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DCRALLY4REFUGEES APPLAUDS DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY EXPANSION OF INITIATIVES PROTECTING MINORS AND ADULTS FLEEING EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA AND HONDURAS

July 28, 2016 (Washington, DC)—DCRally4Refugees applauds the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) [expansion of initiatives](#) to protect minors and adults fleeing violence and persecution in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.

Statement by Kathy Hertz, founder and executive director of DCRally4Refugees:

The alarming increase in violence, persecution and unrest in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras has forced many to flee their homes and seek safety in nearby countries. Unfortunately, too many people have been denied safety in neighboring countries due to a lack of access to protection and regional processing. While there is still much work to be done, DCRally4Refugees applauds the special coordination arrangement between UNHCR, IOM, the Government of Costa Rica and the United States. It will provide much needed expanded protection and legal avenues to asylum for those who need it most.

DCRally4Refugees is encouraged by the expansion of the Central American Minors Affidavit of Relationship program, which provides children in these countries with the opportunity to reunite with a parent who is lawfully present in the United States.

About DCRally4Refugees

In the midst of the greatest refugee crisis since WWII, with 65 million refugees and displaced persons worldwide, advocates from across the United States will gather at DCRally4Refugees, August 28, 2016 at the outdoor Sylvan Theater at the Washington Monument on the National Mall in Washington, DC, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm (rain or shine). The rally will raise awareness about the magnitude of the global refugee crisis, encourage advocacy and U.S. action to alleviate suffering through relief efforts and support, and stand in solidarity with refugees and displaced people worldwide. Anyone is encouraged to join the #SeaOfOrange, [buy a T-shirt](#), attend the historic rally and use #DCRally4Refugees to show support. Learn the facts, get involved, support, [donate](#), and join DCRally4Refugees at www.DCRally4Refugees.org.

- **Media Advisory:** bit.ly/MediaAdvisoryDCRally4Refugees

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