

Request for Council's Consideration		
<input type="checkbox"/> Included on Agenda (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon Thursday)	<input type="checkbox"/> Added Item (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon Monday)	<input type="checkbox"/> Request from the Floor
Date of Council Meeting:		
Subject: United Nations High Commission for Refugees' (UNHCR) statement of solidarity to stand with refugees		
Motion for Council to Consider: That Halifax Regional Council direct the Mayor to sign the United Nations High Commission for Refugees' (UNHCR) statement of solidarity to stand with refugees and send a letter to UNHCR confirming this action.		
Reason: Request from ISANS to sign the UNHCR statement, per attached letter.		
Outcome Sought: Mayor to sign statement (https://www.unhcr.ca/how-you-can-help/cities-with-refugees/) and confirm Regional Council's action in a letter to UNHCR.		
<i>Councillor Wayne Mason</i>	<i>District 7</i>	

July 8, 2019

Halifax Mayor's Office
1841 Argyle St,
Halifax, NS B3J 3Y8

HALIFAX REGIONAL
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MUNICIPAL CLERK

Mayor Savage and Members of Council,

Every two seconds, one person is forcibly displaced from their home due to conflict or persecution, adding to the more than 25.9 million refugees in the world today, over half of whom are under the age of 18.

Refugees leave nearly everything behind to seek safety, and when they arrive in a new country they must rebuild their lives. The one thing they all come with are their hopes and dreams for their future.

We are grateful for the many positive initiatives that HRM has taken to welcome refugee into our community and neighbourhoods. In the spirit of continuing this support, I write to you today to ask that you consider signing United Nations High Commission for Refugees' (UNHCR) statement of solidarity to stand with refugees.

Newcomers who arrive as refugees bring opportunities. These individuals start businesses; contribute to our local economy; volunteer in our communities; and share their cultures with us. As Immigration Minister, Ahmed Hussen said recently, refugees are people who have assets to contribute, who have talents and skills that we need in Canada. Their voices and perspectives help foster a more resilient and tolerant city. They help us build a community where all can belong and grow.

By signing the statement, we would be committing as a municipality to further promote inclusion, and publicly reaffirm our support of refugees in our community. As a municipality, we would be stating that refugees who settle here are given the opportunity to build a future.

Thank you for considering this request and I hope that HRM will join other municipalities in this opportunity of setting an example of inclusion for cities around the world to follow.

Sincerely,

Original Signed

Jennifer Watts
CEO

MUNICIPAL CLERK'S OFFICE

Date Distributed: *Jul-08-19*

Mayor, Councillors, CAO,
Solicitor, Communications
Public Affairs, Gov. Relations

Other

*Tracey Jones-Grant
Cathie Mullally*