

Cities are standing #WithRefugees

Is yours?

JOIN US



Please consider signing the Cities #WithRefugees solidarity statement. Launched in advance of World Refugee Day (June 20) in 2018, the Cities #WithRefugees initiative has brought together more than 125 cities in 41 countries in a call for more local authorities and municipalities to join them in welcoming and including refugees in their communities. Cities can continue to sign onto the document [here](#) to send a strong message of global grass roots solidarity for families forced to flee.

Cities #WithRefugees Statement

We, mayors and local authorities from around the world, stand #WithRefugees. The role of towns, cities, counties and provinces in creating inclusive communities and promoting hope has never been as important.

Today, over 25 million people worldwide are living outside their countries to escape violence and persecution. Refugees leave nearly everything behind to seek safety: their homes, their jobs, and sometimes even their families. Despite the unimaginable sacrifices refugees make to find safety, many keep their hopes and dreams for the future. Refugees' will to survive and their drive to help their families and communities prosper are not easily extinguished by adversity.

When refugees arrive to a new country, nearly two out of three settle in an urban area. As cities, we are undeniably at the forefront of refugee crises, and our communities benefit from their tenacity and courage. Welcoming refugees creates opportunities for economic, civic and social growth. The diversity of experiences and ideas refugees bring spurs creativity and innovation. For example, both Albert Einstein and Sergey Brin were refugees. Their contributions did not just change our communities; they changed the course of human history.

As cities, we are constantly working to improve our infrastructure, services, and administrative systems in order to meet governance challenges, such as incorporating large inflows of new residents. This work is critical to our shared future. As leaders, we have a responsibility to receive and include new residents with care in order for our cities to become stronger and more resilient to change. Ultimately, those among us who rise to this call for leadership will reap the benefits of societies that are the most productive, the most modern, and the most filled with promise.

As local authorities, we shoulder the enormous responsibility of providing access to housing, health care, education, skills training, and employment opportunities for newcomers and long-term residents alike. Solutions to refugee crises start at the local level and require that everyone plays a part: every city, every neighbourhood, and every individual can contribute. As leaders, we must create spaces where everyone can live in safety, become self-reliant, and contribute to and participate in their local community.

The vital work that cities do can be a model for others, forging a path forward as national governments created and adopted a Global Compact on Refugees to strengthen international crisis response. Our work as mayors and city authorities is primarily local, but when we are united in purpose with each other and our refugee residents, the impact of our solidarity will be global.

Join us and stand #WithRefugees. Together we can make a world of difference.

Alba/Provincia di Cuneo, Italy
Arica, Chile
Aix-les-Bains, France
Albury City, Australia
Altena, Germany
Amsterdam, Netherlands
Ann Arbor, MI, USA
Athens, Greece
Baku, Azerbaijan
Bankstown, Australia
Barcelona, Spain
Berbera, Somaliland/Somalia
Berlin, Germany
Bern, Switzerland
Bosaso-district, Somalia
Bradford, UK
Braga, Portugal
Brighton, UK
Bristol, UK
Brussels, Belgium
Buenos Aires City, Argentina
Byron, Australia
Cachoeirinha, Brasil
Canelones, Uruguay
Cardinia, Australia
Casino, Australia
Chicago, IL, USA
Chula Vista, CA, USA
Clarkston, GA, USA
Curridabat, Costa Rica
Dallas, TX, USA
Darebin, Australia
Desamparados, Costa Rica
Dire Dawa, Ethiopia
Douala, Cameroon
Dublin, Ireland
Duhok Governorate, Iraq
Evanston, IL, USA
Erbil, Iraq
Escazú, Costa Rica
Esteio, Brazil
Fribourg, Switzerland
Galway, Ireland
Government of the province of Salta, Argentina

Grande-Synthe, France
Greater Dandenong, Australia
Guarulhos / Sao Paulo, Brazil
Hargeisa, Somaliland
Hobart, Australia
Houston, TX, USA
Hull, UK
Jackson, WY, USA
Kabul, Afghanistan
Kalumbila town Council, Zambia
Kampala, Uganda
Kortrijk, Belgium
Lahore, Pakistan
Lane Cove, Australia
Lausanne, Switzerland
Leicester, UK
Livadia, Greece
Ljubljana, Slovenia
London, UK
Los Angeles, CA, USA
Madison, WI, USA
Madrid, Spain
Manchester, UK
Marrakech, Morocco
Matosinhos, Portugal
Medenine, Tunisia
Melbourne, Australia
Metropolis, IL, USA
Mexico City, Mexico
Milan, Italy
Mocoa/Putumayo, Colombia
Mogadishu, Somalia
Montes de Oca, Costa Rica
Montevideo, Uruguay
Montgomery County, MD, USA
Naintre, France
Namur, Belgium
New York, NY, USA
Niamey, Niger
Nicosia, Cyprus
Niederanven, Luxemburg
Palermo, Italy
Paris, France
Paterson, NJ, USA
Pessat-Villeneuve, France

Philadelphia, PA, USA
Providence, RI, USA
Puerto Asís, Putumayo, Colombia
Queanbeyan, Australia
Quito, Ecuador
Randwick, Australia
Rochester, NY, USA
Ryde, Australia
Salt Lake City, UT, USA
Saltillo, Mexico
São Paulo, Brazil
San Fernando, La Union, Philippines
San Jose del Monte, Bulacan, Philippines
San Luis Province, Argentina
Saskatoon, Canada
Santa Maria, Bulacan, Philippines
Sauverny, France
Schuttrange, Luxemburg
Sergy (Ain), France
Sfax, Tunisia
Sheffield, UK
South Orange, NJ, USA
St. Louis, MO, USA
St. Paul, MN, USA
Strasbourg, France
Sydney, Australia
Symi, Greece
Tbilisi, Georgia
Torino, Italy
Toronto, Canada
Union City, CA, USA
Valencia, Spain
Victoria, Canada
Vienna, Austria
Vigan City, Philippines
Villa Alemana, Chile
Warsaw, Poland
Whittlesea, Australia
Wiltz, Luxembourg
Winooski, VT, USA
Quilicura / Santiago / Metropolitan Region, Chile