

ALA Committee Report Form

TO: ALA Council

DATE: 06/07/2022

RE: *(select one)*

ACTION REQUESTED

INFORMATION

REPORT

ACTION REQUESTED/INFORMATION/REPORT: *(add below)*

Action requested from Councilors is to cast their vote to:

- 1) Approve a 2022 update to [the Resolution in Support of Immigrant Rights](#) (Appendix 1)

ACTION REQUESTED BY: ALA Office of Diversity, Literacy, and Outreach Services (ODLOS) Advisory Committee (on behalf of the Serving Refugees, Immigrants, and Displaced Persons Subcommittee (SRIDP))

CONTACT PERSON:

Jennifer Shimada, jennfier.shimada@gmail.com (ODLOS Advisory Chair)

Anna Kozlowska-Barrios, akozlows@uic.edu (SRIDP Chair)

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Kevin Strowder, kstrowder@ala.org (ODLOS Advisory Committee)

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BACKGROUND: This is an update of the 2007 Resolution in Support of Immigrant Rights: <https://alair.ala.org/handle/11213/899> (Appendix 2)

2022 Resolution in Support of Immigrant Rights

WHEREAS, immigrants and refugees are a strong, contributing, and vital part of the social fabric of the United States, equal in worth, dignity, and freedom to participate in all aspects of society, and deserving of a range of integration and settlement support.

WHEREAS, the library community opposes all attempts at the local, state, and federal levels to inhibit immigrants' and refugees' access to information, as expressed by the 2007 ALA Resolution on Immigrants Rights which condemns all legal infringements on the rights of anyone in the United States or its territories, regardless of birth country or citizenship status;

WHEREAS, anti-immigrant rhetoric has been an information problem throughout our nation's history; it culminates in the types of threats that run counter to the ALA Library Bill of Rights Sections B.3 on Privacy which "opposes the use by government of disinformation, media manipulation, the destruction and excision of public information, and other such tactics"

WHEREAS, recognized by the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Goals and the ALA Bill of Rights Section B3.6, librarians promote "equal access to information for all" since information access is a human right; thus, quality, unmitigated information is essential to immigrant social inclusion.

RESOLVED, That ALA advocates for the acknowledgment and protection of immigrants' and refugees' civil liberties through local, state, and national legal means, library social programming and outreach, and community leadership;

RESOLVED, That ALA actively petitions for the adoption of library information rights policy at the local, state, and federal levels. Further, ALA will foster library partnerships with the neighborhood, regional, and national immigrant advocacy groups to directly combat anti-immigration sentiment and measures.

RESOLVED, That ALA promotes training, awareness, and capacity-building for a renewed focus on outreach to immigrant communities and immigrant inclusion in collection building, staffing, professional development, and the consideration and development of other library and information services. Further, ALA will take strategic action to understand and incorporate immigrant perspectives and needs in all policy objectives listed in the ALA Library Bill of Rights and ALA Code of Ethics.

RESOLVED, That ALA encourages all librarians to commit to strengthening immigrant and refugee communities by confronting the use of information tools that target, surveil, and exclude immigrants, and by defending immigrants' right to pursue pathways to informed citizenship.

Proposed by the Serving Refugees, Immigrants, and Displaced Persons Sub-Committee of the ALA Office of Diversity, Literacy, and Outreach Services (ODLOS) Advisory Committee, June 2022

Resolution in Support of Immigrant Rights

WHEREAS, America's immigrants are a strong and valuable part of the social fabric of this nation; and

WHEREAS, The *ALA Library Bill of Rights* states that the person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views; and

WHEREAS, The library community opposes all attempts at the local, state and federal level to restrict access to information by immigrants; and

WHEREAS, Restriction of access is a direct violation of the *ALA Library Bill of Rights* and Policy #60, Diversity, which states that "The American Library Association (ALA) promotes equal access to information for all persons and recognizes the ongoing need to increase awareness of and responsiveness to the diversity of the communities we serve"; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That ALA strongly supports the protection of each person's civil liberties, regardless of that individual's nationality, residency, or status; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That ALA opposes any legislation that infringes on the rights of anyone in the USA or its territories, citizens or otherwise, to use library resources, programs, and services on national, state, and local levels."

Adopted by the American Library Association Council
Wednesday, January 24, 2007
Seattle, Washington