

National SAH Conference Materials

All of the PowerPoint presentations and materials that were used during the National SAH Conference and sent to the RSTP are now available on the website. If you want to access these materials, please log into [RSTP's secured website](#) with the following login information:

Username : client
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NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Change in Age of Dependency

On 18 June 2014, the Canada Gazette posted *Regulations Amending the Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations*. The amendments are as follows:

“Paragraph (b) of the definition “dependent child” in section 2 of the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations* is replaced by the following:

- **(b) is in one of the following situations of dependency, namely,**
 - (i) is less than 19 years of age and is not a spouse or common-law partner, or**
 - (ii) is 19 years of age or older and has depended substantially on the financial support of the parent since before the age of 19 and is unable to be financially self-supporting due to a physical or mental condition.”**

Therefore, the age of “dependent child” has changed from under 22 years old, to “less than 19 years of age”. Please also note that being over the age of dependency and attending full-time studies has now been removed from the definition of a “dependent child”.

These Regulations come into force on August 1, 2014. Please remember this amendment when submitting future applications.

AVAILABLE VOR & JAS CASES

JAS 091

The PA is a 35 year old Iraqi male accompanied by his 25 year old wife. The couple does not have any children. The couple left Iraq after being repeatedly harassed over their religious beliefs and imputed political opinion. Additionally, due to their respective disabilities - the PA has a malformed leg and his spouse is legally blind - the couple was unable to support themselves in Iraq and were unable to be supported by members of their family. The PA and his spouse are unable to settle in Turkey as they are not legally allowed to work. The PA fears that he and his wife would be persecuted should they be forced to return to Iraq. **This is a JAS referral.**

VOR 088/14

The PA is a 22 year old single Eritrean man of Belin ethnicity. His parents fled Eritrea during the war with Ethiopia in 1988. The PA has completed 12 years of schooling and has experience working as a farmhand. As a member of a minority ethnic group that is distinct from the population of eastern Sudan, the PA will not be able to integrate within the local community. The PA, who has never lived in Eritrea, is unable to resettle there as he fears that he will be detained and conscripted into national service.

AVAILABLE VORs

VOR 097/14

The PA is a 20 year old Kachin male from Myanmar who currently lives in his country of asylum, Malaysia, in close proximity with his brother's family. In Myanmar, he was subjected to forced labour by Burmese soldiers. After his brother fled Myanmar in 2007, the soldiers came for the PA instead, physically abusing him and issuing threats of forcible military recruitment. The PA escaped Myanmar in 2010 and joined his brother in Malaysia. Currently, the PA is at risk of being deported back to Myanmar, where he could face interrogation and further ill-treatment by the military. **The PA would like to resettle with his brother on VOR 098/14 (see below).**

VOR 098/14

The PA is a 30 year old Kachin male from Myanmar. The PA and his wife currently live in Malaysia with their two young children. In Myanmar, the PA was conscripted to forced labour, and was often kicked and verbally abused. His family's farm was also subjected to heavy paddy taxes and constant harassment from the military. In 2007, the PA helped a woman from the village escape abduction by Burmese soldiers. He then fled Myanmar when the threat of his arrest became imminent. The PA's wife fled to Malaysia in 2008 after facing a death threat for refusing to give up her family's pig to soldiers who demanded it. In Malaysia, they have been harassed by local authorities, and have needed to pay bribes to escape arbitrary arrest and detention. **The PA would like to resettle with his brother on VOR 097/14 (see above).**

UNHCR E-learning Programme on Statelessness

A free e-learning course was just released by the UNHCR. The programme contains six modules on key Statelessness issues. The purpose of the interactive, practical online course is to raise awareness of Statelessness, its causes and consequences and to explain the relevant legal framework and UNHCR's Statelessness mandate. The programme uses practical examples and scenarios to guide the learner through the typical activities of the work of the UNHCR on Statelessness. To register click [here](#).

INQUIRIES & RESPONSES

YOU ASKED ... Why are Groups of Five contacting SAHs asking to sponsor family and friends under SAH Sponsorship Agreements if the people they want to sponsor already have UNHCR registration?

OUR REPLY.... According to the regulations introduced in October 2012, in order to be sponsored by a Group of Five or a Community Sponsor, a person requires a **refugee status recognition** document from either the UNHCR or a foreign government. A *refugee status recognition* document is different than a UNHCR *registration* document. UNHCR often registers people under their care, but usually do not have the resources to conduct individual refugee status determination interviews. Therefore, most asylum seekers have UNHCR registration rather than UNHCR refugee status recognition. UNCHR registration documents are **not** accepted by CPO-W. Without a UNHCR or foreign government refugee status recognition document, Groups of Five and Community Sponsors have no options for refugee sponsorship except under a SAH Sponsorship Agreement.

YOU ASKED ... One of my constituent groups (CG) is led by a priest who is not a permanent resident or citizen of Canada. Can CIC waive the requirement to complete the sponsors assessment form from this CG because our SAH is well known to them?

OUR REPLY.... Anyone who formally signs the undertaking form, one of the documents that creates a legal relationship between the sponsoring group and CIC, needs to fulfill the legal criteria to become a sponsor. Therefore, the sponsor needs to sign the Sponsor Assessment and meet the expectations of being a sponsor, including being a Canadian citizen or Permanent Resident. Someone authorized by the priest who is a Canadian citizen or permanent resident needs to sign the form. Alternatively, your SAH can submit the application without formally including your CG on the undertaking if this is allowed by your organization.