

By: Lalani

H.R. No. 171

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The members of the Ismaili Muslim community in House
2 District 76 and throughout Texas are deserving of special
3 recognition for their leadership in organizing the 2025 Global
4 Encounters Festival; and

5 WHEREAS, Although the event is international in scope, the
6 important role played by Ismaili Muslims from Texas in this
7 prestigious event brings great pride to their fellow residents of
8 the Lone Star State and serves to heighten the prominence of Texas
9 on the world stage; and

10 WHEREAS, The Global Encounters Festival took place in Dubai,
11 United Arab Emirates, from July 20 through 27, 2025; and

12 WHEREAS, Organized by the Ismaili Muslim community with the
13 collaboration of several UAE organizations, the festival is
14 dedicated to promoting tolerance and coexistence while showcasing
15 the power of the arts and sports to build bridges between cultures;
16 the event marked the first time that the Jubilee Arts and Jubilee
17 Games have been staged at the same time, and it brought together
18 4,000 artists and athletes from more than 50 countries and drew an
19 audience of over 25,000 visitors; and

20 WHEREAS, The festival featured more than 250 works of art
21 from artists across the globe through the International Art
22 Gallery, film screenings showcasing international filmmakers and
23 their stories at the International Film Festival, and numerous
24 music and theater performances at the International Performing Arts

Shows; in addition, the event included interactive exhibitions, a cultural marketplace, multimedia development initiatives, interactive workshops, guided tours of the Ismaili Centre Dubai, and a pop-up exhibit curated by the Aga Khan Museum showcasing centuries of Muslim artistic innovation; and

WHEREAS, Emphasizing fair play, teamwork, and intercultural unity, the Jubilee Games showcased 17 sports, including football, cricket, basketball, squash, chess, and swimming, at venues such as the ICC Academy, Dubai International Cricket Stadium, and Emirates Golf Club; over the course of the games, a total of 508 gold, silver, and bronze medals were awarded to athletes across the 21 competing national teams; and

WHEREAS, The festival is committed to sustainability efforts such as zero-waste targets and low-emission transport; the event partnered only with vendors that met specific sustainability criteria, and sourced all energy used at its venues from 100 percent renewable sources, supported by the procurement of renewable energy certificates; the festival also promoted the Roots for Change campaign, which aims to plant one million trees worldwide in support of the Aga Khan Development Network's 2030 pledge; in addition, the fashion show Climate on the Catwalk exhibited sustainable clothing; and

WHEREAS, Global Encounters as an institution operates across three domains; the first domain of Youth Leadership and Development includes its Global Encounters camps and international internships with AKDN institutions; the second domain of Arts, Culture, and Heritage promotes the arts as a means of celebrating and engaging

1 with history and culture; and the third domain of Sports and Fitness
2 emphasizes the importance of physical fitness and the spirit of
3 competition and teamwork; altogether, the Global Encounters
4 Festival highlighted all three of the organization's major tenets;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, The Global Encounters Festival was hosted by and
7 supported through the efforts of over 3,000 volunteers on site, and
8 countless more across the world, demonstrating the virtue of *khidma*
9 (service) and the spirit of volunteerism; and

10 WHEREAS, The Global Encounters Festival brings together
11 individuals of all ages for a joyous celebration of empowerment,
12 tolerance, and environmental stewardship, and it is a pleasure to
13 join in honoring this spirited event; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 89th Texas
15 Legislature, 2nd Called Session, hereby commemorate the 2025 Global
16 Encounters Festival and commend the members of the Ismaili Muslim
17 community in House District 76 and throughout Texas for their
18 leadership in organizing the event.