

RESOLUTION 20-03.27

The Rights of Freedom of Movement, Asylum and Return for Refugees and Other Displaced Communities

WHEREAS, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is a milestone document rejecting the horrors of oppression, including the rape, torture, incarceration, murder, and assault of displaced peoples, proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly on December 10, 1948, as a common set of principles for all peoples, universally setting out fundamental human rights to strive for and achieve, including the right to freedom of movement, the right to return to a country, and the right to asylum from persecution; and

WHEREAS, Articles 13 and 14 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights state “Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state. Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.” and that “Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.”; and

WHEREAS, the suffering of displaced communities around the world must be acknowledged and ameliorated to the greatest extent possible within the limitations of existing international law and jurisprudence, such as evaluating impacts of major population shifts, time of displacement, national security risks, and the acceptance of resettlement, compensation or diplomatic solutions, and the United States and other countries have disregarded the right to asylum from a reasonable fear of persecution based on race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular group, under their laws and international law, by holding asylum seekers outside their borders or by limiting the rights of resettlement or movement of asylum seekers within their borders;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Democratic Party generally recognizes the Universal Declaration of Human Rights principles of freedom of movement, right to leave, and the right to return; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the California Democratic Party recognizes that the U.S. has denied rights to asylum seekers within its borders, and supports the aspirations of the non-binding United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights within the limitations and qualifications recognized under existing law and jurisprudence.

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