



Ethiopian Community Development Council, Inc.

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Empowering refugees and immigrants since 1983

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2018 Midterm Election Results Inspire Hope for Refugees and Immigrants

Arlington, VA - Yesterday's midterm elections brought a change to the American political landscape. For the first time ever in our country's history, there will be more than 100 women in the House of Representatives. In addition, a number of former refugees and the children of refugees and immigrants won seats to represent their constituents in Congress and state legislatures.

Ilhan Omar – Minnesota

Having resettled in Minnesota over two decades ago, [Omar](#) is headed to Washington in January 2019 to represent Minnesota in Congress. Omar fled Somalia with her family when she was only eight years old. She lived in a refugee camp in Kenya for two years before being resettled to the United States at age 10. She is the first Somali-American woman ever to serve in Congress.

Safiya Wazir - New Hampshire

[Safiya Wazir](#) fled Afghanistan when she was six years old. She then lived in a refugee camp in Uzbekistan before resettling in New Hampshire in 2007. Now 27 years old, Wazir is ready to help “younger families that are working so tirelessly and show them they don't have to leave the state.”

Samantha Vang – Minnesota

[Samantha Vang](#) is a 24-year old native Minnesotan, whose parents came to the United States 20 years ago as Hmong refugees. She is looking to prioritize workforce development and access to home ownership in her majority-minority district.

Joe Neguse – Colorado

Neguse, whose family came to the U.S. as refugees from Eritrea, became Colorado's first African-American member of Congress. He is an attorney, civic leader, and public servant who has spent his career fighting to expand opportunities for families.

Rashida Tlaib – Michigan

[Rashida Tlaib](#) will join Ilhan Omar in the House, making them the first two Muslim women in Congress. Tlaib comes from a Palestinian immigrant family and has served in her state's legislature since 2018.

Victory for these candidates and others with similar backgrounds shows refugee and immigrant communities across the country that their future is bright. ECDC's President and CEO, Tsehaye

Teferra, Ph.D., said not only did their hopes and dreams come true, but their accomplishments also serve to encourage us all to keep embracing our differences, and our similarities, while working together to uplift one another and this great country.

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ECDC is one of nine resettlement agencies working in partnership with the Department of State and the Office of Refugee Resettlement to provide initial placement and support services to refugees being resettled in the United States. ECDC promotes cultural, educational and socio-economic development programs to assist refugees and immigrants in becoming productive members of their new homeland.