

Date: 04/18/2019

Karen Society of Buffalo (KSB)

As many of you may know or may not know, there is a large population of Karen in the City of Buffalo and the neighboring cities such as Rochester, Syracuse, Utica and Albany. Buffalo alone has a population combined of Burmese origin- 8,000 or more and the Karens are the majority. I am here to speak for the Karens in Buffalo and if I may, for other ethnicities from Burma. I want to address the concerns and issues surrounding census for 8, 000 population who represent a portion of NY State and who are hardworking and need their voices to be heard for many issues they are facing due to language barriers and traumas they have gone through. If I may, it also raises concerns how it is difficult to get count for refugees and immigrants in general across NY State who we meet at churches, mosques, and communities agencies or centers. We can reach out to our brothers and sisters if funded wisely. I'm here to let you know that KSB is a grassroots organization established 3-4 years ago and it is resourceful to collect the data for you if given opportunity. We have built a mobilized network in the community and able to do outreach to the community. It is important to have representation in the community and we have that and we are willing to work with you. Thank you.

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