



On World Refugee Day, MN-Based American Refugee Committee is becoming Alight

In solidarity with refugees around the world, one Twin Cities organization is changing its name on World Refugee Day, to reflect the human side of the crisis

Contacts: Carly Lunden, Alight (formerly ARC) – (612) 874-5464 – CarlyL@WeAreAlight.org

Chris Kindler, Alight (formerly ARC) – (651)-428-5955 – ChrisK@WeAreAlight.org

Interviews available Thursday, June 20th, Friday, June 21st: Daniel Wordsworth, Chief Executive Officer, Alight

Minneapolis, MN (June 20th, 2019) – This World Refugee Day, in solidarity with the people we serve around the world, American Refugee Committee will have a new name. We'll be called Alight.

Right now, the world is witnessing the highest levels of movement on record. In every hemisphere, 67 million people are on the move – that's one in every 30 humans on earth. One third of the world's refugees live in detention camps, where the average stay is 17 years. Wanting to avoid that fate, most others are left to struggle in urban slums with no real access to services or rights. Yet refugees are on a journey for a future, not escaping the present.

But here's the good news – those 67 million people are completely invested and bought in to solving this problem. And what's more, our world is much more abundant than we think. We have all the tools, brainpower, and goodwill we need to solve the problem.

On World Refugee Day, June 20th, we're dropping 'American Refugee Committee,' getting rid of an inaccurate name and instead reflecting the warmth and global reach of our organization with the name Alight. Alight believes in the incredible creativity, potential, and ingenuity of the displaced. We work to shine a light on their humanity, on the tremendous amount of good that's already happening, and the possibilities to do more, waiting to be unleashed.

"Becoming Alight is much more than a name change. One of the things we've learned in the past 40 years of doing this work, and after millions of conversations, is that 'refugee' is not a name the people we serve want. These people are abundant, full of potential, and building for their futures. They choose not to be defined by a single dark moment in their lives." – Daniel Wordsworth, Alight CEO

ALIGHT & MINNESOTA: Minnesotans have been on this journey with us since the beginning. In 1978, our founder Neal Ball mobilized volunteers who stepped up to help refugees on the Thai-Cambodian border. Since then, Minnesotans have continued to show up for others in a big way – from the Somali diaspora responding to the terrible famine in Somalia in 2012, to thousands showing their support at our annual gala in Minneapolis, to the incredible community of local volunteers, Minnesota is our home. And we'll continue on this journey, together.

ABOUT ALIGHT: Beginning June 21, 2019, American Refugee Committee will be called ALIGHT. It's the same organization, with the same people doing the same critical work – providing health care, clean water, shelter, protection and economic opportunities to more than 3.5 million people in 17 countries each year. In solidarity with the people we serve who are too often defined by a single dark moment in their lives, we're dropping the label 'refugee'. ALIGHT exists to see and help every person make meaningful change in the world – from displaced and marginalized communities in Africa, Asia and the Americas to...anyone, anywhere. Learn more and watch for us becoming Alight at www.wearealight.org.

