

Resolution for Healing and Reconciliation Support for Iraqi Refugees

WHEREAS, the people of Iraq have suffered immensely from warfare and social disintegration since March 2003; and, nearly 2 million Iraqi refugees now reside in Jordan with another 1 million Iraqi refugees in Syria; and, it is currently unsafe for these Iraqis to return home because of continuous violence; and, these Iraqi refugees would benefit from economic support, emotional healing, and learning peaceful conflict resolution skills; and

WHEREAS, the United State government needs creative solutions to proactively and peacefully rebuild the damaged Iraqi civil society; and currently existing non-governmental organizations (NGOs)(1) have effective techniques for healing emotional trauma and teaching peaceful conflict resolution skills; and proactive provision of these services strengthens Iraqi refugees' resources for achieving the reconciliation necessary for civil society and democracy to flourish in Iraq; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that our Washington State Congressional delegation and the Democratic National Committee shall write and promote legislation directing the U.S. Department of State, along with the U.S. Institute for Peace, to assist qualified NGOs to provide basic economic support, post-traumatic emotional healing, and training in peaceful conflict resolution skills for key influential Iraqi men and women(2) residing in Jordan and Syria and in other countries; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such legislation shall direct the U.S. Department of State, with the U.S. Institute for Peace, to:

- (1) immediately contact NGO's that may be qualified to provide such services and request information on their willingness and capacity to participate;
- (2) request proposals for provision of services from qualified NGO's to meet the needs of Iraqi refugees;
- (3) provide specific grants to match the capacities of qualified participating NGO's to provide services for as many Iraqi refugees as possible;
- (4) provide logistical support (visas, etc.) as requested by participating NGO's to accelerate the provision of these services

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution shall be sent to our WA State Congressional Delegation and the Democratic National Committee requesting immediate action on this resolution.

1 **References and additional information**

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- (1) Examples of NGO's with experience in healing and reconciliation and training for peaceful conflict resolution include the Center for Nonviolent Communication, the Compassionate Listening Project, Eastern Mennonite University, and the Carter Center.
- (2) Key influential Iraqi men and women would include university professors, medical personnel, business, government, and other societal leaders.

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Submitted to the Washington State Progressive Caucus by Rena Patty, San Juan County State Committeewoman, Jan. 24, 2007.

Tabled January 24, 2007 because it was not submitted on time electronically to WSDCC.

Submitted to the Washington State Progressive Caucus by Rena Patty, San Juan County State Committeewoman, April 28, 2007.

The Washington State Democrats Progressive Caucus "PASSED" this resolution at its April 28, 2007 meeting in Bellingham.

Submitted by the Progressive Caucus to the Washington State Democratic Central Committee for consideration at its April 28, 2007 meeting in Bellingham. (Date Submitted 4/28/2007)

The WSDCC Resolutions Committee "RECOMMENDED A PASS" on this resolution at its April 28, 2007 meeting in Bellingham.

The WSDCC "PASSED" this resolution at its April 28, 2007 meeting in Bellingham.