

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;

WHEREAS the United States government needs creative solutions to proactively and peacefully rebuild the damaged Iraqi civil society; and currently existing non-governmental organizations (NGO's)* 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;

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that our WA State Congressional delegation shall write and promote legislation directing the U.S. Department of State, along with the U.S. Institute for Peace, to assist qualified NGO's to provide basic economic support, post-traumatic emotional healing, and training in peaceful conflict resolution skills for key influential Iraqi men and women** residing in Jordan and Syria and in other countries;

AND BE IT HEREBY 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.

AND BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution shall be sent to our WA State Congressional Delegation requesting immediate action on this resolution.

*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.

**Key influential Iraqi men and women would include university professors, medical personnel, business, government, and other societal leaders.