PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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World Refugee Day Rally and Celebration

Each year on World Refugee Day people around the globe gather to honor the spirit and courage of millions of refugees worldwide. In Colorado we will pause to recognize the valuable contributions refugees make to our state, the talents they bring and celebrate the partnerships that make our state a welcoming place for newcomers.

"Colorado values hard-working families. Refugees embody the attributes of resiliency and strength, and these qualities lead them to be diligent workers for local employers, savvy entrepreneurs building small businesses to meet community needs, and grateful students seeking opportunity through education,” says State Refugee Coordinator, Kit Taintor. “Colorado World Refugee Day is a celebration of the shared values of refugee newcomers and Coloradans and a recognition of how they help make Colorado a great place to live and a great place to do business.”

"World Refugee Day is an opportunity to celebrate the contributions our refugee neighbors make on a daily basis in Colorado. These newcomers share their culture in opening new restaurants, offer skills and expertise to keep Colorado's workforce strong, and share dreams for their children's future to grow and thrive in a safe environment,” said Melissa Theesen, ECDC African Community Center Managing Director. "It's also a time to reflect on our commitment as a state to continue welcoming those fleeing persecution and providing a supportive community where everyone can build safe, sustainable lives without fear of the future.”

Refugees have fled political persecution, ethnic hatred and religious intolerance to make a new life for themselves here in the United States. Please join us on the west steps of the State Capitol on June 20, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for music, poetry and stories from our refugee community. Governor Hickenlooper will also read a proclamation for World Refugee Day Colorado and celebrate with us. We will be joined by local leaders, elected officials and advocates for a welcoming Colorado.
Event co-hosted by: Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountain Refugee & Asylee Program, ECDC African Community Center of Denver, International Rescue Committee in Denver, and Colorado Refugee Services Program

See attached flyer.

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