugee legislation is identified early and tracked systematically so the resettlement agencies can quickly respond<sup>13</sup>. Other partners include "National Partnership for New Americans", "Center for New Community" and the "Southern Poverty Law Center".

An example of the general attitude toward community "resistance" and the tactics suggested for use is found in a 2013 Hebrew Immigration Aid Society (HIAS) publication: "Resettlement at Risk."<sup>14</sup>

1) On p. 12: "Advocates continue to work to mitigate anti-refugee sentiment and monitor anti-refugee action in the legislature."

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<sup>12</sup> <http://www.goupstate.com/article/20150604/ARTICLES/150609876/0/FRONTPAGE>

<sup>13</sup> [http://www.hias.org/sites/default/files/resettlement\\_at\\_risk\\_1.pdf](http://www.hias.org/sites/default/files/resettlement_at_risk_1.pdf)

<sup>14</sup> Ibid

2) Report gives examples of problems with the program such as those found by GAO Study mentioned on p. 13.

3) **Final Recommendations include:**

- **Develop a Rapid Response Plan:** The national resettlement agencies, with the help of local affiliates that have experience responding to anti-resettlement sentiment and action in their communities, should create a plan for quickly responding to emerging anti-resettlement activity and supporting local efforts to organize and fight anti-resettlement measures in their communities. The agencies should identify three to five pilot locations facing or at risk of facing rising anti-refugee sentiment, where local resettlement agencies can work across Volag<sup>15</sup> networks to build diverse stakeholder teams of resettled refugees, service providers, and community, business, and faith leaders and train them to become effective spokespeople for refugee resettlement in their communities.
- **Track Anti-Resettlement Legislation:** The national refugee agencies should partner with the National Conference of State Legislators (NCSL) to ensure that

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<sup>15</sup> Voluntary Agency

anti-refugee legislation is identified early and tracked systematically so the resettlement agencies can quickly respond.

- **Conduct Research on Local Anti-Refugee Leaders:** The national refugee agencies should partner with groups such as Center for New Community and Southern Poverty Law Center to learn more about individuals and groups leading local efforts to resist resettlement, to determine if they belong to organized anti-immigrant or anti-Muslim organizations or networks.<sup>16</sup>

The HIAS document is highlighted in this report, not because it is the best or worst example, but because it is a common example of the tactics that pervade multiple resettlement agencies and organizations that operate from the premise that resistance must be discredited and ultimately silenced as quickly as possible by an organized team effort. Legitimate community concerns, such as high unemployment, economic difficulties/downturns and limited resources are described as merely "couching" anti-Muslim/anti-immigrant sentiments. Resistance, in their narrative, can only be attributed to ill-conceived motives among the people of the community.

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<sup>16</sup> [http://www.hias.org/sites/default/files/resettlement\\_at\\_risk\\_1.pdf](http://www.hias.org/sites/default/files/resettlement_at_risk_1.pdf)

One striking aspect of the document is the underlying tone to discourage and silence the residents from any questions or discussions about the decision to bring resettlement to their community. Community concerns are considered only for the purpose of shaping a narrative to thwart discussions. The community is not considered a "stakeholder" in the implementation of the program.

## White House Task Force and Partner Contractors' Policies and Community Impact

On a national scale, the goal of The Task Force and its partners is to urge all communities and all states to implement the program to "integrate" communities by planting "seeds" into the "fertile soils of American communities." Once planted, the aliens are to be taught to "navigate" the system. Separatism is stressed over assimilation, though fast tracking citizenship is encouraged.

By federal law, refugees are automatically granted "protected status", entitling them to public aid.

The federal programs available to refugees include:

- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) formerly known as AFDC
- Medicaid
- Food Stamps
- Public Housing
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Social Security Disability Insurance
- Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD) (direct services only)
- Child Care and Development Fund
- Independent Living Program
- Job Opportunities for Low Income Individuals (JOLI)
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Postsecondary Education Loans and Grants
- Refugee Assistance Programs
- Title IV Foster Care and Adoption Assistance Payments (if parents are qualified immigrants - refugees, asylees, etc)
- Title XX Social Services Block Grant Funds

The community, due to a law passed during the Clinton Administration, is also responsible for providing translators for foreign language speakers and for incurred costs.

The student body at Central High School in Manchester, New Hampshire, has 82 different languages represented among its

immigrant student body.<sup>17</sup> Houston Public Schools has over 100 different languages being spoken. Wichita, Kansas, is struggling under the weight of providing translators and other services to an influx of immigrant and refugee children. An AP story via Latina Fox News reports this year that Wichita is struggling to provide English services to 350 students with minimal English. It has "11 classrooms devoted to teaching immigrants and refugees, and is unsure if it will have the funds to continue expanding these services."<sup>18</sup>

While school districts report some positive experiences with the children, the accompanying problems associated with non-English speaking students, lack of education, and the standards teachers are required to teach to prepare students for mandatory testing have overwhelmed the teachers, the school districts and other students attending. Despite the efforts of communities to teach English to non-English speaking students, many second and third generation students born in the U.S. remain fluent in only their parents' native language. Teacher and administration efforts to engage refugee parents often produce little response. The language, cultural and religious barriers too often prove difficult, if not insurmountable.

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<sup>17</sup> <http://www.unionleader.com/article/20150308/NEWS0606/150309225>

<sup>18</sup> <http://latino.foxnews.com/latino/lifestyle/2015/04/26/kansas-school-district-cope-increased-ethnic-diversity-from-influx-immigrants/>

Community problems are exacerbated by businesses that work with local contractors to provide workers and agree to give priority to refugees over citizens.

Tyson Foods is one such corporation that began hiring illegal aliens over citizens at a reduced wage. After the federal government cracked down on the practice of hiring illegal aliens, the company turned to hiring refugees.

In a speech in opposition to the 2014 Immigration Bill, Senator Jeff Sessions called out the meatpacking industry as one of the special interest forces that helped frame the bill, along with the White House Task Force, La Raza, the Chamber of Commerce, certain wealthy individuals, the Immigration Lawyer Association and the Gang of Eight.<sup>19</sup>

When a large corporation, like Tyson, focuses on hiring refugees, the result is massive secondary migration into communities unprepared to deal with the influx. Increases in citizen unemployment, depressed wages, housing shortages, increased conflicts between law enforcement, fire and rescue and unassimilated refugees, schools dealing with non-English speaking students, many of whom have never attended school or have very little education, cultural clashes with the general

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<sup>19</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eunRPmNEhWU&feature=youtu.be> - in this speech Sessions also pointed out the economic consequences of passing an Amnesty Bill, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

community and the self-isolation of the immigrant communities have created tremendous stress on the native communities.<sup>20</sup>

Pressure may also be placed on other local businesses to hire refugees over citizens. The RRP encourages communities to adapt to the newcomers by giving refugees preferential treatment for hiring. Businesses are also encouraged to enact policies that "tolerate" cultural or religious beliefs over the community's. Likewise, communities are expected to adapt to the immigrants' culture and language.

The public is often told that a high percentage of refugees quickly become "self-sustaining". "Self-sustaining" and "self-sufficient" are not synonymous. The majority of refugees who are employed work at low-wage jobs with little chance of advancement due to language barriers, cultural incompatibility and preferred isolation within the community. Most of the refugees will never earn enough to be free from public aid. Some of their children may advance beyond entry-level jobs in the future, but the refugees' preferred isolation perpetuates English as a second language and cultural practices that hinder assimilation into the native community. "Self-sustaining" simply means the local contractor is no longer providing aid to the refugee. The

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<sup>20</sup> <http://www.progressivesforimmigrationreform.org/tyson-foods-exploits-immigrant-labor-plunges-small-community-chaos/> Wages will go down for 12 years; GNP per capita will decline for 25 plus years and unemployment will increase, even if the promises to control illegal immigration were kept, which few believe would be kept.

taxpayer, however, continues to provide support through government programs.

## The Saga of Shelbyville

Shelbyville, Tennessee, is a case in point regarding the difficulties communities encounter when large numbers of refugees settle in a community unprepared to deal with the stresses and conflicts. The town does not have a local resettlement office, but became a destination for secondary migration as word spread among the Somali community that Tyson Foods was hiring.

Shelbyville gained national attention after a series of articles by reporter Brian Mosely (*Times-Gazette*)<sup>21</sup> outlining the difficulties the community was experiencing from an influx of Somalis seeking work at a local Tyson Food plant. Despite local residents reaching out to welcome the newcomers into the community, the Somalis instead chose a closed community within the community. Cultural clashes between the Somalis, the residents and public safety officials, left the town increasingly frustrated.

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<sup>21</sup> <http://www.t-g.com/scripts/search/simple.php?query=brian+mosely&s=stories>

A team of RRP partners went into action. A film crew arrived in Shelbyville to film a documentary. The film, "Welcome to Shelbyville", is often shown to pro-refugee audiences as an example of a resistant community that has succeeded despite the opposition. From the perspective of the residents of Shelbyville and the reporter, the problems continued and the film misrepresented the situation and the people.

Mosely, the author of the local articles, recounted his experience with the making of the film on the *Times-Gazette* blog he maintains. He felt his words were manipulated by the filmmakers to paint an inaccurate picture of Shelbyville as a backward and racist southern town. He wrote in his *Times-Gazette* blog:

As many of our readers are aware, in late 2007, I wrote a five part series about the impact that the introduction of Somali refugees were having on Bedford County. The stories focused on how the refugees got here, their traditions and beliefs, and took an honest look at the many cultural clashes that were taking place between the locals and the newcomers.

The series provoked a huge controversy, along with much discussion and debate from members of our community.

Then, in August 2008, the *Times-Gazette* reported that a new union contract at the Shelbyville Tyson Foods facility replaced Labor Day as a paid holiday with the Muslim festival of Eid al-Fitr.

That story put Shelbyville on the national stage, with the topic touching off coverage from the national news media, as well as massive attention on the issue from talk radio hosts, websites and blogs, some of which continues to this very day.

The controversy the stories created led a documentary crew to Shelbyville in late 2008 to shoot "Welcome to Shelbyville," which will air nationwide, May 24 on PBS at 9 p.m. The film received financing from progressive migration advocates, and has been sponsored by the state department as overseas propaganda. The "propaganda" label comes from no less an authority than the New York Times.

I viewed the film twice in October of last year during its local premiere, and found the filmmaker's depiction of myself and the stories published by the T-G to be a monstrous distortion, with an incredible series of blatant omissions and dishonest misrepresentations that was obviously designed only to advance the political agenda of the filmmakers and the progressive organizations that funded and supported its production.

While the filmmakers certainly have a right to express their views, in the process, I feel they have engaged in a completely unfair character assassination of both myself, the Times-Gazette, not to mention how the entire city of Shelbyville is depicted.

They have told their story. Now, I shall tell mine.<sup>22</sup>

Despite an organized effort against Mr. Mosely<sup>23</sup>, he won the Tennessee State Press Award for his series.<sup>24</sup>

When the documentary was aired on PBS, a *Times-Gazette* editorial stated:

With a filmmaker who drops in from New York City and believes Bedford County is named after Nathan Bedford Forrest (it is not), wording on the film's original Web site that Shelbyville is just a stone's throw from Pulaski, birthplace of the KKK and, in the screening we saw, shows in the early minutes of the film hooded KKK marching down a "Main Street" (not Shelbyville), an objective person must view the film Tuesday with skepticism.

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<sup>22</sup> <http://www.t-g.com/blogs/brianmosely/entry/41599/>

<sup>23</sup> <http://www.t-g.com/blogs/brianmosely/entry/16735/>

<sup>24</sup> <http://www.t-g.com/story/1446385.html>

Additional interview with Brian Mosely:

[http://www.newenglishreview.org/custpage.cfm/frm/15124/sec\\_id/15124](http://www.newenglishreview.org/custpage.cfm/frm/15124/sec_id/15124)

An educated view of modern-day integration and assimilation both from native residents and the newcomers is tainted with a "southern racist" overlay.

This is disappointing and intellectually dishonest. Filmmaking is storytelling -- it's just what story you're wanting to tell.<sup>25</sup>

Shelbyville's experience may help explain why Come Closer Spartanburg's website states:

Spartanburg is home to what has been identified as the 5th most dangerous neighborhood in the United States. We have extremely high rates of unemployment, poverty, and domestic violence. Overall, we were recently listed as the 4th most "miserable" city to live in our country. It does not take long to realize that we are a city in need of transformation.

However, in the abstract submitted by World Relief to the State Department in the 2015 grant request to settle refugees in Spartanburg, stated:

- Spartanburg and its larger neighbor to the west, Greenville, serve as dual anchors of South Carolina's fastest growing and most economically vibrant region, with over 825,000 residents between them.
- "the most immigrant-friendly city in the state,"
- has revealed that Spartanburg's affordability, high rate of employment, access to public transportation, and emergent immigrant community would make it an excellent destination for refugees.
- It is believed that as refugees begin to live, work, learn, raise their families, and acclimate to the area, while churches, employers, service providers, and the broader community become more adept at welcoming and

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<sup>25</sup> <http://www.t-g.com/story/1729821.html>

serving them, Spartanburg and surrounding cities will become an increasingly desirable location for refugees in coming years.<sup>26</sup>

The incongruence between the two visions of Spartanburg "Come Closer Spartanburg" and World Relief present is stark.

Apparently, the statement from the website explains its reason for presenting such a bleak picture to the public: *It does not take long to realize that we are **a city in need of transformation.*** (Emphasis added.)

The abstract posits transformation can be achieved when "the broader community become more adept at welcoming and serving them, Spartanburg and surrounding cities will become an increasingly desirable location for refugees in coming years."

Spartanburg and surrounding cities, like Shelbyville, in Come Closer Spartanburg and World Relief's opinion, must adapt to the refugees, not the refugees to Spartanburg, to become a desirable location for refugees for years to come. Neither Come Closer Spartanburg's website nor the abstract explains how Spartanburg will reduce crime and become a happier city by transforming into an "adapted" city, but if the premise is not examined too closely and experiences like Shelbyville and other receiving cities are ignored, it makes good narrative.

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<sup>26</sup> See Appendix D (World Relief Abstract for Spartanburg).

## Using Shelbyville as Narrative

In October, 2011, at the Fourth Annual U.S. National Immigrant Integration Conference,<sup>27</sup> "Welcome to Shelbyville" was screened as an example of successfully using media to promote the desired narrative. From a session titled, "A Buzz for Welcoming: Using New and Traditional Media to Change the Conversation," the "Top Ten Tips for Engaging the Media" were presented:

\*Change cannot be a "one off." Activities must be linked, integrated, and ongoing. For example, Welcome to Shelbyville advanced the notion of an "ecosystem of change" that included funding, research, leadership, grassroots organizing, policy, and philanthropy. These pieces fit together, as did their strategies and products; nothing was stand-alone.

\*The focus must remain on the community. Communication strategies must be place-based in order to resonate emotionally with their audience. The emphasis must be on why activities matter to the community. If videos or projects with a more national or regional focus are produced, local screenings and discussion groups should be organized to involve the community.

\*Multiple channels are needed to reach multiple audiences. These include having an active website and a Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube presence. Short, punchy video clips and small news articles can be forwarded, shared, and "liked." People are more likely to pay attention to items that come from their friends.

\*Traditional media can be engaged by simplifying their work. In place of simply sending out media advisories about

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<sup>27</sup> <http://www.integrationconference.org/>

activities and events, the media should be provided with professional copy and ready-made clips and images that can be printed or aired. This meets the need for interesting stories about people in the community.

\*Communities have a voice. Supporters and contacts can be encouraged to submit op-ed pieces or write letters to the editor about community activities and the contribution that newcomers are making to the community. This helps spread the message and builds connections with the mainstream media.

\*Stories matter. Though facts and data are essential, stories will be remembered more easily and powerfully. Stories engage receiving communities and show them the diversity of the immigrant experience.

\*Media engagement is possible even with limited resources. Communities should use the skills and resources of their network and supporters. Supporters can help make films, serve as actors in public service announcements, and call on their contacts in traditional media.

