

## RESOLUTION ONE

### SUPPORTING GLOBAL REFUGE'S CAMINO A CASA

**WHEREAS** “a complex crisis of violence, gang warfare, and corruption has driven children and families to flee the Northern Triangle of Central America: El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, and seek safety and protection in the United States”;<sup>1</sup> and

**WHEREAS** “more than 600,000 immigrant children have crossed the US-Mexico border without a parent or legal guardian since 2019”;<sup>2</sup> and

**WHEREAS** “tens of thousands have been ordered deported over the same time frame, including more than 31,000 for missing immigration court hearings”;<sup>3</sup> and

**WHEREAS** deported children and young adults face severe economic, social, personal safety, and emotional challenges when returned to their home countries, making them more likely to again attempt to illegally cross into the US<sup>4</sup>; and

**WHEREAS** Global Refuge has established in Guatemala the *Camino a Casa*<sup>5</sup> program to assist repatriated youth successfully reintegrate into Guatemalan society, thereby helping break the problem of illegal border crossings; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED** that congregations in the Northwest Washington Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America be encouraged to support Global Refuge's *Camino a Casa* program through prayer and financial support.

Resolution Submitted By:

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1. Financial Impacts: There are no financial impacts on the synod budget.
2. Personnel Implications: If successful, Global Refuge resources will increase.
3. Implementation: Individual congregations will determine their level of support.
4. Church Mission: This resolution furthers the synod and ELCA's value of Dignity, Compassion, and Justice. To quote from the ELCA web site: “**Dignity, compassion and justice** - Each person is created in God's image. We respect this God-given right to dignity and, inspired by the life of Jesus, show love and compassion for all people. Through proclamation of the gospel, through worship and as servants of God working for healing and justice in the world, we uphold and seek to protect the dignity and human rights of all people.”

#### Notes:

1. <https://www.savethechildren.org/us/charity-stories/unaccompanied-minors-border-crisis#:~:text=For%20years%2C%20a%20complex%20crisis,homicide%20rates%20in%20the%20world> .
2. <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/trump-administration-directs-ice-agents-find-deport-unaccompanied-migrant-2025-02-23/>
3. <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/trump-administration-directs-ice-agents-find-deport-unaccompanied-migrant-2025-02-23/>
4. <https://www.unicef.org/lac/en/press-releases/children-returned-central-america-and-mexico-heightened-risk-violence-stigma-and>
5. <https://www.globalrefuge.org/who-we-are/where-we-work/camino-a-casa/>