

## Country Information And Guidance Uganda: Claims Based On Sexual Orientation



The country condition information and guidance about refugee claims based on fear of persecution related to sexual orientation issued on May 5, 2014 provides helpful advice to those interested in sponsoring LGBTI refugees from Uganda.

In addition to discussing the Ugandan Anti- Homosexuality Act of 2014 and its impacts, the document confirms the following:

- ✓ LGBTI persons in Uganda are members of a Particular Social Group as in the Convention Refugee definition.
- ✓ They are “likely to face harassment, discrimination and mistreatment from a range of actors which would, in most case amount to persecution.”
- ✓ There is not sufficient protection for LGBTI persons in Uganda.
- ✓ They cannot be internally relocated and find safety within Uganda.
- ✓ “LGBTI persons who live discreetly for fear of persecution cannot be considered as having choice and they are likely to have a well-founded fear of persecution...”
- ✓ “A credible account is likely to result in a grant of asylum.”

To read the full document, please click [here](#).

## UNHCR NEWS: Jordan opens a new desert camp for Syrian refugees at Azraq

On April 20, 2014, UNHCR opened a new camp at Azraq, Jordan. The camp is expected to relieve pressure on the Za'atri camp which is currently hosting more 100,000 residents. The new camp which is capable of housing up to 25,000 refugees was designed with better construction material to cope with high winds and extreme temperatures. For more information, click [here](#).

## Available VOR Refugees

### VOR 027

The PA is a single 48 year old woman from Iraq. She fled Iraq due to threats against her and her family by extremist militia groups. Fearing for her safety, she fled to Syria and was there for six years. However, due to the instability in that country, she fled and returned to Iraq. After facing the same problems with violence on the basis of her religion and ethnicity, she fled again, this time to Turkey, and has not returned. The PA speaks some English, Arabic and has experience as a hairdresser. *Her recommended destination is Southern Ontario as she has a brother in London, ON.*

### VOR 028

The PA is a single 64 year old woman from Iraq. Her house was destroyed by militia groups during an attack on her city, forcing her to move and live with family members. She separated from her husband who married another woman, and then, without a safe place to stay, she fled to Syria. However, due to the instability in that country, she returned to Iraq. Upon return, she faced the same problems with violence on the basis of religion and ethnicity, and therefore fled to Turkey with her son. The PA speaks English and Arabic and has experience as an accountant. *Her recommended destination is the Toronto area as she has a son here.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 2014 SAH Conference Orientation Webinar

**Date:** May 15

**Time:** 12 pm EST

#### Webinar Registration Info

The 2014 SAH Conference will take place from May 26 to 28 in Halifax, NS. If this is your first time participating in the national SAH Conference, we recommend attending this orientation webinar so that you can fully benefit from the conference. Please pre-register to join this webinar by clicking on this [registration link](#).

### SAH National Conference

Theme: *Towards Effective Communication – Listening To Each Other*

**Date:** May 26-28, 2014

**Venue:** Four Points by Sheraton Hotel, Halifax, NS

For more information, contact the RSTP.

### CCR Spring Consultation

Theme: *Gateways to hope, pathways to belonging*

**Date:** May 29-31, 2014

**Venue:** Saint Mary's University campus, Halifax, NS

For more Information about the consultation and registration visit: [ccrweb.ca/meetings](http://ccrweb.ca/meetings)

## INQUIRIES & RESPONSES

**You asked...** We have been struggling to **transfer a sponsorship file from Cairo** to the **Tel Aviv Visa Post**. When we submitted the sponsorship application, the principal applicant was in Sudan. After the principal applicant had gone to Israel, we updated the Cairo Visa Office and CPO-W by email. As we have not heard back to this date, please advise if there is any other procedure that should be followed to ensure that the file is transferred to the right visa post.

**CIC response...** "The typical procedure would be for the sponsor to request a file transfer due to change in address by sending an email to the new visa office and copying the previous responsible visa office."

**You asked...** Would you know of the **process for documentation of asylum seekers in Namibia**, specifically, does the UNHCR do any RSD or is a document of registration of an asylum seeker by the Namibian Government adequate documentation for refugees in Namibia? Since CIC requires that refugees sponsored under a G5 have UNHCR registration, would a Namibian Government registration suffice or be considered for verification of refugee status instead of the UNHCR document?

**Our response ...** For Groups of Five applications, the refugee applicants that you plan to sponsor need to present "proof of refugee status recognition" provided by either the UNHCR or the host government. A mere registration will not be sufficient.

As for refugee protection in Namibia, the country has signed both the 1951 Refugee Convention and 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees, and it has a national body responsible for "taking care of refugees and asylum seekers." The 2014 UNHCR Projected Global Resettlement Needs document provides:

*"Refugees in Namibia are governed under the Namibia Refugees (Recognition and Control) Act, 2 of 1999. The national institution for asylum is called the Refugee Administration Directorate. First instance Refugee Status Determination (RSD) is conducted by the Namibia Refugees Committee, and appeals are conducted by the Namibia Refugees Appeals Board."*

Even though UNHCR recognizes that Namibia's RSD procedures "do not meet international standards because of lack of staffing capacity to carry out RSD," Groups of Five applicants residing in Namibia should have proof of refugee status recognition when their applications are submitted to CPO-W. Otherwise, their sponsorship applications will be returned for being incomplete.

For more information about UNHCR's operation in Namibia and refugees in Namibia, click [here](#).