\*Communities should find ways to identify their supporters. At a minimum, communities should develop electronic distribution lists, but they can also employ more creative techniques. For example, Uniting North Carolina had supporters sign an online pledge to support immigrant integration; they were then added to the organization's email list and now receive all communications.

\*Communities should take advantage of the power of leveraging. Communities should create engaging, fun content that supporters can disseminate to others.

\*Communities should not forget the "and then what?" question. Engaging local communities in immigrant integration is a long-term project. Videos, news clippings, and radio ads all have a shelf life. To go from story-telling to action, it is necessary to bring together groups, not just to listen and learn but to work together to welcome newcomers.

## Community Impact and Disparate Impact on American Blacks

The three areas of concern addressed in this paper have a common denominator: people. They are our primary concern. Our challenge as a community is to determine our priorities and to choose a viable path that harms none and protects all citizens.

How does the RRP affect communities?

The effects of increased immigration on American communities have been multiplying since 1965 when Congress changed the law to increase the number of low-skilled immigrants. Bringing the poor to America may appear a kind and compassionate act toward impoverished people, but the influx of low-skilled labor has created additional problems for Americans who also need an opportunity to get a foot in the door. The American black community has suffered disproportionately due to the increase in immigration coming just as the 1964 Civil Rights Act was beginning to create opportunities for the black middle class to move up. American blacks at the bottom of the ladder saw their opportunities increasingly eliminated by foreign competition for entry level jobs. A small problem at first, it is now a major barrier.

When the Refugee Act of 1980 was proposed by Senators Biden and Kennedy, then signed by President Carter, the Act envisioned

a public-private partnership, with local charities and churches providing the funding according to what they could bear financially and for offering aid for an immigrant to assimilate. Over the years, funding morphed to the point that almost all of the financial flow now comes from the federal government.

An ideological shift took root as well among progressive and conservative lawmakers. Many adopted the global view that diversity, in and of itself, enhances culture. Indiscriminate and unassimilated diversity, however, has increasingly placed unfair burdens on Americans, black Americans, in particular.

Throughout the decades since 1965, when modern immigration laws were adopted, illegal immigration has accelerated. The federal government has failed to seriously address it constitutionally or morally. The influx of immigrants, legally and illegally, has created an exponential increase in competition for entry-level and low-skill jobs.

California is a significant example of the negative consequences of unchecked and unwise immigration policies. The influx of low-wage illegal aliens resulted in systematic displacement of black Americans from the workforce and from

their communities. California now has the highest poverty rate in the country.<sup>28</sup>

As legal and illegal immigration soared and expanded across the country, the net effects on American blacks have as well. Most Americans tend to identify Latinos as the primary illegal entrants. While it is true that Latinos make up the majority, Chinese and other foreign nationals have been entering this country illegally for decades as well. Illegal immigrants come from all over the world, including Islamic countries that have expressed hatred for the U.S. The combination of large numbers of legal and illegal immigrants has severely stressed (and often overburdened) a community's ability to provide meaningful employment opportunities to its existing residents.

The financial cost to the taxpayer and the economy is astronomical and far outpaces any tax intake from purchases and the taxable low wages made by most aliens. In addition to the hundreds of billions of dollars spent each year in education, public aid and law enforcement, hundreds of billions of dollars are removed yearly from the U.S. economy when aliens, especially illegal immigrants, send most of their wages back to their home

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<sup>28</sup> <http://www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/capitol-alert/article2916749.html>  
[http://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2014/demo/p60-251.pdf?eml=gd&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](http://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2014/demo/p60-251.pdf?eml=gd&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)

country.<sup>29</sup> Illegal immigrants sending money home has become Mexico's second most lucrative industry behind the oil industry.<sup>30</sup> The home countries benefit from the massive wealth transfer out of this country<sup>31</sup> and many illegal immigrants, as well as some legal immigrants, return home as middle-class, by their country's standards, to start businesses.<sup>32</sup> As positive as this is for the individuals and their governments, is it fair or moral that this success is obtained at the expense of American citizens' jobs, wages, schools, housing, public aid, safety and security? Is it moral, just or Constitutional for the federal government to allow, encourage and reward immigration, legal and illegal, that results in a massive transfer of wealth, especially from Americans in need of opportunity, and to burden all taxpayers with the incurred financial and social costs?

In an April, 5, 1996 testimony before the House Judiciary Committee Subcommittee on Immigration, Norman Matloff, a former statistics professor with extensive experience with observational studies and immigrant issues, summarized his findings:

- Immigration adversely impacts native-born African-Americans.

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<sup>29</sup> <http://www.cairco.org/issues/remittances>

<sup>30</sup> <http://toprightnews.com/mexico-receives-21-6-billion-in-cash-sent-back-by-u-s-illegals-in-2013/>

<sup>31</sup> <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2013-12-17/global-immigrants-send-500-billion-back-home>

<sup>32</sup> [http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/mexican-middle-class-booms-with-work-in-us/2012/07/23/gJQATo5R5W\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/mexican-middle-class-booms-with-work-in-us/2012/07/23/gJQATo5R5W_story.html)

- Immigration adversely impacts both native-born and earlier-arriving immigrant Asian-Americans and Latino-Americans.
- The sharp distinction made by many politicians and political activists between legal and illegal immigration are artificial and unwarranted. The adverse impacts on minorities are due to *both* legal and illegal immigration. (Except when otherwise qualified, the use of the term *immigration* in this report will mean both legal and illegal immigration.)
- The adverse impacts are both economic *and* noneconomic in nature: increased job competition; lowered wages; reduced opportunities for entrepreneurs; reductions in quality of education and housing; increased exposure to disease.
- Immigration is resulting in diminished attention being paid to the problems of African-Americans and other native-born minorities. As Model Minority Asian immigrants pour into the country, African-Americans are becoming the Forgotten Minority.
- Much worse than U.S. natives, immigrants tend to have racist attitudes toward African-Americans. The U.S., by accepting large numbers of immigrants, is in effect importing racism.
- Even activists in immigrant communities have publicly conceded that the current influx of immigrants is much higher than their communities can absorb.
- Poll after poll in recent years has shown that minorities recognize these adverse impacts, and wish for relief, in the form of reduced levels of both legal and illegal immigration.<sup>33</sup>

The burden excessive immigration has placed on Americans, especially black Americans, is not a new phenomenon that has recently become a hot political topic. The negative effects have been present for decades, yet politicians of both parties have preferred to avoid the issue. The effects of government's failure to protect American citizens is indeed "a long train of

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<sup>33</sup> <http://heather.cs.ucdavis.edu/pub/Immigration/EffOnMinorities/MHReport.html#tthFtNtAAB>

abuses”<sup>34</sup> felt by all Americans, but none more so than American blacks.

Black Americans have received little properly focused help from elected representatives, media or civil rights leaders, as the burgeoning immigrant community not only won the competition for employment, but all too often won the competition for housing. American blacks found their neighborhoods transformed. They were left feeling unwelcome and alien in their own neighborhoods. Black migration from their homes to other areas resulted. Many leave the state altogether.

As they lost their jobs, or their jobs fell from the middle class into low-wage jobs, blacks found themselves priced out of their homes and forced to move to places with cheaper housing and lower costs.<sup>35</sup> Industries where black Americans had traditionally found employment and upward mobility turned to hiring illegal aliens because the latter provided a lower, under-the-table wage system. Refugees’ wages, while not under the table, also provide similar incentives for businesses to favor them over citizens. The Americans who had depended on those jobs were underbid and lost out.

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<sup>34</sup> Declaration of Independence, 1776

<sup>35</sup> [http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/news/nation/census/2011-05-20-chicago-blacks-exodus\\_n.htm](http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/news/nation/census/2011-05-20-chicago-blacks-exodus_n.htm) (Author seems to play down the impact of immigrants in the migration of blacks out of the cities, but several quotes from those interviewed here tell the rest of the story about why they are leaving, and who is replacing them.)

Some authors have different explanations for this phenomenon, but one that seems particularly unsupportable, was published in *The Atlantic* (2014). Black Americans, it says, are just trying harder than whites to find work, and thus, staying on the unemployment rolls longer; but it does not offer any explanation as to how this explains the larger than normal differences in white and black American male employment rates today compared with the previous half century when they held steady at twice the rate for blacks compared with whites. Since 2008 unemployment rates have been closer to two and half times higher for American black males versus American white males. Could it be that the influx of competition for entry level and low skilled jobs provides a more logical explanation for why American black success in the labor market has been negatively affected? <sup>36</sup>

Professor Vernon M. Briggs, Jr., Emeritus Professor of Labor Economics at Cornell University, reported the results of his study of the phenomenon in a paper published in 2010, "Illegal Immigration: The Impact on Wages and Employment of Black Workers." He says:

Before addressing the specific issue of illegal immigration and its economic effects on black Americans, the broad subject needs to be placed in perspective. No issue has affected the

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<sup>36</sup> <http://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2014/06/why-is-the-black-unemployment-rate-so-high/372667/>.

economic well-being of African Americans more than the phenomenon of immigration and its related policy manifestations. Immigration defined the entry experience of the ancestors of most of the nation's contemporary black American community (as slaves who were brought as involuntary immigrants); it placed them disproportionately in the states that today comprise the "South" (at no point in American history has less than half the black population ever lived outside the South); it disproportionately tied them for centuries to the rural sector of the southern economy where they were linked with the region's vast agricultural economy (the black migration out of the South did not begin until after 1915 when the mass immigration of the late 19th and early 20th Centuries from Europe and Asia were cut off by war from 1914-1918 and by restrictive legislation from 1921-1965); and, with the accidental [sic] revival of mass immigration in the years since 1965 that has continued to this day, immigration has served largely to marginalize the imperative to address squarely and affirmatively the legacy of the denial of equal economic opportunity that had resulted from the previous centuries of slavery and segregation which the civil rights movement and legislation of the 1960s sought to redress. In this post-1965 era of mass immigration, no racial or ethnic group has benefited less or been harmed more than the nation's African American community.

As can be expected with any unmonitored illegal migration, criminals, drug cartels and gangs have had little trouble traversing the border. Among the illegal alien population, gangs proliferated. Gang issues in America aren't new. However, in response to the increasing numbers of Latino gangs, and rampant unemployment among black American males, black street gangs grew as turf wars erupted. Drugs, crime, murder and incarceration are now commonplace.

When refugee resettlement significantly increased, the combined illegal and legal immigrants, pushed black Americans further and further into the shadows.

The cries of the political class and its supporters about high unemployment in the black community tend to ignore the immigrant issue to focus on demands for increased federal funding. Since the federal government doesn't create private sector jobs and funding tends to get lost at the administrative level, few jobs actually materialize in communities. All the while, federal pressure is applied to banks to provide special loans for immigrant startup businesses.

Decades of unfair and illegal competition have disproportionately affected black Americans. However, they are not alone in being displaced from opportunity. All people in need of starter jobs (teens and low-skill workers) or a job with potential for advancement have found themselves at a disadvantage when competing with an imported workforce that can and will work for lower wages and benefits. In fact, Americans in this category have essentially been cut out of the hiring process without an opportunity to decide whether they will accept the wages offered. They are simply told Americans will not do those jobs.

Educational resources once designated for at-risk American children have increasingly been redirected to accommodate non-English speaking children. States, communities and school districts lack the ability to fund both. Again, the disparate impact is felt most by black American families who have been destabilized by harmful and unfair policies.

Perhaps the best overview of the impact on the American black community is found in a letter written by Peter Kirsanow, Commissioner of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission, to President Obama regarding DACA and amnesty for illegal aliens.<sup>37</sup> While Commissioner Kirsanow is specifically addressing illegal aliens, the same principles apply to the policy of allowing excessive numbers of legal immigrants who will compete for the same increasingly limited resources and enjoy the fruits of preferential treatment from government, local businesses and banks that's encouraged by the refugee industry.

October 27, 2014

Dear President Obama:

I write as one member of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, and not on behalf of the Commission as a whole. I write to express my concern regarding reports that you plan on issuing an executive order that purports to grant legal status and work authorization to millions of illegal immigrants after

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<sup>37</sup> <http://www.newamericancivilrightsproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Executive-Amnesty-Letter-October-2014.pdf>

the November elections. My concerns center around the effect such grant of legal status will have on two subsets of American workers: low-skilled workers, particularly low-skilled black workers, and high-skilled STEM workers.

These concerns have been renewed thanks to a USCIS draft solicitation projecting a "potential 'surge' in PRC and EAD card demand for up to 9M cards during the initial period of performance to support possible future immigration reform initiative requirements." Furthermore, the solicitation provides that "the estimated maximum for the entire contract is 34 million cards." Given that the base ordering period is 02/01/15- 01/30/16, with optional ordering periods that last only until 01/30/20, this solicitation contemplates that USCIS will grant an estimated 34 million Permanent Resident Cards (PRC) and Employment Authorization Documents (EAD) in only five years. Many of the Permanent Resident Documents will go to people who have resided in the United States for years. However, the difference between the minimum number of orders per year (4 million) and the estimated maximum (34 million) suggests that USCIS expects to have a demand for 9 million to 14 million documents as a result of an executive amnesty or guest worker program.

Such an increase in lawful workers would have a deleterious effect on low-skilled American workers, particularly black workers. In 2008, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights held a briefing regarding the impact of illegal immigration on the wages and employment opportunities of African-Americans. The testimony at the briefing indicated that illegal immigration disproportionately impacts the wages and employment opportunities of African-American men.

The briefing witnesses, well-regarded scholars from leading universities and independent groups, were ideologically diverse. All the witnesses acknowledged that illegal immigration has a negative impact on black employment, both in terms of employment opportunities and wages. The witnesses differed on the extent of that impact, but every witness agreed that illegal immigration has a discernible negative effect on black employment. For example, Professor Gordon Hanson's research showed that "Immigration . . . accounts for about 40 percent of the 18 percentage point decline [from 1960-2000] in black employment rates." Professor Vernon Briggs writes that illegal immigrants and blacks (who are disproportionately likely to be low-skilled) often find themselves in competition for the same jobs, and the huge number of illegal immigrants ensures that there is a continual

surplus of low-skilled labor, thus preventing wages from rising. Professor Gerald Jaynes's research found that illegal immigrants had displaced U.S. citizens in industries that had traditionally employed large numbers of African-Americans, such as meatpacking.

Illegal immigration has a disparate impact on African-American men because these men are disproportionately represented in the low-skilled labor force. The Census Bureau released a new report on educational attainment after the Commission issued its report. This report, released in February 2012, found that 50.9 percent of native-born blacks had not continued their education beyond high school. The same report found that 75.5 percent of foreign-born Hispanics had not been educated beyond high school, although it does not disaggregate foreign-born Hispanics who are legal immigrants from those who are illegal immigrants. However, Professor Briggs estimated that illegal immigrants or former illegal immigrants who received amnesty constitute a third to over a half of the total foreign-born population. Foreign-born Hispanics who are in the United States illegally are disproportionately male. African-Americans who have not pursued education beyond high school are also disproportionately male. These poor educational attainment levels usually relegate both African-American men and illegal immigrant men to the same low-skilled labor market, where they must compete against each other for work.

The proposed executive order will also have a negative effect on young African-Americans at the outset of their working lives. Young, low-skilled workers are facing enormous difficulties in this economy. A recent study from the Brookings Institution found, "Only about half of high school graduates not enrolled in post-secondary education and less than 30 percent of high school dropouts worked in a given month in 2011." Black teens had the highest labor underutilization rate (defined as encompassing the unemployed, the unemployed who desire employment but are not actively looking, and the underemployed) of any ethnic group - 60 percent. Furthermore, "Several variables were negatively associated with teen employment rates in a given metropolitan area. ... [including] the presence of immigrants with less than a bachelor's degree." This will affect young people for the rest of their lives, as those who work during their teenage years have more successful careers than those who did not.

If you look at the labor force participation rate, the news is even grimmer. In September 2014, the labor force

participation rate for civilians over 25 with less than a high school diploma was only 44.3 percent. Surely some of the 55 percent who aren't in the labor force would like to work. But what is the point of continuing to look for jobs when they are so scarce? This problem too will be exacerbated by legalizing illegal immigrants.

