



KCIRC | KING COUNTY IMMIGRANT
AND REFUGEE COMMISSION

COMMISSION

KCIRC

2023 Annual Report

PREPARED BY:

KCIRC Staffers and Commissioners



King County

CONTENTS

01 Table of Contents

OUR MISSION	02
OUR VISION	03
2023 BOARD PROFILE	04
2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS	05
2023 STATEMENTS	06
LOOKING FORWARD	07
KCIRC APPLICATION	08

OUR MISSION

02 Our Mission



The Commission will focus on understanding and addressing challenges facing immigrants and refugees within the diverse communities that make up King County. The Commission will work as a hub and central connecting place for building direct relationships with and supporting the vision for social justice for immigrant and refugee communities in King County. The Commission will enhance the integration of refugees and immigrants culturally, economically, and civically, in order to strengthen the communities where they live and will support refugees and immigrants to thrive and succeed while maintaining their own identities.

"The focus of KCIRC is to connect with and hear from members of the immigrant and refugee communities who are impacted by the issues." - KCIRC Guiding Principles

OUR VISION

03 Our Vision



Our vision is for King County to be a place where everyone has equitable access to opportunities. To achieve this vision, the King County Immigrant and Refugee Commission (KCIRC) plays a significant role in engaging immigrant and refugee communities to establish long-lasting trust-based relationships with County offices and programs. KCIRC shall strive to leverage existing programs and funding, and advocate for increased, dedicated resources necessary for immigrant refugee communities to thrive.

"KCIRC commits to using equity, racial justice, and social justice as a framework in all of our work, our relationships, our processes, and our model." - KCIRC Guiding Principles

04 2023 Board Profile

Member

Zahra Mohamed
Carlos Michel
Mario Banuelos
Sergio Razo
Yared Yimer
Praveena Thammireddy
Kia McGlore
Mohamed Bakr
Lalita Uppala
Bilan Aden

District

District 8
District 9
District 2
District 3
District 7
District 4
District 7
District 6
District 9
District 8

Staffers

Daud Ali
Cheryse Ishii
Dae Shogren
Tera Chea

Agency

Executive's Office
Executive's Office
King County Council
King County Council

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

05

2023

Accomplishments

- The KCIRC held 11 meetings throughout King County and increased public access and participation through a hybrid meeting format.
- The KCIRC facilitated Meet & Greets with Executive Leadership and Councilmembers to foster stronger relationships and gain insight into priorities for the County as a whole and each legislative district.
- The KCIRC provided input on a revised executive order prohibiting immigration deportations at the King County International Airport (KCIA). The order also directed the County to track and document the use of KCIA by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).
- The KCIRC drafted a letter in support of the Executive's response regarding deportations at KCIA. The letter advocated for additional resources, such as language assistance and legal services, for impacted immigrants and families.
- The KCIRC initiated engagements with the Executive's Office to ensure the needs of the County's immigrant and refugee community are prioritized in the updated Strategic Plan for Equity, Racial, and Social Justice (ERSJ-SP).
- The KCIRC proposed recommendations to increase awareness and optimize outreach and engagement strategies for King County's Harborview Bond Program.
- The KCIRC offered guidance on the Stop Hate Hotline, a proposed 24-hour online portal and staffed phone line, which aims to make it easier for victims to report hate crimes without needing to contact law enforcement.
- The KCIRC advocated for more resources in support of asylum seekers living in and around Riverton Park United Methodist Church in Tukwila. King County Council approved \$3M in funding to temporarily house residents at the church at a nearby hotel in SeaTac.

STATEMENTS

06 2023 Statements

KING COUNTY IMMIGRANT & REFUGEE COMMISSION

May 01, 2023

VIA EMAIL (kcexec@kingcounty.gov, mpadillaocampo@kingcounty.gov,
Anita.Whitfield@kingcounty.gov, snegusse@kingcounty.gov, Karan.Gill@kingcounty.gov)

RE: King County's Response at King County International Airport (KCIA)

Dear King County Executive Constantine and Executive Staff:

The King County Immigrant and Refugee Commission would first like to extend our deep gratitude to the King County Executive's office for the County Executive's response towards the decision taken by ICE to establish presence once again at King County International Airport (KCIA).

King County is a welcoming community and ensures its residents' rights are protected and respected. As an Immigrant and Refugee Commission, we are extremely concerned about the impact of an unfriendly and fearful presence at KCIA and urge the County Executive's office to consider providing additional support and protect members of immigrant refugee communities at KCIA including providing additional resources to those impacted including:

- providing language assistance support during detainment and by providing legal services or support to families who are impacted by deportation
- continuing to partner with King County Immigrant and Refugee Commission, impacted communities and service providers including community and faith based organizations and UW Center for Human Rights

We are very grateful for the offer from the County Executive's office to meet with members of the KCIRC on Wednesday, May 3rd at 2 pm. We as a Commission believe that King County should have a clear and vocal position in this situation. We are grateful to the Executive's office for being transparent throughout this process and for your continued partnership.

Again, we thank you for your leadership in these times and are at your disposal to discuss how we can work more closely together to meet the needs of our region.

Respectfully,

Bilan Aden and Lalita Uppala

King County Immigrant and Refugee Commission

07

2024

Looking Forward

- The KCIRC commits to sustained engagement and thought partnership with the Executive's Office, King County Council, and community.
- The KCIRC commits to developing an Annual Work Plan that builds on community strengths, voices, priorities, and experiences;
- The KCIRC commits to sharing power and resources in order to break systems of oppression, heal continuing wounds, and realize justice.
- The KCIRC commits prioritizing racial equity, inclusiveness, and transparency.
- The KCIRC commits to improving onboarding processes and member resources to streamline operations and maximize the Commission's potential and impact.



08

2024

KCIRC Application

KING COUNTY IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE COMMISSION

BECOME A COMMISSIONER

We are seeking residents interested in serving on the King County Immigrant and Refugee Commission (KCIRC). KCIRC serves all King County residents and acts as an advisory body to the executive and legislative branches of King County government. Commissioners serve on a volunteer basis and work together to identify, elevate, and develop shared strategies and solutions to address the most pressing issues affecting immigrant and refugee communities.

Questions? Email us at kcirc@kingcounty.gov.

APPLY NOW!