



For Planning Purposes
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**THE AMERICAN PLACE AT HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY
CO-SPONSORS WORLD REFUGEE DAY AT CONNECTICUT'S OLD STATE HOUSE**

HPL's The American Place and the Dodd Human Rights Impact Project Honor World Refugee Day

(Hartford, CT) – **Join us at Connecticut's Old State House, 800 Main St., on June 20th from 4:30-7:00 p.m. to celebrate World Refugee Day.** Hartford Public Library's The American Place is co-sponsoring World Refugee Day in collaboration with the CT Old State House and the Dodd Global Impact project of the Gladstein Human Rights Institute at the University of Connecticut.

The American Place (TAP) is a division of Hartford Public Library (HPL), established in 2000. TAP provides industry recognized certificate training, GED preparation services, English as a second language, and a nationally recognized U.S. Citizenship program, supporting immigrants in achieving citizenship and becoming vested citizens. TAP's learning environment reflects Hartford's shared civic values, rich history, and vibrant multiculturalism. The Dodd Human Rights Impact fosters a culture of human rights at UConn, and around the world through outreach and engagement. They develop and support programs and initiatives that seek to directly impact communities by helping them meet their human rights challenges.

World Refugee Day will feature a panel of refugees who live within our community. They will share their stories about their journey to the United States, and how they overcame the challenges of adjusting to a new culture and language in this country. The panelists consist of HPL's Lina Osho-Williams (Sierra Leone), Assistant Director of Youth Services; Fereshteh Ganjavi (Afghanistan), founder of [Elena's Light](#); Aiti Rai (Nepal), Case Manager at Integrated Refugee and Immigration Services (IRIS); and Salahuddin Adam (Sudan), a Hartford Promise scholar who recently graduated from American International College. Erna Alic (Bosnia), Program Coordinator at TAP, HPL will be the moderator. The panel presentations will be followed up by small group discussions.

Refreshments will be provided during the event by a Laila Baravi, a Syrian refugee who has formed her own catering business. The event is free and open to the public. Registration is not required, but guests may RSVP to tap@hplct.org.

About Hartford Public Library With seven locations throughout the city, the library provides education, intellectual enrichment and cultural development for thousands of children, youth and adults every year. Hartford Public Library has also gained local and national recognition for its wide range of new initiatives and partnerships designed to meet the needs of a diverse and dynamic city and region, including immigration services, employment assistance and youth leadership training. www.hplct.org.

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