Granting work authorization to millions of illegal immigrants will devastate the black community, which is already struggling in the wake of the recession that began in 2007 and the subsequent years of malaise. Americans of all racial groups have seen their incomes stagnate since the recession. African-Americans have been particularly hard-hit, however. Their median wages were already the lowest of any racial or ethnic group, and they have not recovered from the recession. In 2007, median black household income was \$35,219 and declined to \$34,218 in 2008. In 2013, median black household income was \$34,598 - better than during the worst of the recession, but still not back to the 2007 level. In contrast, median non-Hispanic white household income declined from \$57,030 in 2007 to \$55,530 in 2008. Yet by 2013, their income had rebounded to \$58,270. The median income of Asian and Hispanic households had also rebounded by 2013.

Granting legal status to millions of people who are in the United States illegally will continue to depress the wages and employment opportunities of African-American men and teenagers. It also will depress the wages and employment opportunities of African-Americans going forward. Since 1986, we have seen that granting legal status to illegal immigrants, or even mere rumors that legal status will be granted, increases illegal immigration. Likewise, the evidence indicates that the flood of illegal immigrants across our southern border is mostly attributable to your directive granting temporary legal status to people allegedly brought to the United States as children. This is unsurprising. When you incentivize bad behavior, you get more of it.

Finally, I would like to say a few words about the supposed need for an increased number of high-tech visas. There is little evidence, other than the protestations of tech titans and politicians, that there is a shortage of STEM workers in the United States. Statistics suggest otherwise. Five professors who, variously, study economics, public policy, labor, and computer science recently wrote, "[the] Census reported that only one in four STEM degree holders is in a STEM job ... As longtime researchers of the STEM workforce and immigration who have separately done in-depth analyses on

these issues ... none of us has been able to find any credible evidence to support the IT industry's assertions of labor shortages." Others note, "America 'produces far more science and engineering graduates than there are S&E job openings - the only disagreement is whether it is 100 percent or 200 percent more.'"

Furthermore, if there is a shortage of IT workers, why aren't wages increasing? Hal Salzman notes that wages in the IT field fell after the dot-com bubble burst in 2000, and "[are] well below their earlier peak and now hover around wage levels of the late 1990s." Also, as Jay Schalin notes, the fact that STEM graduates are more likely to be employed than those with other degrees does not mean that they are employed in STEM fields or at high wages. For example, students who graduated with chemistry degrees had a 6.6% unemployment rate, but had a "starting mean salary of \$32,000 [which] is surprisingly below average for all graduates, equal to those with sociology degrees." The problem is not that there are insufficient STEM graduates; the problem is that tech companies do not want to pay the wages American workers would demand absent a continual influx of high-tech visa holders.

And, contra the claims so often heard in the public square, elite American STEM students are just as capable as are elite foreign STEM students. The statistics are skewed in part because they often compare elite foreign STEM students to American students as a whole. In fact, there is some evidence that American STEM students are more talented than foreign STEM students. The tech industry is begging for an increase in foreign STEM workers not because there are not enough American STEM workers, or because they are insufficiently talented, but due to "its desire for young, cheap, and immobile labor."

Some members of your administration have attempted to dismiss questions about why DHS would issue a draft solicitation for such a large number of identity documents. Yet given that the solicitation itself states that it contemplates immigration reform, and you have publicly discussed issuing work authorizations via executive action (and have indeed done so in the past under Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals), it seems prudent to take DHS at its word. Again, I urge you to forego any such executive action.

Sincerely,

Peter Kirsanow

Commissioner

Is the real harm to our own citizens balanced by the benefits we are promised from greater diversity? Harvard political scientist, Robert Putnam, famous for his highly acclaimed book, *Bowling Alone*, which detailed the increasing decline in the tendency of Americans to form and join voluntary associations,<sup>38</sup> found that increases in neighborhood diversity correlated inversely with civic engagement. That is, the more diverse the community, the less neighborliness, the fewer associations, and the less political participation. Putnam's massive study was based on detailed interviews of nearly 30,000 people across America. "The extent of the effect is shocking," says Scott Page, a University of Michigan professor who reviewed Putnam's research.<sup>39</sup> Page is also a political scientist whose work is theoretical and centers on the value of diversity to create better groups, firms, etc.<sup>40</sup>

## The Effects of the RRP's Practices

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<sup>38</sup> BowlingAlone.com

<sup>39</sup> [http://www.boston.com/news/globe/ideas/articles/2007/08/05/the\\_downside\\_of\\_diversity/?page=full](http://www.boston.com/news/globe/ideas/articles/2007/08/05/the_downside_of_diversity/?page=full)

<sup>40</sup> [https://books.google.com/books?id=hJRu4O8q1xwC&pg=PR14&lpg=PR14&dq=scott+e+page+%2B+putnam&source=bl&ots=HBOK5qmogV&sig=phLAQOJdB-ITjUEdjjLX73bXkzU&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0CDQQ6AEwA2oVChMly\\_qI0KqFvgIVhBWsch3V8gCX#v=onepage&q=scott%20e%20page%20%2B%20putnam&f=false](https://books.google.com/books?id=hJRu4O8q1xwC&pg=PR14&lpg=PR14&dq=scott+e+page+%2B+putnam&source=bl&ots=HBOK5qmogV&sig=phLAQOJdB-ITjUEdjjLX73bXkzU&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0CDQQ6AEwA2oVChMly_qI0KqFvgIVhBWsch3V8gCX#v=onepage&q=scott%20e%20page%20%2B%20putnam&f=false)

The effects of the RRP's practices have been seen nationally as ethnic enclaves have developed in areas of the country, such as Minnesota, Kentucky, Idaho, California and Texas, as well as other areas. Irving, Texas recently had a mosque institute its own Shariah Court. A small number of courts throughout the country have given preference to Islamic Law over American Law. Thus far, such rulings have generally been overturned by higher courts.<sup>41</sup>

America has yet to suffer the severity of cultural conflicts that Europe has, but the cultural clashes exist and are growing, especially between the growing enclaves and the legal system, law enforcement, citizens in communities and lower income minority Americans.

In February of 2015, FBI Assistant Director, Michael Steinbach stated before a Congressional Subcommittee that due to the ongoing civil war in Syria, the U.S. did not have the resources available to vet Syrian refugees<sup>42</sup>. Now that ISIS has spun off into other Middle Eastern countries, vetting most of the refugees from the Middle East has become nearly an impossible task. With refugees sailing from multiple ports or

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<sup>41</sup> [http://www.upi.com/Top\\_News/US/2013/05/19/Under-the-US-Supreme-Court-Islamic-law-in-US-courts/64481368948600/](http://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2013/05/19/Under-the-US-Supreme-Court-Islamic-law-in-US-courts/64481368948600/)

<sup>42</sup> <http://www.newsmax.com/US/Syria-conflict-US-intelligence/2015/02/11/id/624285/#ixzz3bGv94DYi>

traveling across borders into numerous locations, the vetting problems exacerbate.

Recently (June, 2015), Representative Michael McCaul, the Texas congressman who chairs the House Homeland Security Committee, called on the president to abandon the plan to resettle tens of thousands of Syrians in the U.S. He stressed in his letter that ISIS has already said it will infiltrate the refugees being sent by the U.N. to Western countries. Representative McCaul called the plan "very dangerous" for America's security.<sup>43</sup>

## National Security: Understanding Islam

Understanding Islam is important to the national security issue and to understanding the inevitable conflicts that arise from clashing cultures.

Islam has over 70 sects, with divisions that center on who was Muhammed's legitimate heir to sect doctrinal conflicts about the importance of extra canonical works. Quasi-Islamic belief systems exist, as well, that clash with mainstream Islamic beliefs. Some dispute remains over the exact differences and how

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<sup>43</sup> <http://homeland.house.gov/sites/homeland.house.gov/files/documents/061115-Letter-Syrian-Refugee%20States.pdf>

they are applied. Regardless of how the differences are categorized, the results are the continuing violent inter-Islamic conflicts between sects that have been embedded since the 7<sup>th</sup> Century. (See Appendix B)

Certainly, not all Muslims are violent jihadists, but neither is jihad confined to overt terrorism. Muhammed commanded in the Qua'ran that the al Hizra, an Islamic cultural jihad doctrine, is the responsibility of Muslims to migrate to spread jihad for the purpose of creating a worldwide caliphate.<sup>44</sup> As Muslim numbers increase, more and more demands are made, such as halal foods, recognition of Islamic holidays and curbing speech of non-Muslims they may find offensive. Eventually, Muslim political/cultural activists insinuate themselves in positions within the community and government where more demands for accommodation to their beliefs are made, including the introduction of Shariah Courts. The Hizra's influence is evident in European countries today, as well as throughout Islam's history of migrating into non-Muslim countries that are now Muslim or have a significant Islamic presence, such as the Middle East, Egypt and India. Overt or subtle threats of

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<sup>44</sup> [http://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/case\\_docs/445.pdf](http://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/case_docs/445.pdf) Scroll down for English translation

violence are employed to “persuade” the non-Muslims to accept Shariah Law.<sup>45</sup>

Within the world’s Muslim population, there are small sects and individuals who do not want to live under the political-legal system of Shariah Law, nor do they want to be subjected to the mainstream Muslims who work to import Shariah Law into the non-Muslim countries in which they live. The problem for this minority is that they are indisguisable from the cultural and violent jihadists. They suffer with non-Muslims when the mainstream Islamists gain sufficient numbers to apply pressure to governments to acquiesce to cultural and legal changes or they are forced to live in Shariah compliant countries. Their numbers are difficult to determine since they rarely speak out.

From the perspective of the receiving countries, distinguishing between the Muslims who want to live in peace under the country’s legal and cultural system and those who desire to impose Islamic law is nearly impossible. The practice of governments allowing un-vetted Muslims into their countries place both citizens and peaceful Muslims in a difficult and dangerous situations. Absent careful vetting and safeguards, the jihadists find little trouble blending in with refugees or

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<sup>45</sup> <http://www.billionbibles.org/sharia/muslim-brotherhood-project.html>

entering a country through other legal channels, as well as entering by illegal means.

Following the Westgate Mall terrorist attack in Kenya, Kenyan officials told the U.N. to remove the refugee camp in their country due to jihadist activity within the camp. A Kenyan court ruled officials could not remove the camp, but they could confine the refugees to designated areas. After the recent massacre at a Christian college in Kenya, once again Kenyan officials told the U.N. to remove the camp within three months or they would remove it. Officials stated the refugee camp was merely a way station for terrorists and a jihadist recruiting ground. At this point, no court has intervened in halting Kenya's demand for the camp's removal.

When the U.S. receives refugees from Kenya, they are not Kenyan citizens, but refugees from these camps. This is also the case in other countries, including the Democratic Republic of Congo, Malta and Thailand. When refugees come from these countries, they are not citizens of the host countries, but refugees from the camps the country is hosting.

Australia's Prime Minister Tony Abbott recently announced that Australia will no longer accept refugee boats. All boats will be turned back. He encouraged the European Union to do the same. After the tragic deaths of smuggled refugees by sea, Prime

Minister Abbott stated they should not encourage it. Accepting the refugees is not in the best interest of the refugees or the Australian people.<sup>46</sup>

Aid to needy people and accepting massive influxes of refugees are not mutually exclusive. Aiding refugees in countries near their homes and in cultures similar to theirs is the preferable solution. Once the conflict that caused them to flee is resolved, most refugees want to return home. Migration to a far-off country is not necessary for rendering aid.

## The Difficulty of Addressing Immigrant Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse is a serious issue throughout the world, but the abuse of women among immigrants is especially difficult to address.<sup>47</sup> Immigrant women are fearful of coming forward because of religious or cultural beliefs that condone physical abuse or because the women are threatened by their abusers that they will be deported, if they report the crime.<sup>48</sup>

When the underlying cause for abuse is religious ideology, and the victim ascribes to one of the sects of Islam that

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<sup>46</sup> <http://www.skynews.com.au/news/top-stories/2015/05/23/pm-defends-refugee-resettlement-ban.html>

<sup>47</sup> <http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/cultural-competency/dynamics-of-violence-against-immigrant-women/1.1-Dynamics-of-Domestic-Violence-in-Immigrant-Families-MANUAL-BB.pdf>

<sup>48</sup> <http://www.pressherald.com/2014/10/01/domestic-violence-often-kept-hidden-by-maine-immigrants-refugees/>

supports abuse, it is almost impossible to stop. Existing and new organizations have instituted programs to aid immigrant victims of domestic abuse. Many of the sources dance around the central issue of Islamic sect acceptance of abuse, but in locations where members of these sects have settled, a comparable increase in reports of abuse have been seen when local communities began programs offering protection for the woman. Still, many women suffer in silence due to fear and indoctrination.

The acceptance of violence within sects of Islam can also manifest in the behavior of women. A *New York Times* article reported that in refugee camps in the Middle East, women who are forced to assume the head of their households often exhibit violent behavior toward their families.<sup>49</sup>

## National Security Concerns Originating in the U.S.

In early May 2015, news sources reported that the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Homeland Security and National Counterterrorism Center sent out a joint bulletin informing law enforcement and military personnel that, although

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<sup>49</sup> [http://kristof.blogs.nytimes.com/2014/08/29/domestic-violence-on-the-rise-among-syrian-refugees/?\\_r=0&module=ArrowsNav&contentCollection=undefined&action=keypress&region=FixedLeft&pgtype=Blogs](http://kristof.blogs.nytimes.com/2014/08/29/domestic-violence-on-the-rise-among-syrian-refugees/?_r=0&module=ArrowsNav&contentCollection=undefined&action=keypress&region=FixedLeft&pgtype=Blogs).

there were no credible threats hovering over holiday weekend events, officials are "aware of recent information suggesting US military bases, locations, and events could be targeted in the near-term."

Fox News reported:

"Importantly, it speaks to the sheer volume of social media activity by pro-ISIS users, and the challenge that poses for analysts and investigators.

"The large number of **social media postings by US-based ISIL supporters** (emphasis added) is challenging for investigators in differentiating those supporters focused only on promoting pro-ISIL rhetoric, which may be protected speech, vice [versus] detecting those prepared to engage in violence on the group's behalf," the bulletin said.

The bulletin warned the "reach and popularity" of social media platforms has made it easier for U.S.-based extremists to "identify and connect" with foreign terrorist organizations, which can "potentially direct" them. It said the FBI estimates there are "hundreds, possibly thousands" of people in the U.S. getting "recruitment overtures or directives to attack the United States," and ISIS is using social media in "unprecedented ways" to send messages advocating attacks in the U.S."<sup>50</sup>

Documents obtained by federal agents at home and abroad outline the cultural jihadists' clear objectives. The Muslim Brotherhood's Memorandum was presented as evidence in the Holy Land Foundation trial.<sup>51</sup> Another document, called "The Project", was discovered by Swiss authorities when acting at the request of U.S. federal agents to obtain information in Switzerland

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<sup>50</sup> <http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2015/05/26/bulletin-warns-us-analysts-overwhelmed-by-pro-isis-social-media-military-posts/>

<sup>51</sup> [http://www.clarionproject.org/Muslim\\_Brotherhood\\_Explanatory\\_Memorandum](http://www.clarionproject.org/Muslim_Brotherhood_Explanatory_Memorandum)

following 9-11. It likewise describes the organized strategy of al Hizra, infiltration and narrative management for the purpose of establishing a global caliphate.<sup>52</sup> Both documents are verified as legitimate by the U.S. government. U.S. and Western media largely ignored them.

