



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the State of Utah was founded by Mormon pioneers seeking refuge from persecution; and

WHEREAS, disqualifying individuals from opportunity and protection based on nationality or religion is contrary to the very principles of those early pioneers; and

WHEREAS, Salt Lake County welcomes people of all faiths, beliefs and practices, regardless of national origin or ethnicity, who seek refuge from persecution and desire opportunities for a better life; and

WHEREAS, many of Salt Lake County's residents are immigrants and refugees who arrived here through extreme hardship and now strengthen and make positive contributions to our community; and

WHEREAS, individuals and families that retreat to our country to escape extreme poverty or violence in search of opportunity and a better life deserve to be treated with kindness and dignity; and

WHEREAS, the Utah Compact, signed with bipartisan support in 2010, champions values that continue to ring true today, including a respect for the rule of law and a belief that "local law enforcement resources should focus on criminal activities, not civil violations of federal code;" and

WHEREAS, Salt Lake County works cooperatively with local law enforcement and all communities to uphold the law and create welcoming environments where differences are respected and residents can find safety, common ground and shared prosperity, thus creating positive experiences for all; and

WHEREAS, Salt Lake County supports families as "the foundation of successful communities" and endorses the declaration of the Utah Compact that "we will oppose policies that unnecessarily separate families" and will "champion policies that support families and improve the health, education and well-being of all Utah children;" and

WHEREAS, Salt Lake County recognizes that many in our community are currently fearful of actions that threaten the unity of their families and deny refuge for those who are being persecuted and oppressed abroad; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ben McAdams, Mayor of Salt Lake County, Utah proclaim on this day, January 27, 2017 that Salt Lake County will continue to recognize the plight of immigrants and international refugees, model the principles of inclusion and welcome people fleeing oppression and life-threatening conditions, along with their children, as our moral, compassionate response to humanitarian crises.

Adopted on this 27th day of January 2017.




Ben McAdams
Salt Lake County Mayor

This proclamation was read to an audience by Salt Lake County Mayor Ben McAdams on January 27, 2017 following a screening of HBO's "Cries from Syria," a documentary that chronicles the humanitarian crisis created by the devastating six-year civil war in Syria.

The documentary by Evgeny Afineevsky will be available to the public on HBO on March 13, 2017.