



Human Relations Commission

Honorable Mayor Todd Gloria
City Administration Building
202 C Street, 11th Floor.
San Diego, CA 92101

April 5, 2022

Dear Mayor Gloria,

We write to you regarding the crisis and uncertainty in Ukraine. As you know, the City of San Diego's Human Relations Commission (HRC) serves to protect basic human and civil rights. Since the City of San Diego has expressed support for the people of Ukraine, please know that the HRC stands ready and able to assist the city and its efforts with the Ukrainian crisis, including preparing to respond to the needs of vulnerable Ukrainian refugee communities arriving in San Diego.

San Diego has always been a very welcoming city to refugee communities and displaced people. The City's initiative, Welcoming San Diego, is designed to advance the civic, social, and economic status of immigrants and refugees. As a City and a Human Relations Commission, we can support the people of Ukraine by working in close contact with government leaders and international humanitarian organizations that serve refugees and internally displaced persons to ensure Ukrainian refugees arriving in and/or coming to San Diego find our city as the welcoming place we know it to be. It is essential that San Diego prepare for the refugees to have adequate affordable housing, stable employment, and education, health, and safety support. The City of San Diego's HRC envisions a vibrant, inclusive, and safe region with sufficient resources in place so that Ukrainian refugees will not only be welcomed into San Diego but will be able to succeed and thrive in our city.

Please let our Commission know how and when we may be able to assist the city and its efforts with the Ukrainian crisis, including preparing to respond to the needs of vulnerable Ukrainian refugee communities arriving in San Diego. We also request that you please inform the HRC regarding essential preparations being done by the city to welcome and support the Ukrainian refugees.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Kristin Rizzo'.

Kristin Rizzo, Esq.
Chair, San Diego Human Relations Commission

cc: Jay Goldstone, Chief Operating Officer
Paola Avila, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
Chida Warren-Darby, Director of Office of Boards & Commissions

cc: Matt Yagyagan, Deputy Director of Policy, Mayor's Office
Members of the City Council
Members of San Diego Human Relations Commission