The narrative that public concerns about Muslim refugee resettlement is based solely on racism, Islamophobia or anti-Muslim sentiments has no discernible basis in fact, but appears to be ideological in nature. Moreover, the facts about Islam are more than enough reason to exercise extreme caution for the protection of Americans. Truth and reality are hardly unchristian or unkind. Neither truth nor reality are affected or altered by emotion or rhetoric. The cultural conflicts exist. National security threats are real. Recognizing the truth about these issues is not irrational or uncaring, nor is it the product of hate. The use of narrative techniques that resort to name calling and accusations of ill intent when the wisdom of massive Muslim immigration to the U.S. is questioned, destroys the credibility of the narrative user and exposes the lack of a defensible argument. Truth must be spoken and the issue addressed honestly because love and concern for all people, including Muslims, demands it.

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<sup>52</sup> <http://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/misc/687.pdf>

## Moral Issues

Both Natural Law and kindergarten teach the same simple rules for living: never lie, cheat or steal, to respect other people's property and to always keep our word. These basic truths make questions in life about what is right and wrong answerable.

Do the current policies and procedures of the federal government and its ideological partners regarding illegal immigration and the Refugee Resettlement Program support these basic moral rules?

Is the burden and risk of unchecked, un-vetted and unassimilated immigration that has been placed on Americans, whether legal or illegal, moral? Is it moral to entice illegal immigrants over the border or to take advantage of vulnerable refugees who share nothing in common with Americans socially, culturally or ideologically with promises, stated or implied, of public assistance, housing, education, often in preference over American citizens? Is it moral to overwhelm communities with the financial, social and cultural demands of competing cultures and languages?

Encouraging an influx of foreigners with the promise of social benefits and job opportunities--with little regard to deep cultural difference--is a disservice to our communities striving to better lives under shared basic values. A house divided cannot stand. A central government's moral and legal obligation is to protect its own citizens first and foremost.

Every elected official, as well as many appointed officials, take an oath to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States. Where the immigration issue is concerned, many have failed miserably both in deed and in spirit.

The narratives being promulgated today fail to recognize the disproportionate emphasis being placed on convincing Americans and the West that Muslim victimization is the crime of our day. While it is certainly true that Muslims are frequently the victims of Islamic in-fighting and such violence is morally wrong, the truth is the religious demographic most persecuted throughout the world for their faith is Christian.

On May 13, 2015, Bishop John McAreavey, Chair of the Council for Justice and Peace of the Irish Bishops' Conference stated:

"The Centre for the Study of Global Christianity in the United States estimates that 100,000 Christians are being killed every year because of their faith. That is

eleven every hour. Others are being tortured, imprisoned, exiled, threatened, excluded, attacked and discriminated against on a widespread scale. The Pew Research Centre says that Christianity is now the world's most oppressed religious group, with persecution against them reported in 110 countries. Many of these countries have significant trade links with Ireland. Persecution is increasing in China. In North Korea a quarter of the country's Christians live in forced labour camps. Saudi Arabia, Yemen, and the Maldives all feature in the 10 worst places to be Christian. According to the International Society for Human Rights, a non-religious organization, 80 per cent of all acts of religious discrimination in the world today are directed against Christians."<sup>53</sup>

Bishop McAreevey went on to speak about a young Iraqi priest.

"His name is Father Ragheed Ganni. He studied for several years in the Irish College. He worked in the pilgrimage site of Lough Derg and in various parishes around the country during his post-graduate studies. He loved the Irish people and they loved him. He radiated joy, gentleness and a true Christian spirit of service to all who knew him. Yet his heart was set on returning to bring comfort, strength and support to his suffering people in Iraq. The Church of the Holy Spirit in Mosul in which he ministering was subject to regular bombings and attack. On the feast of the Holy Trinity in 2007, as he finished the celebration of Mass, Father Ragheed and three subdeacons were brutally murdered. The vehicle in which they had been killed was surrounded by explosives by those who had killed them so that no-one dare approach to offer comfort, prayers or help. Just a week before, Father Ragheed had written:

"In a sectarian and confessional Iraq, will there be any space for Christians? We have no support, no group who fights for our cause; we are abandoned in the midst of the disaster."

It is with this painful, prophetic cry of a young man who knew, loved and appreciated the Irish people so much that we thank you again for giving time to the plight of

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<sup>53</sup> <http://www.catholicbishops.ie/2015/05/13/presentation-joint-committee-foreign-affairs-trade-council-justice-peace-irish-catholic-bishops-conference-on-the-ongoing-persecution-christians/>

persecuted Christians in our world today and appeal to you to consider positively the recommendations we have made.<sup>54</sup>

Greek Catholic sources have said more than 300,000 Syrian Christians are among the refugees driven from their homes. But neither the United Nations nor the current administration has shown a willingness to bring large numbers of Christian Syrians to the United States, focusing instead on Muslim refugees which pose a greater security risk.<sup>55</sup>

Peter Jesserer Smith, Washington correspondent for the *National Catholic Register*, recently filed a story from a refugee camp in Lebanon in which a Catholic nun, who runs a relief effort serving Christians and Muslims from Syria, told Smith that she is well aware that ISIS has its "infiltrators within the Sunni refugees."<sup>56</sup>

Sister Agnes-Marian de la Croiz, mother superior of the Greek Catholic Monastery of St James the Mutilated in Syria, has charged that the Syrian uprising has been "hijacked by Islamist mercenaries who are more interested in fighting a holy war than in the changing the government."

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<sup>54</sup> <http://www.catholicbishops.ie/2015/05/13/presentation-joint-committee-foreign-affairs-trade-council-justice-peace-irish-catholic-bishops-conference-on-the-ongoing-persecution-christians/>

<sup>55</sup> <http://www.wnd.com/2015/01/secret-planting-of-up-to-75000-syrian-muslims-begins-in-u-s/>

<sup>56</sup> <http://www.ncregister.com/daily-news/syrian-and-iraqi-refugee-mega-crisis-is-out-of-control>

She said the conflict has turned into "a sectarian conflict" in which Christians are "paying a high price," the *Daily Mail* reports.

She said at least 80,000 Christians have been forced from their homes in the Homs region. Over 300,000 Christian Syrians are believed to be refugees.

She is a critic of Western support for the rebels, saying this supports "extremists" who want to create an Islamic state.

The plight of Syrian Christians is shared by many Christians throughout the Middle East. The British think tank Civitas in December released a report warning about violence against Christians in the Middle East, Africa and Asia.

It estimates that between half and two-thirds of Middle East Christians have left their homelands or have been killed in the past 100 years.

"There is now a serious risk that Christianity will disappear from its biblical heartlands," the report said.<sup>57</sup>

Reports that half of U.S. refugees are Christians, at any given time or place, simply does not bear out mathematically or by review of immigration statistical analysis, except possibly

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<sup>57</sup> <http://www.ewtnnews.com/catholic-news/World.php?id=6786>

as a manipulated event to mollify community concerns. Such percentages would be impossible to maintain.<sup>58</sup>

To date, approximately 815 Syrians have entered the U.S. as refugees. Seven-hundred-forty-nine are Muslims (701 are Sunni). That means 92% are Muslims. Only 43 self-identified Christians have been admitted (one Catholic). That accounts for only 5% of Syrian refugees admitted. There are not enough Christians surviving or being aided by the U.S. to approach any percentage near 50% within the refugees being admitted into the U.S.

## Aiding the Stranger: Biblical Immigration

Receiving communities are told the refugee program is "aiding the stranger among us", that it's a Christian duty, and that it's fulfilling the Great Commission to spread the gospel. While it's true that conducting oneself as a Christian provides a witness for Christ, it's also true that the U.S. State Department sees the religious aspects through a regulatory lens. Since it dispenses the funds and makes the rules, they are to be believed. "The Reception and Placement Program" information found on the State Department's website clearly states, "The Department of State has cooperative agreements with nine

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<sup>58</sup> <http://www.wrapsnet.org/Reports/InteractiveReporting/tabid/393/Default.aspx>

domestic resettlement agencies to resettle refugees. While some of the agencies have religious affiliations, **they are not allowed to proselytize.**"<sup>59</sup> (Emphasis added.) The narrative that resettlement is an opportunity to spread the gospel can be laid to rest. Sharing the gospel is prohibited.

In addition to federal prohibition on spreading the gospel, on May 28, 2015, according to federal sources, the White House began making moves toward implementing policy that will conflict with many Christians' beliefs. The Volags are grantees and are impacted by these new regulations.

From the Center for Family and Humans Rights:

WASHINGTON DC, May 29 (C-Fam) A source within the federal government has informed the Friday Fax that the White House is quietly moving forward with a policy change that will require charitable humanitarian groups to accept LGBT applicants in order to qualify for government funding, even those religious groups that might have religious objections.

The policy change is linked to an executive order President Obama issued last July that prohibits federal contractors from discriminatory hiring practices based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Faith-based groups were already wrestling with that order.

Things are about to get exponentially worse for faith-based groups who perform humanitarian tasks and receive not contracts but financial grants for doing so.

Though the executive order last summer was specifically related to federal procurement and contracts,

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<sup>59</sup> <http://www.state.gov/j/prm/ra/receptionplacement/index.htm>

The Reception and Placement Program

it did not touch grant recipients that substantially outnumber contract recipients.

However, the White House has recently directed federal agencies to include the "sexual orientation and gender identity" clause in all grant agreements. The US Agency for International Development (USAID) has agreed to make this change and is said to be weeks away from implementation.

The source added that federal agencies are being pressured to make this change without a subsequent executive order and that the State Department legal office has advised the White House that this is not a legal matter but a matter of policy.

Last December – on Christmas Eve – the Obama administration posted notice<sup>60</sup> that charitable organizations that work with refugee children entering the United States must include sexual and reproductive health services that could include contraception and abortion.<sup>61</sup>

Caring for a stranger or aiding someone in need is certainly a worthy pursuit few would reject. However, the Bible is clear in delineating the difference between individual responsibilities to help others, such as the Good Samaritan, and a civil government's responsibilities to administer justice and to maintain order.

God delegates civil authority for governments to administer justice, not mercy, even though laws can exhibit mercy. Civil government "bears the sword" on behalf of the people they serve.

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<sup>60</sup> [https://c-fam.org/friday\\_fax/obama-tells-faith-based-groups-must-refer-refugee-children-abortions/](https://c-fam.org/friday_fax/obama-tells-faith-based-groups-must-refer-refugee-children-abortions/)  
<https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2014/12/24/2014-29984/standards-to-prevent-detect-and-respond-to-sexual-abuse-and-sexual-harassment-involving>

<sup>61</sup> [https://c-fam.org/friday\\_fax/white-house-to-order-faith-based-grant-recipients-to-accept-lgbt-applicants/](https://c-fam.org/friday_fax/white-house-to-order-faith-based-grant-recipients-to-accept-lgbt-applicants/)

Government preserves the peace, maintains law and order, fights off invaders and delivers punishment to those who break the law.

Government is allowed to use force because it is the protector of a specific body, its citizens.<sup>62</sup> The power of civil government is for the sole protection of its citizens and resources. They are obligated to guard their citizens against evil in the world and in the hearts of men.

Its primary purpose is to safeguard its citizens by protecting its national sovereignty, which includes its borders, and its natural right to determine foreigners that may be admitted into its jurisdiction and under what conditions. It's charged with immigration policies that primarily benefit its citizens. Civil government has no authority, legally or morally, to allow harm or risk to come to its citizens regardless of any perceived political benefit for itself or for the immigrant.

This concept is not a uniquely American idea. Every country, throughout man's known history, has been charged with protecting its borders and its people. America and the West have become anomalies in the lack of enforcement of their own laws to allow open borders and excessive immigration, even by the standards of today's world. Why are America and other Western countries expected to allow what Mexico and other countries

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<sup>62</sup> Romans 13: 1-7; 1 Peter 2: 13-17; Titus 3:1

around the world do not? What makes unenforced immigration laws and excessive immigration that risks and burdens its citizenry superior to states that protect their sovereignty and citizens? Why do our leaders speak and act against other countries invading or threatening the sovereignty of foreign nations, yet does not protect our own? Are our citizens and our sovereignty less valuable than others?

From the Biblical and Natural Law perspective, God charges government with punishment and expulsion of foreigners who do not abide by the law, including immigration laws. There is no Biblical requirement to admit anyone from a foreign country or from another society or culture. There is no obligation to accept unlimited or uncontrolled admittance of aliens. Foreigners, who are admitted, are obligated to comply with our laws and culture. They are also obligated to assimilate to our culture, language and laws and to not impose their laws and customs on us.<sup>63</sup> Fair treatment of visiting and resident aliens is expected, but this expectation does not alleviate the alien of his responsibility to assimilate to the country's culture and abide by its laws. "Equal justice under the law" is Biblical.

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<sup>63</sup> Luke 6: 27-31; Deuteronomy 16: 9-15; Deuteronomy 32: 8 (God fixed--laid down--land borders as meaningful and important); Numbers 34:1-15 (Borders of Israel); Ezekiel 47: 13-33 (Promised Land boundaries); Deuteronomy 19:14 (God commands against moving a neighbor's boundary stone)

"The least of these" applies first and foremost to our own citizens who are suffering or in need. They are the least fortunate of the nation and should be protected from unfair competition with immigrant aliens for jobs, resources and education. The citizens' equality under the law is the government's priority. Second is the aliens' equality of fair treatment under the law as a foreigner. An alien's rights do not supersede the citizens' rights. The refugee/immigrants' home nation is responsible for their welfare. When that foreign nation fails to do its duty, aid from another country should never come at the expense of its own citizenry.

Government can only exercise mercy through its own agency. Compassion and mercy when practiced by individuals is their personal decision, according to what they are willing to bear. Government cannot act with the same moral agency as an individual. Government has nothing that is not provided by its citizens. No matter how compassionate an act may seem, civil government can only obligate its citizens to bear the burdens and suffer the consequences. Desperate circumstances do not justify illegal immigration or mass refugee immigration that harms citizens.<sup>64</sup>

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<sup>64</sup> Proverbs 6: 30-31

Americans are often told that "we are a country of immigrants," as justification for current immigration policies. We are a nation of Americans, where people from all over the world who embrace American values and opportunities can immigrate legally and become as American as someone whose family is descended from the native inhabitants, original colonists, settlers or were naturalized last week. The federal government is charged with selecting immigrants with compatible cultures and beliefs who genuinely desire to assimilate and in numbers that can be easily absorbed without harming the citizens.

Today's immigration policies dismiss, and often denigrate, the very American values that serve as an inclusive umbrella for a diverse people who choose to share in this shelter as Americans. Instead of protecting and preserving values that offer opportunity and equality under the law, today's immigration policies have an adverse effect on the economy, educational system, national security and the general wellbeing of citizens, especially upon the most vulnerable citizens by placing more importance on the "rights" of foreigners than on the citizens. Excessive immigration floods the worker pool, inhibits wages and interferes with the "virtuous cycle" that exists between a people and its established government. When government neglects its most basic obligations, it is in violation of the sacred trust that exists between the people and

its government. When government does not follow its own laws, it is a failure of the leaders, not the law.

Refugee resettlement is not, in itself, un-Biblical, but there is no mandate that precludes government's obligation to protect its citizenry. Government is obligated, first and foremost, to its citizens' wellbeing.

The argument that refugee resettlement, as it is being carried out now, is a Christian mandate is an argument void of Biblical substance and truth. What Biblical principle allows or requires a government to sacrifice the safety and wellbeing of its own citizens for any reason?

## Summary and Recommendations

While the information contained in this report is not supportive of current immigration policies, it does not in any way reflect on the character or intentions of the pastors, churches or any other person involved in "Come Closer Spartanburg." The pastors and churches that committed to the program are not responsible for the web of agencies, partnerships and organizations that are orchestrating the Refugee Resettlement Program or their questionable tactics.

There is no evidence or suggestion that any of these kindhearted people have done anything other than attempt to live their faith. Most certainly, the local pastors and churches received all their information from World Relief, information that is incomplete at best and at worse, deliberately deceptive. It certainly falls short of reality. We believe they will respond openly and honestly to citizens' concerns as men and women of God's calling and will not be influenced by the refugee industry's strategies.

Nor are the people of Spartanburg at fault. By far, most residents, of all races, creeds and colors, are kind and generous. Citizens who question or oppose the program do not do so because of a lack of concern nor from an impoverishment of the "Good Samaritan spirit". The attention this issue deserves should not be misdirected into blame or accusations targeting any person or group in Spartanburg. Neither side of the debate deserves to be viewed or treated poorly.

