

**Michael Allen Knowles - Labor Leader and Refugee Worker**

Michael Allen Knowles is the president of AFGE Local 1924, American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO. Local 1924 represents over 2,500 employees of the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), Department of Homeland Security in the National Capital Region. Mr. Knowles serves concurrently as Special Representative and spokesperson for humanitarian affairs for the AFGE National Citizenship and Immigration Services Council 119 — which represents 14,500 USCIS employees world wide.

Mr. Knowles has worked in the fields of human rights and refugee protection since the end of the Viet-Nam war in 1975. He has served as an Asylum Officer with the USCIS Arlington Asylum Office since 1992. Before joining the federal government he served with various non-governmental Agencies (the American Council of Nationalities Service, the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, the Indochina Project of the Fund for Peace, the Indochina Refugee Action Center, the International Catholic Migration Commission, the International Rescue Committee, Refugee Policy Group and the Mennonite Central Committee) in the United States and abroad (Afghanistan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Pakistan, Singapore, Thailand and Viet-Nam).

**Publications:**

"The International Conference on Indochinese Refugees and Its Aftermath,"  
Refugee Policy Group, Washington, DC. August 1989

“Afghanistan’s Internally Displaced: A Nation Uprooted” (a report for the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian and Economic Assistance Relating to Afghanistan/UNOCA),  
Refugee Policy Group Washington DC. November 1991

“Afghanistan: Trends and Prospects for Refugee Repatriation,”  
Refugee Policy Group, Washington DC. April 1992.

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*August 2020*