

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Standing up with Refugee Women and Girls on World Refugee Day**

SAN FRANCISCO, USA – Asylum Access, with partners around the country and fellow Refugee Council USA member organizations, support the Congressional Resolution introduced by Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and brought forward by twenty women Senators of the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress this World Refugee Day. If passed, the resolution would highlight the plight and great potential of refugee women and girls around the world. The resolution calls for greater attention to the protection needs of refugee women and girls, highlighting the support the U.S. government provides and the need for greater efforts to promote durable solutions.

Every day thousands of refugees cross international borders fleeing conflict, most of them women and children. Among refugees, women and girls are particularly vulnerable and face heightened risks of sexual and gender based violence, forced or early marriage and other rights violations. Without access to safe livelihoods opportunities and other fundamental rights, they remain disempowered to make meaningful choices about their future.

Despite the risks and the challenges they face every day, refugee women and girls are courageously working to build a better life for themselves and their families. Passage of this resolution is one eloquent way to pay tribute to refugee women and girls abroad and to celebrate the great efforts made by millions of refugee women resettled in the U.S. From the day of their arrival, these women work to integrate into their communities and ensure their families have a successful future in this country.

Thivya is one of these refugee women. A Sri Lankan refugee who was just a child when she fled to Thailand with her family, she arrived in Sunnyvale, California last year. Today, Thivya has a job and is studying for her GED. She dreams of attending college and being reunited with her father and brother one day.

More stories available in Refugee Council USA's *Refugee Women Stories: 20 women senators, 20 stories*:  
[http://www.rcusa.org/uploads/pdfs/WRD%20PPT\\_FINALv2.pdf](http://www.rcusa.org/uploads/pdfs/WRD%20PPT_FINALv2.pdf)

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## About Asylum Access

Asylum Access is an international human rights nonprofit founded to make refugee rights a reality in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Our innovative model gives refugees the tools to rebuild their lives with dignity through four integrated tools: individualized legal counsel and/or representation, community legal empowerment, policy advocacy and strategic litigation. Please visit [www.asylumaccess.org](http://www.asylumaccess.org) for more information.

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