All the residents of Spartanburg deserve an open and honest discussion about the facts. The questions cannot be answered by emotional arguments or by dishonest tactics to silence opposition, but agreements can be reached by adults carefully examining all facets of the program itself and the principles

under which it operates. A careful analysis of its impact on receiving communities and on national security is essential.

The residents of Spartanburg, especially our most vulnerable, deserve decisions be made with them first and foremost in mind. Wise immigration is not anti-immigration. Being mindful of national security is not anti-Muslim or proof of ill intent. Those who suggest otherwise seem more intent on protecting a policy or an ideology that cannot withstand scrutiny than they are about the people impacted by those policies.

The best way to accomplish our goals is to clearly define them. No help can be given to those in need if the host is destroyed in the helping.

After careful research into the RRP, its impact on communities and based on the tried and true principles of good governance derived from the "Laws of Nature and Nature's God", we are asking for all the members of our community to come together to stand in the gap for one another. Together, regardless of race, creed or color, we can focus on the importance of charity at home, as well as determine an appropriate and viable plan to aid refugees, at home and abroad.

We ask that the State Department, White House Task Force on New Americans and its community organizing partners, including

World Relief, refrain from interfering in local matters. The tactics of pressuring and manipulating the citizens, the media, the pastors and churches, our community leaders and politicians are unworthy of adults who claim to be motivated by compassion. We ask the federal and state governments not be discredited by the behaviors and clandestine strategies of a few. We ask that political party rivalry be put aside and that we view ourselves as Americans and South Carolinians.

At this point, we are requesting "Come Closer Spartanburg" voluntarily place the program on hold until we, as a community, can determine the best path. Likewise, we are asking that all citizens of South Carolina be granted the same respect before any further resettlement agencies are established and before additional refugees are brought into our communities.

We are asking Governor Haley and the General Assembly to remove South Carolina from the Refugee Resettlement Program until it can be thoroughly reviewed by non-partisan researchers. Special exemptions for carefully vetted individuals in urgent need can be made, if and when, such occasions arise. We are asking the General Assembly to establish an office to work with individual churches and organizations desiring to engage in resettlement that will honestly and accurately educate them about the costs and benefits of such a program as well as

potential cultural and religious conflicts that can result from unwise immigration.

We are asking Congress to halt the RRP, amnesty and related policies that encourage and reward negative or illegal behaviors and invite national security risks until all immigration programs and policies can be studied and revised and until current immigration laws are being routinely enforced. We request Congress permanently reduce the combined total numbers of immigrants and refugees by all means of entry to no more than 250,000 immigrants a year, as well as significantly reduce the number of unskilled workers within that overall number, to reduce the burden of competition currently placed on American Blacks and other low-income citizens until American workers recover from decades of unfair competition. We ask that Congress cease all taxpayer funding to the Volags and other organizations within the refugee and immigrant industry and that, going forward, all funding for refugee resettlement and immigrant activist groups come solely from the private sector. We are asking Congress to revisit unwise policies, regulations and treaties that have made American companies leaving this country more attractive than staying here and employing American workers. It is immoral for Congress to make laws or to ratify treaties that harm the wellbeing of the citizens.

It is immoral and unprincipled to take from one person without their consent or knowledge to give to another. Wealth is not the only valuable that can be taken from citizens by bad policies. Safety, self-governance, good governance, independence, sovereignty, security, truth and justice are all valuables the government is charged with protecting. What moral principle justifies bringing harm to citizens by favoring foreigners or political supporters over citizens or implementing policies that disadvantage its own citizens? We can help both our own and the stranger without harming either.

This is our community. We are the People, the employers of elected officials and the rightful citizen inheritors of the citizen creators of the central government through the United States Constitution. The State of South Carolina has the authority to determine its role in refugee resettlement and to reject federal regulatory actions that supersede the federal government's Constitutional authority and to which the states do not consent.<sup>65</sup> As Chief Justice Roberts stated in the Supreme Court's ruling on the Affordable Care Act, "States are sovereign and should start acting like it."

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<sup>65</sup> <https://www.law.cornell.edu/supct/html/95-1478.ZO.html> Printz v. U.S. The federal government may not force or enforce any regulation or regulatory scheme on states without their consent, nor may the federal government do so by mandating officers or state departments abide by regulations the state did not consent to, nor may the federal government force state legislators to enact laws to enforce federal regulations or regulatory schemes.

We also hold as self-evident the simple truths that "Governments are instituted among men" and that "All men are created equal, endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

We, as citizens, are acting from a place of love, charity and compassion to preserve, protect and defend the Rule of Law for all American citizens. Through those principles, we protect our own most vulnerable and our posterity. We welcome immigrants and refugees who embrace the morals, principles, laws and culture of being a free person in the United States of America. We welcome principled love, charity and compassion from all people.

We seek truth, justice and mercy. If truth is the enemy, then lies are weapons of necessity. Truth is static. It is not relative nor does it change according to the whims of the day, fears of the times, political movements or conflicting ideologies. Additional information does not change the truth, but in man's search for truth, it changes him by lifting his thinking and actions to a higher plane as he draws nearer to his goal. The higher man's moral and principled existence, the more self-governing he is in his own life. Human progress is less

government that operates only within limits that secure the people's wellbeing.

Compassion, mercy and justice cannot exist absent truth. Justice cannot exist absent equal application of the law and punishment for breaking the law. The application of mercy belongs to individuals, not to civil authorities. Mercy cannot exist absent an individual's free will to offer it, nor can it be coerced. "Compassion" never causes another to stumble morally or legally.<sup>66</sup>

Please stand with us in uniting Americans in our love for one another, for our country, for mankind and for the truth.

The truth, and a people dedicated to it, will set us free.

## Additional Information

From **Geneva Academy**<sup>67</sup>:

**The Definition of a Refugee:**

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<sup>66</sup> Romans 14: 13

<sup>67</sup>[http://www.geneva-academy.ch/RULAC/international\\_refugee\\_law.php](http://www.geneva-academy.ch/RULAC/international_refugee_law.php)

International legal protection of refugees centres on a person meeting the criteria for refugee status as laid down in the 1951 Refugee Convention. Under Article 1(A) 2, **the term "refugee" shall apply to any person who:**

*"...owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it."*

Thus, according to this provision, refugees are defined by three basic characteristics:

- \* They are outside their country of origin or outside the country of their former habitual residence;*
- \* They are unable or unwilling to avail themselves of the protection of that country owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted; and*
- \* The persecution feared is based on at least one of five grounds: race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion.*

It is important to stress that the term "asylum seekers" refers to persons, who have applied for asylum, but whose refugee status has not yet been determined.

**Migration Policy Institute (MPI).**

	<b>Size of Immigrant Population (millions)</b>	<b>Immigrant Share of Total U.S. Population (%)</b>
1970	9.6	4.7
1980	14.1	6.2
1990	19.8	7.9
2000	31.1	11.1
2010	40	12.9
2013	41.3	13.1

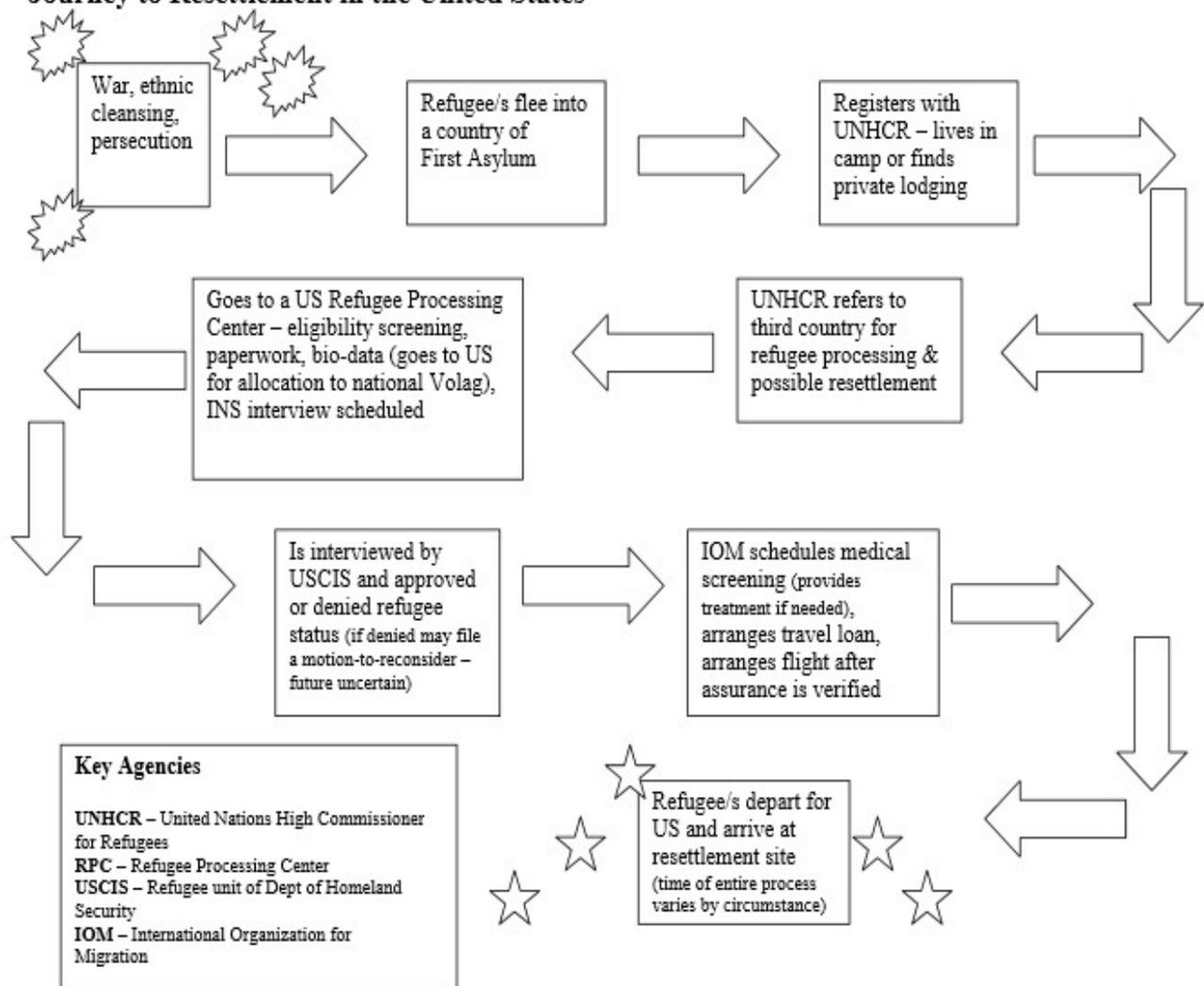
Source: Migration Policy Institute tabulation of data from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2010 and 2013 American Community Surveys, and 1970-2000 decennial Census data.

**Office of Refugee Resettlement: Refugee Journey to U.S.** <sup>68</sup>

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<sup>68</sup> [http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/orr/case\\_management\\_refugee\\_journey\\_flowchart\\_508.pdf](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/orr/case_management_refugee_journey_flowchart_508.pdf)

## Journey to Resettlement in the United States



Appendix A: White House Task Force

Before joining the Obama Administration, Cecilia Munoz served as Senior Vice President for the Office of Research, Advocacy, and Legislation at the National Council of La Raza (NCLR). The National Council of La Raza (Spanish for The Race), with more than 300 affiliates in 41 U.S. states, is America's largest Latino advocacy organization and has been called to testify before Congress more than 100 times since 1970.<sup>69</sup>

Ms. Munoz' former associations provide insight into the ideology the White House Task Force brings to the Refugee Resettlement Program and to the underlying goals of the Task Force's policies. The associates and the NGO partners working with the Task Force are a reflection of the Task Force's ideology. To help understand this ideology, we will focus on Ms. Munoz's last private sector association, The National Council of La Raza.

## National Council of La Raza

La Raza's roots were laid down in the U.S. in the early 1960's when several Hispanic advocacy groups merged to form the National Organization for Mexican American Services (NOMAS). A funding proposal from the Ford Foundation led to a grant to NOMAS to fund a study of Hispanics issues.

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<sup>69</sup> <http://www.discoverthenetworks.org/printgroupProfile.asp?gpid=153>

The Ford Foundation also appointed a committee of Hispanic community activists, including Herman Gallegos, a San Francisco activist who had worked previously with Saul Alinsky, (the author of *Rules for Radicals*, the community organizing handbook) to conduct the study and to form a Hispanic political action group.

In 1968, they formed the Southwestern Council of La Raza in Phoenix, Arizona. SWCLR's main funding was provided by the Ford Foundation, the National Council of Churches, and the United Auto Workers Union.

By the end of 1972, the organization had gained national traction. SWCLR changed their name to the National Council of La Raza, then relocated from Phoenix to Washington, DC.<sup>70</sup>

La Raza's main focus is lobbying for racial preference, bilingual education, the establishment of segregated charter schools exclusively for Spanish-speaking students, mass immigration, open borders, amnesty of illegal aliens and stricter hate crime laws. La Raza's operational premise is that Latinos should receive special preferences and benefits different from other Americans and immigrants and should not be held accountable for breaking immigration laws.

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<sup>70</sup> [http://www.nclr.org/index.php/about\\_us/history/transition\\_to\\_a\\_national\\_organization/](http://www.nclr.org/index.php/about_us/history/transition_to_a_national_organization/)

Eventually, La Raza broadened its base from Mexican Americans to include all people of Latino heritage.

After 9-11, La Raza opposed and lobbied against security changes that included opposition to requirements that all airport baggage handlers be American citizens. Michele Waslin, an NCLR staffer stated, "Tying together citizenship and security—without any evidence that the two are linked, sets a new and dangerous precedent in the United States."

In December of 2001, NCLR joined in solidarity with the National Network of Immigrant and Refugee Rights to "end discriminatory policies passed on the basis of legal status in the wake of September 11."

The NCLR opposed the dissolution of Immigration Services and transfer of immigration and enforcement responsibilities to the Department of Homeland Security and opposed sections of the Patriot Act. The NCLR joined with other immigrant groups in pressuring community leaders and city councils into non-compliance with provisions within the Patriot Act that effected illegal immigrants.

La Raza also joined the American Arab Anti-Discrimination League and the Arab-American Institute, post 9-11, to protest deportation of Arabs illegally present in the U.S.

The NCLR also supported self-identified socialist/Marxist groups, such as "Refuse & Resist!", in protesting the arrest and deportation of illegal aliens, comparing this to the practice of "disappearing people" in banana republics.

La Raza has been associated with various "Reconquista" ("Reconquest") groups that claim southwestern states, such as Colorado, California, Arizona, Texas, Utah, New Mexico, Oregon and parts of Washington State rightfully belong to the Mexican government and the Mexican people. They believe the states were once part of an Aztec homeland called Aztlán that was stolen by Europeans. The final phase of the re-conquest plan would be ethnic cleanings from those areas of all Americans of European, African and Asian ancestry.

La Raza denies "Reconquista" associations or support of such agendas, but on the NCLR's website, as late as 2007, La Raza stated their mission was the "empowerment of our gente [people] and the liberation of Aztlán."<sup>71</sup>

## Appendix B: National Security

Generally, Islamic sects are divided thusly:

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<sup>71</sup> <https://centerforimmigrationstudies.wordpress.com/tag/national-council-of-la-raza/>

The Sunni hold to the orthodox school of Islamic belief, believe Muhammed's true successor was his father-in-law, Abu Bdkr, and make up 80% of Islam. Within this orthodox school of Islamic belief are the Shafi (29%), the Maliki (15%) and the Hanbali (15%). Within the Hanbali are Wahabi/Salafist-Salafist jihadism (15%), Deobandi and Taliban (20%), the Unorthodox and Ahmadi (>1%).

