



MEDIA RELEASE

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Mayor Releases Video Commemorating World Refugee Day

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.— In recognition of World Refugee Day, Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs is releasing a video featuring three refugees who have made their homes and careers in our community.

The event, observed annually on June 20, honors the strength, courage and determination of those forced to flee their homeland under the threat of danger.

“Refugees come here to breathe the air of the greatest country on the planet as free men and women,” says Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs. “They come here to build their lives, create opportunities and experience the American Dream.”

Yassin Terou, the owner and operator of Yassin’s Falafel House agrees: “I saw the love in this country, and I saw the community. I decided I’m going to stay here and I’m going to build my life around this community.”

The video, which can be found on the Mayor’s various social media platforms, features interviews with Terou, Bridge Refugee Services Director Drocella Mugorewera and Knox County’s Chief Medical Examiner Dr. Darinka Mileusnic-Polchan. Each shares a story, speaking on the adversity they overcame to make the lives they have.

“You don’t prepare for your country to not exist anymore...you don’t prepare for your parents to be dislocated and lose everything—nobody ever prepares you for that,” explains Dr. Mileusnic-Polchan. “I have nobody to go back to.”

“Imagine going somewhere without a friend, or without a family member to rely on...I came by myself,” says Mugorewera.

Knox County has been welcoming refugees through Bridge Refugee Services since 1982.

“The people who have a good heart, like servant leaders locally, make that journey a little bit not heavy,” Mugorewera continues.

To hear more of what was said, check out the [video](#).

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