



GREENSBORO
INTERNATIONAL
ADVISORY
COMMITTEE

ELECTION GUIDE 2019



MEET THE CANDIDATES

International Advisory Committee

MISSION

To ensure that the voices of the international community are heard, share their successes and present their concerns to the Human Relations Commission and City Council.



Siddiga Ahmed

Country: Sudan

Running for: Chair



Refugees and immigrants are experiencing hardship and issues ranging from finding new homes, language problems, cultural problems due to different cultural values, and challenges on how to keep faithful to their own values whilst understanding that they are in a new country with different values that they must respect in order to make the most successful transition possible. During my service learning at African Services Coalition, and my internship and service as an AmeriCorps member at the Center for New North Carolinians, I have had the privilege to work with different people from different cultures, religious beliefs, and traditions. I also lived in Greensboro for almost twenty years, which puts me in a position to be a great resource for my community members. I help newcomers with different services. If elected I will go to communities and know their issues and engage them to be part of the solutions.



Louis Alimbuko Mashengo

Country: Democratic Republic of Congo

Running for: Vice Chair

I have been working with Greensboro's immigrant and refugee community almost three years now. I learned more through the situations that they are going through, situations I went through myself. Many immigrant and refugee communities are abandoned. They do not know what to do and on which leg to stand (they are forsaken). There is a lack of guidance and that is why many of them face troubles.

All human beings have many barriers but especially those in immigrant and refugee communities. If I will be elected I hope I will first serve them by looking for solutions in their matters. In short I want to support Albert Einstein when he spoke the words, "The world will not be destroyed by those who do evil, but by those who watch them without doing anything."



Mustapha Laidi

Country: Algeria

Running for: Vice Chair

I am driven by a strong passion of having a positive contribution to the immigrant community and to alleviate the suffering of marginalized populations.

IAC plays a fundamental role on this matter and I

would love to take part in the change.

I have experience in providing refugee orientation and resettlement, assistance with enrollment in programs such as food stamps, Medicaid and cash assistance, have conducted domestic health assessments and handled medical case management. In addition I have provided assistance with Social Security card applications and screening refugees for the Match Grant and State Supplemental Services programs. I also have experience with enrolling refugees in English language trainings and helping them find employment.

I trust that my enthusiasm and hard work will be a positive contribution to the IAC and that I will provide a creative and different approach to problem solving.



Ram Mohan

Country: India

Running for: Vice Chair

Ram Mohan is an engineering educator who has lived in Greensboro for nearly 16 years. His work with immigrants in Greensboro includes helping with GED via Reading Connections, guiding international students from diverse ethnicities on assimilation to community and US educational system.

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Ram understands needs of immigrant and refugee population, tribulations, anxiety and cultural barriers that prevent assimilation and integration; their lack of understanding on several day-to-day life aspects. Even simple tasks that we take for granted (e.g. banking, filling forms) becomes arduous for many.

If elected, Ram plans to address and develop effective programs and pathways working with Greensboro City leaders, city and community organizations. These range from language proficiency, parental guidance on their children's experiences in school, work and career pathways, barriers and difficulties faced in safe and secure housing, transportation, etc. Needed are best, culturally relevant, and participant active practices for assimilation of immigrants and refugees expeditiously.

Jermaine Waddler

Country: United States

Running for: Vice Chair



I am heavily engaged in activism and I find that it is important to take the time to learn about the systemic issues perpetuating injustice. Issues like addiction, HIV/AIDS, poverty, and mental health are at the forefront of my work, but I always look beyond these to see the individual human surviving amidst the stigma. It is important to me that we prioritize the stories of people and know that behind each person's particular trial is a good heart hoping to live their best life. I also think that it is very important to teach others and provide necessary resources.

I would bring my experience in addressing challenges faced by our immigrant and refugee population related to HIV, addiction, mental health, and poverty to the International Advisory Committee.

Muluberhan Bahre

Country: Eritrea

Running for: Executive Member



I am a former refugee from Eritrea. I arrived in the U.S in 2010. Since my arrival, I have been working with refugees and immigrants both personally and professionally. I have extensive experiences working with Refugees and immigrants in Baltimore. I moved to High Point in 2018. I have been directly involved in the Eritrean refugee community here in the Triad. I also have been involved with the Center for New North Carolinians community trainings and other resources access trainings. I am currently working as a Business Counselor in the Microenterprise program in African Services Coalition. My job and my personal interest to work with refugees has allowed me to establish valuable networks in the Triad Area.