The Shia make up the remaining 20% of mainstream Islam. The Shia believe Muhammed's cousin and son-in-law, Ali, was Muhammed's successor. Offshoots of the Shia sect are the Zaidi (0.5%), Ismali (2%) and Twelvers, which includes Alawites (12%).

Sufi Islam is the mystical form that focuses on direct inner experiences with Allah and pervades all Muslim sects. Adherents are thought to number around nine million.

Quaranists hold the Quar'an to be the only authentic source of Islamic faith and reject different recorded oral history (Hadith).

Kharijite and Ibadi are extreme sects that initially supported Muhammed's cousin, then rejected him as Muhammed's successor.

The Quar'an and its teachings form a basis of consistency that is shared in all sects of Islam. Differing beliefs and

interpretations regarding the Hadith and the Sunna/Shariah Law divide them. These divisions create violent inter-Islamic conflict.

### Organization of Islamic Cooperation:

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation, an influential bloc of 57 Muslim countries, is headquartered in Saudi Arabia and funded by dozens of Muslim countries.

In 1990, OIC member states met in Egypt and adopted the "Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam." The Cairo Declaration states that, "all human beings form one family whose members are united by their subordination to Allah."<sup>72</sup> These statements made by political leaders are in agreement with Islamic theology.

One of OIC's primary objectives is to pressure Western countries into passing laws that would ban "negative stereotyping of Islam" and to monitor "Islamophobia".

"Islamophobia" is a term designed to silence criticism and discussion about Islam or its prophet. Islamic activist groups have achieved success in some European countries by lobbying governments to pass laws that make criticism of Islam a "hate crime."

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<sup>72</sup> *Cairo De 5* Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam, August 5, 1990.

A former member of the International Institute for Islamic Thought, Abdur-Rahman Muhammad was in attendance with the word "Islamophobia" was coined. He has since said the construct is, "This loathsome term is nothing more than a thought-terminating cliché conceived in the bowels of Muslim think tanks for the purpose of beating down critics."

Each year, the OIC releases an OIC Observatory Report on Islamphobia.<sup>73</sup> The OIC defines Islamophobia as "the dread or hatred of Islam that includes discrimination against Muslims through their exclusion from the economic, social, and public life of the nation, and during the period under review, Muslims around the world experienced discrimination at different levels: in the minds, in the discourses, in the market, at works, on street, and everywhere of their day-to-day life."<sup>74</sup>

The reports generally decry the rise of Islamophobia in the West and an increase in hate crimes. However, official crime statistics show little fluctuation in the low numbers of hate crimes against Muslims in the U.S. According to the FBI's last crime database release (2013), 135 victims of religiously motivated crime victims were Muslim. No information was available regarding the religious status of the perpetrator.

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<sup>73</sup> [http://www.oic-oci.org/oicv2/page/?p\\_id=182&p\\_ref=61&lan=en](http://www.oic-oci.org/oicv2/page/?p_id=182&p_ref=61&lan=en)

<sup>74</sup> [http://www.oic-oci.org/oicv2/upload/islamophobia/2015/en/reports/8th\\_Ob\\_Rep\\_Islamophobia\\_Final.pdf](http://www.oic-oci.org/oicv2/upload/islamophobia/2015/en/reports/8th_Ob_Rep_Islamophobia_Final.pdf)

In the 2014, OIC's Report on Islamophobia, the Report stated:

In 17 surveys since 9/11 conducted by Pew, the Arab-American Institute, and other organizations, "unfavorable" responses declined from 2001 through 2006, then veered upward. From 21-24 percent "unfavorable" responses in 2006, negative responses spiked as high as 63 percent in recent years.

When Americans are asked about their attitude toward Islam, rather than Muslims, the rates are even more negative. In 24 surveys over the past dozen years, "unfavorable" responses toward Islam averaged 40 percent, as compared with 32 percent toward Muslims and 25 percent toward Muslim-Americans. "Favorable" responses about Islam outnumbered "unfavorable" responses in almost every survey prior to 2006, but the reverse is true in nearly every survey since then.

What accounts for this trend toward more negative views of Islam and Muslims? Surely this trend is due in part to the drumbeat of alarming news linking Muslims with violent events.<sup>75</sup>

The Report also cited an article by Professor Jocelyne Cesare titled "Why the West Fears Islam." The Report states:

...she provided a starting point for issues related to the legitimacy of Islamic signs in public space (headscarves, mosques, and minarets) being increasingly seen as a rejection of western democratic values, or even worse, as a direct threat to the West.

**In sum, the symbolic integration of Muslims within national communities would require a dramatic change in the current liberal and secularist narratives. It is a daunting task, but it can be done." (Emphasis in original)<sup>76</sup>**

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<sup>75</sup> [http://www.oic-oci.org/oicv2/upload/islamophobia/2014/en/reports/islamophoba\\_7th\\_report\\_2014.pdf](http://www.oic-oci.org/oicv2/upload/islamophobia/2014/en/reports/islamophoba_7th_report_2014.pdf)

<sup>76</sup> Cf. J. Cesare, "Why the West Fears Islam", in <http://en.qantara.de/content/muslims-in-liberal-democracies-why-the-west-fears-islam> (4/12/2013)

The OIC Observatory Report and Professor Cesare appear to agree that non-Muslim countries are responsible for changing their beliefs, narratives and views of liberalism to accommodate Islam. In their opinion, integrating Muslims into communities requires communities assimilate to Muslims, not Muslims into the community. Neither appear to discern the reciprocal line between the rights of non-Muslims and the rights of Muslims. The non-Muslims' rights apparently end when world views collide, but the Muslims' rights do not. To suggest the Muslims abide by the laws and to assimilate into the cultures of non-Muslim countries is considered anti-Muslim, Islamophobic, hate and discrimination.

The 8th Observatory Report also states:

In theory, freedom of religion applies to any liberal democracies, but in practice, it seems to elude certain minorities. For instance in the United States, a society with a Christian majority and a long cultural legacy of Judeo-Christian traditions, Muslims minority suffered plenty of persecution. Together with the statistical evidence gathered during the period under review, the Pew Research Center's report is used by the Observatory to draw such a conclusion, and this report should be given a particular credit since it provides a clear picture on how the western societies, particularly Americans, have discriminated Muslims in their countries.

Second, the Observatory underlines that discrimination against Muslims doesn't exist only amongst the western public, but also between religious groups, and these religious groups were rated more positively by their own members than by people from other religious backgrounds. Catholics as a group, for example, received an average thermometer rating of 80 from Americans who described themselves as Catholic, compared with 58 from non-Catholics.

During the period under review, the Observatory notes that a number of polls and surveys had been conducted with the objective of measuring Americans' and Canadians' public sentiments towards Muslims of different time-sequences or with regard to certain issues related to Islam. Some reports relevant to Islamophobia were also released by authorities in both countries, and of these polls and reports, the Observatory highlights the followings:

- a. Hatred against Muslims has been growing in the United States;
- b. Hate Crimes against Muslims and Jews in the United States rises even higher due to violent acts on the falsely name of Islam in different countries;
- c. The majority of Americans used to stand against the cartoons depicting Prophet Mohammed (pbuh), but this stance has changed to the opposite since Charlie Hebdo incident;
- d. Americans have now been starting to question the peaceful nature of Islam due to the spreading violence claiming this religion as the background; and
- e. Most of Canadians living in Quebec disagreed with the existence of Mosques in their city.

The Observatory Report apparently conflates people of other religions rating their own faith more favorably than Islam and the rise of unfavorable ratings toward Islam following violent jihadist attacks as evidence of hate. Unfavorable views of Islam are also interpreted as discrimination.

The Report cites an article from CBS Local News in New York<sup>77</sup> as proof that hate crimes incidents against Muslims is on the rise. It states:

- Hate crimes in general are up 17 percent. (Jew and Muslim)
- Anti-Semitic hate crimes are up 39%
- Anti-Muslim hate crimes are up 143% (From 7 to 17)
- The increase jumped after July 1 from eight crimes a month to about 18 crimes a month.

The Report fails to clarify that most of the attacks were against Jews and that 143% jump in anti-Muslim crime was from seven to seventeen reported incidences. While the additional 10 incidences are an increase, the Report does not clarify whether all the attacks were perpetrated by non-Muslims nor does it note that the increase correlates with the increase of violence that occurred following the case involving Eric Garner, the black man who died on July 17 after being arrested for selling cigarettes on the street. Was the increase due to targeting Muslims or simply crimes of opportunity? Neither the Report nor the news article clarifies. The Observatory Report, however, seems to consider all attacks on Muslims as religiously motivated hate and discrimination, regardless of the perpetrator's motive.

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<sup>77</sup> <http://newyork.cbslocal.com/2014/09/17/nypd-hate-crimes-against-muslims-jews-up-due-to-unrest-overseas/>

The fact that following 9-11, Americans' favorability rating of Islam increased, despite the horror and pain 9-11 caused, demonstrates that Americans were willing to make a distinction between the Islamic hijackers and other Muslims. Since 2006, however, the favorability rate has fallen. It's irrational for the Observatory Report to bemoan the decrease in favorability while ignoring events that have taken place since then and assuming no responsibility for Islamic teachings that motivate the violence. The Report fails to note the continuous stream of Islamic violence all over the world, with the exception of the Charlie Hebdo attack.<sup>78</sup>

The aftermath of the Charlie Hebdo attack, The Report claims, was a negative reaction in Europe that "went beyond the frame of integration." Islam was then seen as not only a threat to European identity, culture, demography, and society, but also as a political and security threat for the western world. These concerns, according to the Observatory Report, "more or less tell(s) us about the psychological perception of westerners vis-à-vis Islam and Muslims."<sup>79</sup>

Secondly, The Report claims the attack multiplied European Islamophobia that made Muslims feel uncertain, which was followed by an increase in attacks on Muslims.

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<sup>78</sup> [http://www.oic-oci.org/oicv2/upload/islamophobia/2015/en/reports/8th\\_Ob\\_Rep\\_Islamophobia\\_Final.pdf](http://www.oic-oci.org/oicv2/upload/islamophobia/2015/en/reports/8th_Ob_Rep_Islamophobia_Final.pdf)

<sup>79</sup> [http://www.oic-oci.org/oicv2/upload/islamophobia/2015/en/reports/8th\\_Ob\\_Rep\\_Islamophobia\\_Final.pdf](http://www.oic-oci.org/oicv2/upload/islamophobia/2015/en/reports/8th_Ob_Rep_Islamophobia_Final.pdf)

Thirdly, the attack brought the discussion about "Freedom of Expression" to the forefront again. The Observatory Report states:

Public opinions were overshadowed by the idea that free speech is a 'fixed price' for European societies, and there shouldn't be any space for negotiation with other 'ideologies', including Islam. Iconizing the incident into 'Je suis Charlie' was clearly meant to emphasize this kind of position, since this was another way of saying that 'I stand for Freedom of Expression, and not for anything else.'<sup>80</sup>

Clearly, The Report finds it irrational that Europeans object to limiting freedom of speech, especially in response to violence, and that such objections, by default, leave no room for Islam. In The Report's estimation, standing for freedom of expression equates to standing for nothing. This statement reveals that both the author of The Report and the professor either do not understand the concept of man's natural right of expression, even if someone else disagrees or finds certain speech offensive and the corresponding right to peaceful rebuttal, or they both hold beliefs that are deeply incompatible with European and Western beliefs and culture. The remaining option is that the statement's dismissal of the principles underpinning man's natural rights is intended to interject into the alleged void "principles" that are Shariah compliant.

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<sup>80</sup> Ibid

A phobia is defined by Merriam- Webster as: an exaggerated usually inexplicable and illogical fear of a particular object, class of objects, or situation. A phobia is an irrational fear.

It is also irrational to expect people, who witness a continuous stream of extreme violence from one segment of the world's population that share a common belief system and commit these acts in its name, to ignore what they see and to not question the Islamic apologists' conflicting narratives. It's irrational to shift the onus of the conflicting views onto the people who see the incongruences. It's irrational to deny the behavior that creates the conflict is consistent with Islamic teachings. If the apologists believe what they claim about Islam, it's most irrational to deny Islam's responsibility to deal with the violence theologically and physically. Only they can change the perceptions to which they object. It's irrational to blame someone else for not believing what behavior does not support.

Whether the Islamic leaders who signed the OIC Communique on "Combating Terrorism and Violent Extremism"<sup>81</sup> are sincere or not depends on long-term observable behavioral changes throughout the Islamic world. It would be irrational for anyone to believe narratives devoid of evidence.

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<sup>81</sup> [http://www.oic-oci.org/oicv2/upload/islamophobia/2015/en/reports/8th\\_Ob\\_Rep\\_Islamophobia\\_Final.pdf](http://www.oic-oci.org/oicv2/upload/islamophobia/2015/en/reports/8th_Ob_Rep_Islamophobia_Final.pdf)

It is rational for Westerners to care about their countries, cultures, homes and families in the same protective manner Islamic countries do. Such Western concerns do not exclude caring about Muslims' rights that fit well within their country's laws and customs--equal justice under the law--even when Westerners question the motives of groups like the OIC, CAIR, ISNA, Muslim Brotherhood, etc., and speak realistically about Islam's embedded internal and external conflicts. However, it is not incumbent on Westerners to change the negative impression created by Muslims who are acting in accordance with their religious texts. It is the responsibility of Islamic leaders to lead the way to changing the behavior and the interpretations of scripture that create negative behaviors and the subsequent rational responses.

## FBI Hate Crimes: Table 1

Of the 1,223 victims of anti-religious hate crimes:

- 60.3 percent were victims of crimes motivated by their offenders' anti-Jewish bias.
- 13.7 percent were victims of anti-Islamic (Muslim) bias.
- 6.1 percent were victims of anti-Catholic bias.

- 4.3 percent were victims of bias against groups of individuals of varying religions (anti-multiple religions, group).
- 3.8 percent were victims of anti-Protestant bias.
- 0.6 percent were victims of anti-Atheist/Agnostic bias.
- 11.2 percent were victims of bias against other religions (anti-other religion). (Based on [Table 1.](#))<sup>82</sup>

<b>Religion:</b>	<b>1,031</b>	<b>1,163</b>	<b>1,223</b>	<b>82</b>
Anti-Jewish	625	689	737	93
Anti-Catholic	70	74	75	2

<sup>82</sup> [http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/hate-crime/2013/topic-pages/victims/victims\\_final](http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/hate-crime/2013/topic-pages/victims/victims_final)

Anti-Protestant	35	42	47	7
Anti-Islamic (Muslim)	135	165	167	27
Anti-Other Religion	117	135	137	4
Anti-Multiple Religions, Group	42	51	53	5
Anti-Atheism/Agnosticism/etc.	7	7	7	

The categories of race and ethnicity hate crimes showed no Muslim victims or the numbers were too insignificant to warrant recognition as a unique group.

## OIC: Opening of 5th Session of Istanbul Process

**OIC: Opening of 5th Session of Istanbul Process: "From Resolution to Realization - How to Promote Effective**

<sup>83</sup> <http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/hate-crime/2013/tables/1tabledatadecpdf/table 1 incidents offenses victims and known offenders by bias motivation 2013.xls>

## **Implementation of the HRC Res 16/18"**

**Date:** 03/06/2015

JEDDAH: Over 90 leading experts on human rights, law, politics and minorities—including UN special procedures as well as representatives of UN Member States—met at the OIC headquarters in Jeddah on Wednesday (June 3) as part of a two-day meeting on how to effectively implement UN Human Rights Council Resolution 16/18 on combating religious intolerance, discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against people due to their religion or beliefs.

The meeting—the 5th Session of the Istanbul Process—is the second of its nature to be held in the Muslim world and follows previous meetings in Washington, London, Geneva and Doha to promote the full and effective implementation of UN Resolution 16/18.

In his opening speech, OIC Secretary General Iyad Ameen Madani thanked participants for attending and said the meeting reflects the importance that the international human rights community attaches to combating religious intolerance. In a wide-ranging speech, Madani said that religious hatred needs to be addressed at all levels, including the need to ascertain the limits of freedom of expression to determine where it ends and transforms into incitement to hatred.

