



**COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION**  
**HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

**Recommendation Number: 20151123-5a: Policies to Support Syrian Refugees**

WHEREAS, the Austin Human Rights Commission advocates on behalf of human rights for all people in Austin; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin has always been a welcoming place for all people; and

WHEREAS, the right of refugees to seek asylum in the United States has been guaranteed by the laws of the United States, the American Declaration on Human Rights and, most recently, by the Inter-American Convention Against Terrorism, the last of which provides that signatories' anti-terrorism measures may not compromise their observance of international refugee law and human rights; and

WHEREAS, the United States is a signatory to the Inter-American Convention Against Terrorism; and

WHEREAS, recent events around the world have left many individuals seeking asylum as refugees, particularly from Syria; and

WHEREAS, recent events in Texas threaten to violate the rights of Syrian refugees who may seek to relocate in Austin; and

WHEREAS, recent events in Texas, which seek to prohibit all Syrian immigration on anti-terrorism grounds, have cast an unfair suspicion upon Syrian refugees, and, by implication, upon all Texas residents who are of Mideast origin and/or who practice the Muslim faith;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Austin Human Rights Commission encourages the Austin City Council to adopt policies to welcome all refugees seeking asylum to the City of Austin, including refugees from Syria, and to oppose and speak out against discrimination based on national origin and religious faith.

Date of Approval: November 23, 2015

Record of the vote: 6-1-1 (Commissioner Miller opposed, Chair Davis abstained, Commissioners Casas, Royall, and Yang absent)

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

*Jonathan Babiak*

Jonathan Babiak, Human Rights Commission Liaison

City of Austin Human Resources Department