My personal experiences as a refugee and my involvement providing services to refugees and immigrants has allowed me to learn about the most challenging issues they face both pre and post arrival.



Amber Khan

Country: Pakistan

Running for: Executive Member

I moved to Greensboro in 1993 and have watched the growth of the international community. As a college student, I started to recognize the barriers that immigrants face. Over the last 25 years, I have vol-

unteered, consulted, and engaged with numerous religious and cultural organizations, who serve the international communities. I have served as a board member for FaithAction International House and The Piedmont interfaith Council. I am also conducting research on the mental health of immigrants in North Carolina.

Inclusion and equality, for international communities, is needed on the local and national level. As a result of my previous service to this community, I am aware of how different segments of the immigrant population will have different needs. Continued advocacy can lead to change in the local immigrant experience. My goal is to continue to be a voice of advocacy and serve as a bridge builder in this community.

Sifa Jennifer Bulunkay

Country: Democratic Republic of Congo

Running for: Secretary

An immigrant is like this newborn; someone who enters a new world and requires the care of those who have lived longer in that world. Like a newborn, an immigrant needs someone to provide him/her with safe and affordable shelter, food, clothing, access to education and healthcare, employment, protection and security, and guidance. I am that newborn, that immigrant who has bloomed through the stages of maturing under those who lived in this society before me. This world, country, state and city that once was a foreign land is now home, and caring for other immigrants and citizens a duty. Serving on the IAC is an opportunity to join forces in evaluating how are we, as a City, equipped to receive, care for, protect and stand with newcomers long-term until they become residents/citizens who can care for themselves and others.



Darma Satty

Country: Sudan

Running for: Secretary



For the past 18 years, I've been part of almost every organization in my community that aimed to educate, empower, advocate, or even comfort the different sectors of our immigrant population. I enjoyed working diligently while serving as a refugee's settlement and placement manager, connecting families with resources, and service providers to help them start their new life in the US with greater hopes and ambitions. Serving as an educator, teaching English as a second language in many institutes including Greensboro Islamic Academy, Faith Action International House Foreign Language Program, New-comers School, GTCC, and recently GCS, has allowed me to understand the depth and impact of the sociocultural barriers that our families encounter as they live between two different sets of rules, expectations, and limitations. Thus, I find it natural to satisfy my strong purpose and urge to serve by seeking formal and more more leadership roles to expand my services.

Structure & Purpose

On February 5, 2008, the Greensboro City Council adopted a resolution that established the International Advisory Committee (IAC) as an advisory committee of the Human Relations Commission (HRC). The committee is comprised of individuals whose national origin is outside the US and who represent Greensboro's diverse international community.

The committee's purpose is to:

- Study and report to the Human Relations Commission and members of City Council on barriers in relation to the members of their specific national origins.
- Study City policies, procedures, and processes that create barriers or impediments for the city's foreign nationals.
- Analyze the challenges facing the City and the community, and formulate recommendations to the HRC and City Council.
- Provide information and education on customs and practices to IAC community representatives to be shared with their respective communities.



IAC Election & Newcomer Symposium

- *Vote in Greensboro's third biennial International Advisory Committee election*
- *Take part in informational workshops*
- *Meet the IAC leadership, created to represent the voice of the immigrant community to City Council*
- *Meet IAC Council Liaison, Marikay Abuzuaiter*

FREE!
Open to
the public!

Saturday, March 23, 2019

10 am to 4 pm

Coliseum Terrace

1921 W. Gate City Blvd. • Parking is free and accessible

**VOTE
IN THE IAC
ELECTION**

Make your voice heard!

Qualifications to vote:

- Must be a high school student or older
- No photo ID required
- Must be a Greensboro resident

Interested in running for office? IAC terms last for two years and candidates must submit all required information no later than February 13. For information about requirements, call Human Relations at 336-373-2038 or go online greensboro-nc.gov/iac.

**ATTEND
SYMPOSIUM
WORKSHOPS**

10:30 am – Noon & 2 pm – 3:30 pm

Learn more about important health, wellness and life-saving services the City and County have to offer! Workshops offered in Spanish, French, Arabic, Swahili, Kinyarwanda, Nepali, and more!

Sponsored by Greensboro City Council

**International Advisory Committee
City of Greensboro
Human Relations Department
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