"The impact of news of discrimination or violence based on religion not only affects the targeted people or community but also impacts the broader international community as well as evinces corresponding reactions," he said while expounding on the issue of globalization and its impact.

Madani also provided details about Resolution 16/18 and the Istanbul Process that was formed to action it. "All stakeholders must stand united, reaffirm their commitment to the global policy framework and redouble their efforts to fully and effectively implement this consensus Action Plan at all levels," he said.

Another speaker at the event's opening was Ambassador Joachim Rucker, President of the UN Human Rights Council. In his speech, Rucker mentioned that the litmus test for the work of the HRC is its effectiveness and impact on the ground.

"This is what the Istanbul Process is about: To better implement one of the Council's landmark resolutions. This process is a fine example for States not just for negotiating and tabling a resolution... but for taking ownership of its very implementation," he said.

Other speakers at the event included Faissal Muammar, Secretary General of the King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue (KAICIID) in Vienna, Professor Ibrahim Saleh Al-Naimi, Chairman of the Doha International Centre for Interfaith Dialogue (DCID), Ambassador Adam Kulach, the EU's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia and Gulf countries, and Ambassador Marta Mauras, permanent representative of Chile to the UN in Geneva.

Messages were also read out on behalf of Prince Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al-Hussein, the UN's High Commissioner for Human Rights, and John Kerry, the US Secretary of State. A video message was also shown from David Kaye, the UN's special rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression.

The meeting is being held to unite stakeholders, reaffirm their commitment to the resolution and redouble efforts to fully and effectively implement it.

The UN Human Rights Council adopted Resolution 16/18 in March 2011 by consensus. The resolution deals with religious discrimination and violence from an international human rights law perspective and outlines actions that governments need to implement to effectively combat religious-based violence and discrimination.

A broad range of stakeholders are presently attending the meeting, including academics, legal experts, civil society actors and representatives from relevant UN bodies, the European Union, NGOs, interfaith organizations, the Vatican and UN Member States.<sup>84</sup>

## Rohingyas with green passports

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<sup>84</sup>[http://www.oic-oci.org/oicv2/topic/?t\\_id=10159&t\\_ref=4022&lan=en](http://www.oic-oci.org/oicv2/topic/?t_id=10159&t_ref=4022&lan=en)

*Ease of obtaining and using false identification to enter foreign countries:*

*They find no problem in managing Bangladeshi papers; 7 held at Dhaka airport*

#### **Staff Correspondent**

The intrusion of Rohingyas from Myanmar and their overseas travel on fake Bangladeshi passports are big headaches for the authorities.

Once abroad, they commit different kinds of crime, thus tarnishing the image of Bangladesh. The problem has been unchallenged for long.

In June, these issues again came to the fore as several hundred Rohingyas fled sectarian violence in Myanmar and into Bangladesh through the bordering area of Cox's Bazar.

The government high-ups have also expressed their concern about the problem and asked the authorities concerned to be on a state of alert.

Yesterday, the Armed Police Battalion (APBn) at Shahjalal International Airport arrested seven Rohingyas with Bangladeshi passports, all trying to depart through the airport.

One of them managed a Machine-Readable Passport (MRP), while others got forged ones -- passport books recently stolen from a Dhaka passport office, police say.

Last month, the foreign ministry asked the deputy commissioners, especially of Cox's Bazar and Bandarban, to take steps to ensure that no Rohingya got a Bangladeshi passport.

"Earlier, many Rohingyas had managed voter IDs and Bangladeshi passports. They went abroad and created huge problems in Saudi Arabia. So we have asked the local administration for a double-check," Foreign Secretary Mijarul Quayes told journalists on July 11.

But the dubious attempts continue.

The authorities and this correspondent found such incidents at Shahjalal International Airport recently.

One of the seven arrested yesterday, Ayesha Begum, 30, managed an MRP issued on June 27.

Police arrested her at the airport along with her two daughters Ruksana Khatun, 10, and Irmana Khatun, 8.

A 16-year-old youth named Zaber also was sneaking into the airport posing as Ayesha's son. They were arrested around 7:30am soon after entering the departure lounge.

Their wanted to fly to Saudi Arabia via Kuwait on a Kuwait Airways flight, APBn Assistant Commissioner Monirul Islam told The Daily Star.

In a separate drive, the APBn arrested three other Rohingyas -- Md Bashar, 18, Md Selim, 18 and Azizul Haq, 19 -- with three Bangladeshi nationals.

The Rohingyas came from Ukhia of Cox's Bazar and were supposed to board a Cambodia-bound flight. It could not be known if they were registered refugees.

Police said the Rohingyas along with two Bangladeshis -- Md Sujan Mia, 19 and Md Alamgir Hossain, 35 and their broker Md Kaiser, 20 -- arrived at the airport on a microbus around 12:30am.

On suspicion, the APBn searched them and found the fake passports.

The Rohingyas told police that Kaiser had managed the passports by using fake names, photos and addresses. The broker and his associates took Tk 2 lakh to Tk 3 lakh from each of them for sending them abroad.

The broker had asked them to come to the airport at 1:00am with the passports. He instructed them to tell the names and addresses put on the passports if security personnel interrogated them.

Sujan and Alamgir were supposed to fly to Kuwait.

Separate cases were filed against them with the Airport Police Station.

On September 11 last year, police at the airport arrested six Rohingyas along with a Bangladeshi trying to board a flight to Saudi Arabia. The group was carrying forged Bangladeshi passports.

Detectives on August 2 this year raided a residential hotel at Fakirapool in the capital and arrested nine Rohingyas for their

illegal stay and efforts to manage Bangladeshi passports for flying to the Middle East.

Meanwhile, the Saudi Arabian authorities have arrested around 700 Rohingyas, who already made their way to the country with Bangladeshi documents, and kept them in a deportation centre in Jeddah, according to officials.

The Saudis are now pressing Bangladesh to take them back.

This trend of Rohingyas going abroad is also threatening the country's labour market overseas.

There are around 30,000 registered Rohingya refugees at two camps in Teknaf in Cox's Bazar.

But roughly about half a million Rohingyas unofficially live in Cox's Bazar and other areas of the Chittagong region.<sup>85</sup>

## Current Trends in Islamist Ideology, Volume 18

Jihad recruitment in camps:

Hudson Institute:

In addition to minority flight, there have been other factors augmenting the relative power of the Islamists. Since 1991, perhaps as many as 300,000 Rohingya Muslims have entered Bangladesh across its southeastern border with Myanmar (Burma), a Jamaat-e-Islami stronghold. Many reside between the port city of Cox's Bazaar and the Myanmar border. ***Jamaat-e-Islami and its student wing, the Islami Chatra League, have worked to radicalize these refugees***, who are probably more susceptible to religious indoctrination after their persecution in Myanmar. ***Indeed, according to reports by human rights groups on local minorities, many of Harakat ul-Jihad Islami's newest members are recruited from the Rohingya settlements.***<sup>86</sup>

Time Magazine: Deadly Cargo

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<sup>85</sup> <http://archive.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=245812>

<sup>86</sup> <http://www.hudson.org/policycenters/6-current-trends-in-islamist-ideology>

**Today, southern Bangladesh has become a haven for hundreds of jihadis on the lam. They find natural allies** in Muslim guerrillas from India hiding out across the border, and **in Muslim Rohingyas**, tens of thousands of whom fled the ethnic and religious suppression of the Burmese military junta in the late 1970s and 1980s. **Many Rohingyas are long-term refugees, but some are trained to cause trouble back home in camps tolerated by a succession of Bangladeshi governments.** The original facilities date back to 1975, making them Asia's oldest jihadi training camps. And one former Burmese guerrilla who visits the camps regularly describes three near Ukhia, south of the town of Cox's Bazar, as able to accommodate a force of 2,500 between them.<sup>87</sup>

Hillary Clinton backs plan by Islamic countries to

Criminalize "defamation of Islam" (July-present)<sup>88</sup>

Fulfilling the decade-long wishes of the 57 countries of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the Obama administration has backed an international OIC effort<sup>89</sup> to criminalize "defamation of religion," namely Islam, in the name of religious tolerance over the expressed objections of human rights, religious freedom,<sup>90</sup> and free speech advocates.

The first step was taken with the passage of UN Human Rights Council Resolution 16/18<sup>91</sup> back in April. Among the members<sup>92</sup> of the UNHRC are some of the worst human rights abusers in the world, including Libya, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, China, and Cuba.

The next stop was a meeting with the OIC and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton back in July as part of the "Istanbul Process," where Clinton vowed "to use some old-fashioned techniques of peer pressure and shaming so that people don't feel that they have the support to do what we abhor." Clinton failed to explain where the State Department, or any arm of the U.S. government, derives its power to "name and shame" any U.S. citizen. Clinton

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<sup>87</sup> <http://content.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,364423,00.html>

<sup>88</sup> <http://pjmedia.com/blog/obamas-national-security-not-top-10-of-2011/2/>

<sup>89</sup> <http://dailycaller.com/2011/12/13/islamic-governments-push-for-speech-curbs-in-the-us/>

<sup>90</sup> <http://nypost.com/2011/12/17/a-perverse-process/>

<sup>91</sup> [http://www.refworld.org/cgi-](http://www.refworld.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/rwmain?page=type&type=RESOLUTION&publisher=&coi=&docid=4db960f92&skip=0)

[bin/texis/vtx/rwmain?page=type&type=RESOLUTION&publisher=&coi=&docid=4db960f92&skip=0](http://www.refworld.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/rwmain?page=type&type=RESOLUTION&publisher=&coi=&docid=4db960f92&skip=0)

<sup>92</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United\\_Nations\\_Human\\_Rights\\_Council#Members](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Human_Rights_Council#Members)

and OIC Secretary General Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu issued a joint statement <sup>93</sup> promising U.S. cooperation in implementing Resolution 16/18.

Earlier this month, OIC officials and Hillary Clinton met in a closed door <sup>94</sup> three-day meeting <sup>95</sup> in Washington, D.C. Rather than gathering to discuss the stated topics of intolerance and violence, the official OIC media center characterized the meeting as an effort to enact its "defamation of religion" agenda <sup>96</sup> spelled out in the OIC's annual Islamophobia Observatory. Just this week, Ihsanoglu told Turkish reporters that these efforts are intended to "refrain from exploiting freedoms" and that similar meetings between the OIC and EU bureaucrats, similar to those conducted with Hillary Clinton, are planned in the near future.

Eager to capitalize on the Obama administration's joint efforts with the OIC, leaders of several prominent U.S. Islamic organizations met with Justice Department officials <sup>97</sup> in October to push to redefine discrimination laws to include criticism of Islam. During the meeting one of the most vocal advocates for the change in definitions was Muslim lawyer and Huffington Post columnist Sahar Aziz. Mohamed Magid, one of the Obama administration's closest Muslim allies and president of the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA), said that "teaching people that all Muslims are a threat to the country ... is against the law and the Constitution." Not coincidentally, I'm sure, when Obama hosted the annual White House Iftar dinner, the official guest list omitted Magid's name <sup>98</sup> as one of the attendees. The relationship is so close, though, that Deputy National Security Adviser Denis McDonough was dispatched to give a speech <sup>99</sup> at Magid's mosque back in March.

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<sup>93</sup> <http://geneva.usmission.gov/2011/07/18/joint-statement-on-combating-intolerance-discrimination-and-violence/>

<sup>94</sup> <http://www.nationalreview.com/corner/285654/dc-islamophobia-conference-was-bad-idea-nina-shea>

<sup>95</sup> Ibid

<sup>96</sup> <http://hotair.com/greenroom/archives/2011/12/14/us-government-to-apply-peer-pressure-to-your-islamophobia/>

<sup>97</sup> <http://dailycaller.com/2011/10/21/progressives-islamists-huddle-at-justice-department/>

<sup>98</sup> <http://dailycaller.com/2011/08/11/obamas-iftar-guest-list-omits-controversial-attendees/>

<sup>99</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/03/06/remarks-denis-mcdonough-deputy-national-security-advisor-president-prepa>

## Spartanburg Abstract

National Agency	World Relief	Affiliate Code	???
Office State	SC	Office City	Spartanburg
Office Name	WR Spartanburg		
Office Address	TBD		
<b>JOINT SITE</b>		<b>SUB-OFFICE</b>	
If joint site, with which agency or agencies?	N/A	Sub-office	N/A
		Administering affiliate	
<b>R&amp;P PROGRAM AFFILIATE STAFFING</b>		<b>CASE PLACEMENT LOCATIONS</b>	
	FY2014	FY2015	Zip code(s) in which affiliate is able to place cases:
R&P FTE paid by R&P	0	1	
R&P FTE paid by other (not volunteers)	0	0.5	
Total Client/FTE Ratio	0	40	

<b>CASELOAD STATISTICS (number of individuals)</b>	FY2013 Actual Arrivals					0
	FY2014 Acknowledged Capacity					0
	FY2014 Anticipated Arrivals					0
<b>PROPOSED FY2015</b>	<b>AF</b>	<b>EA</b>	<b>ECA</b>	<b>LAC</b>	<b>NE/SA</b>	<b>Total</b>
U.S. Tie Capacity	5	5	0	5	5	20
No U.S. Tie Capacity	10	10	0	10	10	40
Total Capacity	15	15	0	15	15	60

<b>FY2013 R&amp;P PERIOD REPORT OUTCOMES</b>			
R&P Period Employment % ( <i>individuals</i> ):	0%, 0/0	R&P Period Out-Migration % ( <i>individuals</i> ):	0%, 0/0
Total R&P Period Reports Submitted for FY2013 ( <i>number of cases/number of individuals</i> ):		0 Cases/ 0 Individuals	
Number of reports showing <b>social security card application</b> as late or incomplete			<i>0 Cases</i>
Number of reports showing <b>enrollment in cash assistance</b> as late or incomplete			<i>0 Cases</i>
Number of reports showing <b>enrollment in medical assistance</b> as late or incomplete			<i>0 Cases</i>
Number of reports showing <b>enrollment in SNAP (food stamps)</b> as late or incomplete			<i>0 Cases</i>
Number of reports showing <b>enrollment in ESL</b> as late or incomplete			<i>0 Cases</i>
Number of reports showing <b>enrollment in employment services</b> as late or incomplete			<i>0 Cases</i>

Number of reports showing <b>school enrollment of minor child</b> as late or incomplete	0 Cases
Number of reports showing <b>health screening</b> as late or incomplete	0 Cases
Number of reports showing <b>enrollment in other services as appropriate</b> as late or incomplete	0 Cases
Number of reports showing <b>household income not exceeding expenses</b>	0 Cases
Number of reports showing that <b>refugee is unable to identify source(s) of household income and expenses</b> after R&P assistance ends	0 Cases

RECENT/PROPOSED CASELOAD	
Nationalities and ethnicities served in FY2013 and FY2014	N/A
Proposed new nationalities expected to be served at this location in FY2015	Burmese, Colombians, Congolese, Cubans, Iraqis, Sudanese, Syrians
Languages available on staff	TBD
Languages available from within the community of resettlement	Arabic, Burmese, Cambodian, Cantonese, French, Hindi, Mandarin, Russian, Spanish, Ukrainian, Vietnamese
Other language resources used by affiliate (note frequency and general circumstances of use)	TBD

SITE RATIONALE	
Number of other affiliates present	0
Local overall unemployment rate	4.8% (April, 2014)
Available jobs	Nearly 60% of Spartanburg County's workforce is employed in one of five occupational categories, most of which include entry level positions: Office and Administrative Support (16%), Production (including manufacturing, 15.5%), Sales (including most retail positions, 10.4%), Food Preparation and Serving (8.6%), Transportation and Material Moving (8.3%). Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.
Average starting wage	The Median Hourly Wage for the five categories listed above is \$12.91. The minimum hourly wage for South Carolina is \$7.25.
Average monthly rent and availability (Note whether Always, Frequently, Sometimes, or Never Available)	1-Bedroom: \$572 Available: Frequently 2-Bedroom: \$678 Available: Frequently 3-Bedroom: \$906 Available: Frequently
English language programs available for newly arrived refugees and average wait time	Pre-Literate: Yes Avg Wait Time = 6 weeks Beginner: Yes Avg Wait Time = 1 weeks Intermediate: Yes Avg Wait Time = 1 weeks Advanced: Yes Avg Wait Time = 12 weeks

