



World Refugee Day 20 June 2020

photo credit: Afghanistan Pashtunistan, Flickr

This international observance honors the courage, strength and determination of women, men and children who are forced to flee their homeland under threat of persecution, conflict and violence.

The Mortenson Center for International Library Programs and the American Library Association (ALA) invite libraries to commemorate World Refugee Day 2020 and affirm:

We are the United States*, welcoming people born here or afar.
We are neighbors, diverse cultures, connected in common humanity.
We are libraries**, welcoming all - people, ideas and knowledge.
We strengthen our communities from the most vulnerable to the most affluent.

Note: We invite other organizations to use this statement, replacing the * with their own location, and the ** with their own organization type/name.

See ideas and resources at:

- Project Welcome: <https://publish.illinois.edu/projectwelcome/world-refugee-day/2020-2/>
- ALA World Refugee Day: <http://www.ala.org/aboutala/world-refugee-day>.

Support/Celebrate #WithRefugees

- Learn ways to uphold and strengthen our commitment to welcome and protect those seeking freedom, safety and refuge in the world.
- Participate in UNHCR's #stepwithrefugees global challenge <http://www.unhcr.org/refugeeday/us/>
- Host a Watch OR Listen Party

To connect safely during the COVID-19 pandemic, we encourage virtual activities to support and celebrate refugees.

libraries #WithRefugees

Co-Sponsors:



ALA Services to Refugees, Immigrants, and Displaced Persons (SRIDP) Sub-Committee

Webinar: From Refugee to Librarian: In our own words

Date/Time: June 18th, 12-1 pm CST

Moderator: Clara M. Chu, Director, Mortenson Center for International Library Programs, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Library

Abstract:

As librarians we have worked to create welcoming spaces and services for refugees. We have learned about them in order to support their resettlement and integration. The refugee stories we read about come from the communities we serve. How about the refugee stories that come from our own professional and academic community? In this webinar, we give voice to refugees who have become librarians or library educators. They will share their journey from persecution to resettlement to professional career, giving the listener a glimpse into their experiences of struggle, resilience, hope and belonging.

Registration: https://ala-events.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_GfxBtMCtT-aD7HI1-5f0bA

Panelists:



Constantia Constantinou
H. Carton Rogers III Vice Provost and Director, Penn Libraries



Touger Vang
Director, Montgomery Community College Library