



January 31, 2025

**Re: ECAR Urges Reinstatement of USRAP**

**Greensboro, NC - [Every Campus A Refuge \(ECAR\)](#) urges the Trump-Vance administration to rescind its [Executive Order](#) which indefinitely suspends our nation's long-standing Refugee Admissions Program USRAP.**

In place since 1980, when the [Refugee Act](#) was passed, USRAP represents the best of America's traditional values – especially that of giving shelter to those seeking refuge from war, persecution, and conflict. The majority of Americans are descendants – some more recent, some many generations back – of ancestors who came here fleeing religious persecution or were forcibly brought to this country from other lands.

Welcoming the stranger is not only a belief many faith traditions practiced in our great nation share; our longstanding tradition of welcoming the stranger is also what makes us strong. At Every Campus A Refuge, we see firsthand the incredible value refugees bring to our towns, cities, and states.

Every Campus A Refuge, which mobilizes colleges and universities to support refugee families, has allowed hundreds of our local students to do hands-on work with refugees. At ECAR, we have seen the ways in which our students are transformed by their experiences, learning important lessons that globalize their perspectives, hone their communication and intercultural skills, and prepare them for their professional journeys. Numbers and statistics became personal stories with deep human impact. Students went from simply understanding and learning about the refugee experience to caring about their fellow humans and feeling empathy for the struggles, challenges, and triumphs. Working with refugees in this way allows our students to enter the workplace prepared to confidently and effectively engage our multifaceted American landscape.

As one student said: “As a future health care professional, the opportunity to provide direct support to refugee families as they navigated our health care system gave me incredible insight into our medical processes. I learned so much that I can apply to my career and future.”

And as one professor shared: “A nursing student who served as a healthcare navigator for newly arrived refugees told me that the experience was transformational. She said that not only would she be better able to understand the challenges that refugees face, but this experience will make her a more effective nurse for any patients that come from different cultural backgrounds.”

(1)





A [2024 poll conducted](#) by Data for Progress, the Refugee Advocacy Lab, and Refugees International found that over two-thirds of U.S. citizens believe our country must have a refugee resettlement program. The new data supports an earlier poll conducted by the same organizations in 2022. That study found 77% of Republicans, 93% of Democrats, and 89% of Independents support refugee resettlement when they personally know someone who is or was a refugee. With such strong bipartisan support there is a clear mandate to continue and strengthen refugee resettlement systems.

As a nation of strangers brought together in peace and unity under the banner of this great country, we want to make sure that we continue to live up to the promise of America. And as higher education institutions, we want to make sure that we continue to prepare our youth to understand and appreciate America's multifaceted and crucial diversity. Our Refugee Admissions Program is crucial to these endeavors, and Every Campus A Refuge asks that it be reinstated immediately.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Diya Abdo', written over a horizontal line.

Diya Abdo, Ph.D  
Founder and Director  
Every Campus A Refuge

(2)

