



## **Seattle Human Rights Commission**

1963 – 2015 • *51 years of championing human rights and fostering a just world*

Governor Jay Inslee  
Office of the Governor  
PO Box 40002  
Olympia, WA 98504

December 7th, 2015

Dear Governor Inslee,

We write to thank you for your unwavering support for Syrian refugees and for welcoming refugees to our state. We are deeply concerned about the humanitarian emergency in Syria and the refugees who are fleeing violence. There are now over four million refugees who have fled Syria due to violence, but the United States has accepted only about 2,100<sup>1</sup>.

The City of Seattle was declared a Human Rights City on December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012, committing itself to protect, respect and fulfill the full range of inherent human rights for all as set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and numerous other international human rights treaties. We are proud that our city and state uphold this commitment to human rights in our welcoming position toward refugees.

Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights protects everyone's rights to "life, liberty and security of person." Article 14 states that "Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution."<sup>2</sup> By encouraging refugee resettlement, Washington State will be promoting human rights and saving the lives of Syrian refugees whose homes and livelihoods have been destroyed in the conflict.

The Seattle Human Rights Commission applauds your work and urges you to continue to support the resettlement of refugees in our state.

Thank you for your commitment to human rights,

Handwritten signature of Sarah Bishop in black ink.

Sarah Bishop, Co-Chair

Handwritten signature of Alex Becker in black ink.

Alex Becker, Co-Chair

Handwritten signature of Margaret Babayan in black ink.

Margaret Babayan, Co-Chair

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<sup>1</sup><http://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2015/nov/19/syrian-refugees-in-america-fact-from-fiction-congress>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>