

Resolution to Create a Working Group for Library Services to Refugees and Displaced Persons

Whereas REFORMA has created the Children in Crisis Project (refugeechildren.wixsite.com) to address the literacy needs of Unaccompanied Refugee Children fleeing violence in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador,

Whereas Council voted to support these efforts and encourage this work at our Annual Meeting in San Francisco with 2015-2016 ALA CD#38_Revised-2_62915_act

Whereas the International Board on Books for Young People has issued a “Call to action for Refugee Children” at its World Congress in Auckland, New Zealand and

Whereas libraries across America such as Salt Lake City, Santa Ana, Albany, and San Diego are doing groundbreaking work providing service to refugees and displaced persons,

Whereas this issue goes to the core of our values as a profession and offers an opportunity to use our skills in direct service to persons who are displaced

Whereas over 324,000 refugees have arrived in the United States between 2011 and 2015,¹ with most refugees arriving from the Middle East and Africa,²

Therefore let it be:

Resolved that:

1. The Executive Board of the American Library Association (ALA) will appoint a Working Group to research advocate, and do outreach to promote library services to refugees, displaced persons, and persons held in border detention facilities;
2. The working group will contain no less than one representative of COL, AASL, ACRL, ALSC, PLA, IRC, IRRIT, REFORMA [Library Services to the Incarcerated and Detained Working Group](#), as well as two members of Council, and two interns, one a recent professional and the other a library school student;
3. REFORMA shall remain the lead agency on the Children in Crisis Project and will continue, expand, and deepen the important work they have done in this area;
4. The Chair of this Working Group will report to membership and Council at both MW and Annual, the group shall be in effect for no less than three years;
5. The Working Group shall research, inventory, compile, and publish best practice toolkits and resources for **providing library service** to refugee populations across the country and around the world;

¹ Department of Homeland Security, *Yearbook of Immigration Statistics*, 2015.

<https://www.dhs.gov/immigration-statistics/yearbook>

² Department of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, *Summary of Refugee Admissions as of December 31, 2015*. <https://www.state.gov/j/prm/releases/statistics/251285.htm>

6. The Working Group will attempt to engage any and all contacts and partnerships in provision of these services, including reaching out to NGOs, foreign consulates, government agencies, corporations, and individuals who could be of assistance in this effort;
7. These results shall be reported on immediately, with a first report at the Association meeting after the establishment of the Working Group;
8. The Working Group will make special efforts to reach children and youth in these circumstances in order to offer comfort and education during difficult times of transition.

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