



# State of New York

## Executive Chamber

### Proclamation

**Whereas**, our nation and state are strengthened by the diversity of our people and New York State has an especially proud history of welcoming immigrants from all countries of the world, recognizing that our advancement as a society is dependent upon a continuous flow of new immigrant life; and

**Whereas**, throughout history, many immigrants to arrive on our shores have become tireless leaders not only in securing their own rights and access to equal opportunity, but campaigning to create a fairer and more just society for all Americans; and

**Whereas**, New York State welcomes immigrants who are eager to contribute to our society and become part of the family of New Yorkers and has established the Office for New Americans (ONA) to help newcomers fully participate in civic and economic life; the ONA is committed to strengthening a hospitable environment for New Americans and facilitating their success through its cornerstone network of 26 neighborhood-based Opportunity Centers located across our State and hosted within existing culturally competent, language-accessible, community-based organizations that provide various programs, services, and resources; and

**Whereas**, ONA also administers the Liberty Defense Project, the first-in-the-nation, state-led, public-private, legal defense project created in 2017 to provide free, confidential, and expert legal assistance, direct representation, and Know Your Rights trainings through a statewide network of community-based legal service providers, to any immigrant in New York State, regardless of their status, including those facing deportation; and

**Whereas**, over the centuries, generations of immigrants from every corner of the globe have helped build our economic and social structure, contributing to the unique character of New York State and all of America, and immigrants continue to add to our society through business growth, innovation, cultural enrichment, neighborhood revitalization, and job creation; and

**Whereas**, immigrants have an immeasurable influence and impact on the economic, social, and cultural framework of the United States and New York State, and we join in recognizing our immigrant communities for their achievements in all areas of endeavor and their positive contributions to our daily lives;

**Now, Therefore**, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim June 2020 as

## IMMIGRANT HERITAGE MONTH

in the Empire State.

**Given** under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State  
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this twenty-ninth  
day of May in the year two thousand twenty.



  
Governor



Secretary to the Governor  
Melissa DeRosa