- 1) **Health Care Access:** Relationships with local medical, dental, and mental health service providers will be cultivated in the months prior to opening. WR Home Office staff will consult with South Carolina’s State Refugee Health Coordinator to develop a plan to administer health screenings. Staff will then meet with potential service providers on site in August 2014, to evaluate capacity, cultural competency, language availability and/or comfort working with an interpreter, and Medicaid/RMA acceptance. Consideration will also be given to providers’ proximity to refugee housing and public transportation. Once providers gain experience administering screenings and making follow-up referrals as needed, it is anticipated that WR Spartanburg’s modest caseload of 60 arrivals should result in few delays in service. Prior to assurance, refugees’ biographical data will be shared with the State Refugee Health Coordinator and local care providers to ensure that services are available. WR Spartanburg staff will contact providers to schedule appointments and share medical documents as soon as arrivals are confirmed. Additional pertinent information obtained after arrival will be transmitted to providers as needed.
- 2) **Refugees with Special Needs:** Until working relationships with local care providers are established as described above, WR Home Office will avoid sending cases with advanced medical issues to WR Spartanburg. If complex cases are identified, WR Spartanburg and Home Office staff will consult with the State Refugee Health Coordinator during the pre-assurance and pre-arrival phases to discuss particular needs and whether local services are sufficient to serve the case. With regard to non-medical special needs, particular priority will be placed on connecting single parent cases with caring, well-trained co-sponsors, who will assist with housing, child care, tutoring, life skills training, and employment. Although resources for LGBTI individuals are fewer than elsewhere in the country, several groups hold monthly support groups and social events in the Upstate region.
- 3) **Public Outreach:** WR Spartanburg will initiate a broad-based outreach to local stakeholders, including churches, community groups, public K-12 schools, colleges and universities, law enforcement, government agencies, elected officials, employers, rental property owners, medical and mental health care providers, and the community at large. WR Spartanburg will hold public information sessions, utilize local media such as newspapers, radio, and television, and address questions and challenges through frequent communication. Public events, such as a "grand opening" for the new office and World Refugee Day observances, may be organized to raise awareness and encourage celebration of refugee resettlement in the Upstate region. Social media, electronic, and print content will be made available to introduce WR Spartanburg, explain its mission and services, recruit volunteers and donors, and above all, cultivate a supportive, welcoming environment for new arrivals.
- 4) **Financial Resources:**

Projected Contributions to the R&P Program				
Type of Donor	FY 2014 Estimated Cash	FY 2014 Estimated In-kind Value	FY 2015 Projected Cash	FY 2015 Projected In-kind Value
Foundations/Corporations				

Faith-based/Community-based Organizations			\$10,000	\$4,000
Fees for Service				
Individuals				\$1,000
Volunteer Hours/Miles				\$8,000
State/County/Local Government				
Headquarters			\$30,000	
Affiliate/Sub-office				
Other:				
<b>TOTALS</b>			\$40,000	\$13,000
<b>TOTALS PER CAPITA</b>			\$667	\$217

- 5) **Volunteer and Co-Sponsorship Programs:** Successful integration into any community depends largely upon mutually supportive relationships with one's neighbors. Therefore, WR Spartanburg will strive for as many refugees as possible to be introduced to their new environment through contact with co-sponsors and volunteers. The goal for FY 2015 will be for 10 cases to be served by Good Neighbor Teams, comprised of church and other community groups who commit to co-sponsor a given refugee case. WR Spartanburg staff will train these teams to assist with R&P services such as apartment furnishing, clothing and household item donations, transportation to and from appointments, cultural orientation, tutoring English, employment and life skills training, and help navigating public transportation. Although Good Neighbor Teams initially agree to serve their case for a limited time (usually coinciding with the 90-day R&P service period), it is hoped that, through repeated, informal contact, co-sponsorships will evolve, as the project name suggests, into a network of good neighbors who support one another for years to come. WR Spartanburg will also welcome individual volunteers, who will be trained to serve according to their interests and availability.
- 6) **Grievance and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) policy and plan:** World Relief has a corporate Grievance Policy (#0540) and a PSEA Policy (#0560). In addition, Policy #0566, "Protection of Children: Code of Conduct" incorporates the IASC's six core principles.

## World Relief FY 2015 R&P Program

### Proposed New Site: Spartanburg, South Carolina

See attached **Letter of Support** from State Refugee Coordinator, Dorothy Addison.

#### **Statement of Rationale**

World Relief is proposing a new refugee resettlement site in Spartanburg, South Carolina, with a projected caseload of 60 arrivals for FY 2015. Spartanburg and its larger neighbor to the west, Greenville, serve as dual anchors of South Carolina's fastest growing and most economically vibrant region, with over 825,000 residents between them. At present, there are no refugees being resettled in either city. The only active resettlement program in the state is Lutheran Family Services in the Carolinas, an affiliate of Lutheran Immigrant & Refugee Services (LIRS) located in the capital, Columbia. Although both Greenville and Spartanburg lie just within 100 miles of Columbia, very few cases have been placed there in recent years. Therefore, it is World Relief's assessment that the region South Carolinians refer to as "the Upstate" ranks among the communities with the greatest untapped capacity for refugee resettlement in the southeastern states, if not the entire nation.

World Relief's interest in Spartanburg was first raised in April 2013, when the agency was approached by Rev. Jim Goodroe, Director of Missions for the Spartanburg County Baptist Network. Jim is a nationally profiled advocate for immigration reform,<sup>100</sup> noted for his efforts to persuade churches in his state to welcome and serve their foreign-born neighbors. Jim suggested that helping refugees restart their lives in Spartanburg, which he calls "the most immigrant-friendly city in the state," would provide a tremendous opportunity for churches to put their growing awareness into practice. As of June, 2014, Jim reports more than 25 individuals and church representatives have expressed their support for a World Relief resettlement program in their city. Further internal assessment, culminating in a phone conference with South Carolina's State Refugee Coordinator, Dorothy Addison, has revealed that Spartanburg's affordability, high rate of employment, access to public transportation, and emergent immigrant community would make it an excellent destination for refugees.

With fewer than 38,000 residents, Spartanburg is considerably smaller than the county that shares its name, estimated in 2013 to be 291,000 and growing. Yet population remains concentrated around the city, the uncontested hub for business, education, culture, and public

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<sup>100</sup> Los Angeles Times, 'Reverend cites Bible in immigration reform effort.' December 24, 2013. (<http://www.latimes.com/nation/la-na-c1-immigration-reverend-20131224-dto-htmlstory.html#axzz2qgaS7xzn>)

services in Spartanburg County. The city is also notably diverse, with a slight African American majority nearing 50%. By contrast, the surrounding county is 70% white. Most of Spartanburg County's foreign-born inhabitants are Hispanic, primarily from Mexico and Central America, and Spanish is by far the second most widely spoken language in homes. However, pockets of Vietnamese, Cambodian, Indian, and Ukrainian residents can be found north of Interstate 85. Because the Upstate region appears to be relatively untouched by resettlement, 40 of the 60 arrivals World Relief is proposing for FY 2015 would have no U.S. ties. It is believed that as refugees begin to live, work, learn, raise their families, and acclimate to the area, while churches, employers, service providers, and the broader community become more adept at welcoming and serving them, Spartanburg and surrounding cities will become an increasingly desirable location for refugees in coming years.

Spartanburg's compact size has some advantages. SPARTA, the city's modest public bus service, conveys passengers along eight routes, accessible to most neighborhoods and shopping districts within the city limits. Rides are only \$1.25 each way, plus an additional \$0.30 to transfer. All routes intersect at the SPARTA Passenger Center downtown, not far from key service providers such as Spartanburg County Social Services and Social Security Administration. Spartanburg Regional Medical Center, the flagship campus of the county's largest health care provider, is conveniently located just north of the city center. Because no clinic in Spartanburg County currently administers refugee health screenings, relationships with Spartanburg Regional and/or other clinics will need to be cultivated in the months prior to reception. The State Refugee Coordinator has agreed to identify potential care providers, with whom World Relief staff will meet to discuss capacity and address concerns while visiting Spartanburg in August, 2014.

Housing costs in Spartanburg remain relatively low, with one and two bedroom apartments available for \$550 and \$650 per month, respectively. As of April, 2014, the metro area enjoys a regularly decreasing unemployment rate of 4.8%, with manufacturing and production jobs occupying 15.5% of the workforce. Particular local pride is taken in the BMW automobile assembly plant in Greer, whose 8,000 workers make it the largest employer in Spartanburg County. Other multinational firms operating production facilities in the area include Michelin Tires, Milliken & Co., and Cryovac.

The Upstate is served by six airlines offering flights into Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport (GSP), located 18 miles west of Spartanburg in Greer. Although the two cities are separated by about 35 miles, Greenville and Spartanburg seem to enjoy a symbiotic relationship in which economic and population growth in one fuels the other. Their relationship is not unlike the Research Triangle cities of North Carolina, where World Relief operates a resettlement program in Durham, but occasionally places cases in Raleigh, the larger city. Similarly, while the enthusiasm of local partners has drawn World Relief to Spartanburg, it is conceivable, as the office becomes better acquainted with employers, service providers, and churches throughout the region, that some cases may be placed and served in or near Greenville.

## Proposed Timeline

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>
April, 2013	Initial contact between local churches and World Relief (WR); no action taken.
February, 2014	Renewed contact between local churches and WR; Initial Assessment of site suitability completed.
April, 2014	Initial phone consultation with SC State Refugee Coordinator (SRC).
May, 2014	Continued assessment of site capacity; Consultation with LIRS Director of Refugee Resettlement.
June, 2014	Preparation of FY2015 R&P Abstract; Second phone consultation with SC SRC, letter of support requested.
July, 2014	Submit Abstract to PRM in WR's FY2015 R&P Proposal; Identify screening, medical care providers with assistance from SRC.
August, 2014	Assessment visit to Spartanburg (August 10-12); On site meetings with local churches; On site meetings with care providers, public school representatives; Neighborhood tours, scouting of potential office and housing locations.
September, 2014	Establish co-sponsoring and financial partnerships with local churches;
October, 2014	Begin search and hiring process for Office Director (OD).
November, 2014	Regional Director (RD) hires OD, begins OD orientation; RD and OD search for office space; Introduce OD to partner churches, service providers, and stakeholders.
December, 2014	Begin search and hiring process for R&P Specialist (RPS); Lease office space; Begin allocating and assuring refugee cases.
January, 2015	RD and OD hire RPS; Orientation and training for OD and RPS at WR Home Office (WRHO); Painting, repairs, renovation of office space as needed; Install office phone and internet service; Obtain office computers, printers, furniture, vehicle, etc.
February, 2015	WR Spartanburg (WRS) receives first refugee cases; Continued training for OD in management, administration, and finance.
April, 2015	OD and RPS attend annual New R&P Directors/Staff Training at WRHO; OD, RPS, and staff complete all applicable R&P training modules.
June, 2015	WRS hosts opening ceremony, World Refugee Day events for public.

## **Proposed Management Structure**

The structure of World Relief Spartanburg will be basically identical to World Relief's other U.S. field offices, which are fully-owned components of the corporation, organized geographically into North, South, and West Regions. A full-time Office Director will be hired by the South Regional Director, John Parsons, and will report directly to him. The Office Director will oversee all programs, staff, strategic initiatives, local fundraising, and community relations for WR Spartanburg.

A full-time R&P Specialist will be hired to provide core services to newly arriving refugees and will report directly to the Office Director. Both individuals will receive training and ongoing assistance from R&P Technical Unit staff based in World Relief Home Office in Baltimore, Maryland. Other areas of training, such as management, administration, finance, and public relations, will be provided by the Regional Director as needed.

Additional federal and state-funded programs and refugee-specific grants will be pursued in the future. Commitments of financial, co-sponsorship, and volunteer support will be sought from local churches in the months prior to opening. Because local church co-sponsorship will be paramount to the success of WR Spartanburg and those it serves, supplemental staff such as a Church Mobilizer, Volunteer Coordinator, and other administrative positions will be hired as public and private resources become available. Each of these positions would report directly to the Office Director.

## **Detailed Training Plan for R&P Staff**

There are three standard training events that take place when World Relief opens a new refugee resettlement site. First, the new Office Director and R&P Specialist will visit the World Relief Home Office in Baltimore, Maryland for an orientation and initial program training in January, 2015, shortly after the latter is hired. Training topics will include overviews of World Relief's mission, values, programs, and structure, an introduction to the Home Office Technical Unit (the primary program support team for field offices), an overview of the refugee resettlement process, and introduction to key procedures, documents, and forms. The field staff will receive specific instruction on each element of the R&P Program from designated Technical Unit staff.

Second, the Office Director and R&P Specialist will join other new field office staff in Baltimore for the annual New R&P Staff Training in April, 2015. This comprehensive training usually lasts four days, and addresses all pre- and post-arrival R&P functions, including Cooperative Agreement requirements, the allocations process, cultural orientation, documentation and use of forms, internal and external monitoring, and Travel Loan.

Third, two or more Home Office Technical Unit staff will visit WR Spartanburg to review the topics previously covered and to address specific questions or situations that the staff have encountered through field experience. This visit will occur between two and four months after the office's first arrivals.

All R&P staff in World Relief's field offices must familiarize themselves with World Relief's R&P Handbook as well as the Cooperative Agreement. In addition, all new Office Directors

must also review the Report to Congress, the Refugee Act, their office's most recent Proposal Abstract, a training module on R&P financial documentation, and a training module on case file management and monitoring. All new R&P Specialists and caseworkers must also receive training on the R&P Period Report, Core Service Checklist, case file forms, case notes, basic needs support, biographic information, assurances, and case transfers. Training modules for these topics are accessed online through World Relief University. Applicable staff will receive training in unaccompanied minors (M2-M7) once the first such case is scheduled to arrive. Each employee's supervisor will oversee progress and completion of the web-based training. R&P staff should complete all applicable training modules within the first 90 days of the office's first arrivals.

The new office will be internally monitored twice within its first twelve months of operation. Post-arrival Technical Unit staff from Home Office will conduct a desk audit to review case documentation and offer feedback approximately four months after the new office's first arrivals. A more extensive, on-site monitoring visit will occur between eight and ten months after the first refugees arrive.

New World Relief Office Directors will be assigned a Mentor, a more experienced Office Director in the same region who can guide him or her through issues that arise on an informal basis. Mentoring sessions may occur in person, but will most often be conducted remotely as needed. Although the Mentor may answer R&P questions, he or she may advise the new director on an array of topics as diverse as employee management, finance, public relations, church and community partnerships, and fundraising.

Letter from Dorothy Addison, SC Refugee Coordinator: DSS



AMBER E. GILLUM  
ACTING STATE DIRECTOR

NIKKI R. HALEY  
GOVERNOR

June 26, 2014

Ms. Ruth Famini, Director of National Resettlement Programs  
World Relief  
7 E. Baltimore St.  
Baltimore, MD 21202

Re: Refugee Reception and Placement - Spartanburg SC

Dear Ms. Famini,

As the South Carolina State Refugee Coordinator, I am writing to support the new Refugee Reception and Placement Program in Spartanburg, SC, through World Relief.

The SC State Refugee Resettlement Program is committed to help coordinate needed services and resources for refugees that resettle in Spartanburg through World Relief. We pledge our support to the Reception and Placement staff in Spartanburg as they resettle sixty (60) refugees during FY15, and continued support with any additional refugees in subsequent years.

This letter of support also reflects the organizational commitment from the South Carolina Department of Social Services to this program for services and/or benefits available to refugees through our agency.

We look forward to working with World Relief and supporting the new refugee community in Spartanburg, SC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Dorothy A. Addison'.

Dorothy A. Addison  
South Carolina State Refugee Coordinator