

RSTP Bulletin



Syrian refugees are seen arriving in Toronto on Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2015. (CTV News)

RSTP is receiving an exceptionally high volume of inquiries (as we are certain all of you are too) and we are trying our best to respond to these inquiries as fast as possible. We appreciate everyone's patience!

Announcements

1. RSTP has held two webinars, with two more to come (one of which is already FULL). The recording from yesterday's webinar will be circulated shortly. There is still some registration space in our Overview of the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program webinar on Tuesday, September 29th
Time: 2:00PM - 3:30PM Eastern Daylight Time (EDT)
Registration Website:
<https://attendeegotowebinar.com/register/2283727801458359041>
2. RSTP has started their E-training course IET101 Introduction to Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program for Fall 2015, and to accommodate large interest, now has 60 students registered. This session will run until November 20, 2015, with a Winter 2016 session to begin mid-January. This next session already has a long waitlist, but interested individuals can be added by emailing: etraining@rstp.ca
3. CIC has recently created a webpage recently focuses specifically on [Syrian Refugees](#) and Canada's Response, which outlines PSR.

Webinar Recap

Sept 16, 2015—RSTP co-hosted SAHs virtual meeting on dealing with overwhelming public interest in refugee sponsorship

Updates from across the provinces echoed an unprecedented interest from provincial and municipal governments, congregations, general public, media, Foundations, and more. Some issues discussed were: 1. Increased coordination around matching cases and potential sponsors or central place for cases; 2. Ensure donations are working towards sponsorships where capacity is higher; 3. Concerns raised around police checks for volunteers, 4. Channeling city and provincial support to potentially support SAHs.

Reminder: If you would like tips for working with new CGs that don't fit within your normal CG structure or processes, reminder that RSTP circulated guidelines of tools SAHs have used with success (Email us for a copy).

Available BVOR cases

The following travel-ready Blended VOR cases **WILL NOT TRAVEL THIS YEAR** unless they are sponsored. This means that they will not be converted to Government Assisted Refugees (GARs). Please share with your CGs.

BVOR 136

The PA is a 25 year old single young man. He has 11 years of formal education. The PA was born and raised in a refugee camp in Sudan. The PA is unwilling to return to Eritrea as he fears he will be forced to serve in the military. Note: Medicals expiring Nov. 6, 2015.

Travel ready.

BVOR 283

The PA is a 24 year old Somali man. He has 8 years of formal education and speaks some English. The PA has experience working as a shopkeeper and waiter. He has significant vision loss and would appreciate the assistance of a sponsor. He is interested in settling in a city which has a hospital/research centre for vision-impaired adults. Note: Medicals expiring Nov. 17, 2015.

Travel ready.

Questions & Answers



YOU ASKED... The Iraqi refugee that I want to sponsor only has a Uluslararası Koruma Başvuru Sabhihi **Kayıt** Belgesi document that was issued by the Turkish authorities. Can I still sponsor them?

OUR REPLY... Yes, CIC checked with the visa office in Ankara which decided that the Uluslararası Koruma Başvuru Sabhihi **Kayıt** Belgesi document can be included as one of the possible acceptable documents that a refugee applicant can have as per the Turkey Pilot Project criteria to prove that they have registered with the Turkish authorities. This document was added to the Turkey Pilot Project eligibility checklist which was sent over the SAH list by Elizabeth Walton on Wednesday, September 16th.

Need help with completing IMM0008 forms for refugees in Jordan?

As many SAHs know, the African Refugee Development Centre (ARDC) in Israel assists refugee applicants that SAHs are sponsoring to complete the IMM0008 forms. Now, two staff from the ARDC are working on an independent project (that is not connected with the ARDC) to open an office in Amman to assist refugees to fill out their IMM0008 forms once a sponsoring group has agreed to sponsor them. They are considering creating a secure online database with applicant profiles that can be accessed by: 1) the SAH representative who is working on sponsoring the refugee applicant, 2) the refugee applicant themselves, and 3) the staff at the new centre. SAHs would log on to the database to enter the contact information of the refugee that they are sponsoring, and could continuously log on to the database to see the progress of the file. The online database would also include the uploaded application forms when they have been completed so the SAH representative can access the forms immediately. The funding for this project has not yet been obtained, so this is still a work in progress. The staff person who has been in touch with the RSTP welcomes the feedback of SAHs on this initiative.

Would this be useful to you? Do you have any suggestions?

Please send any feedback to Nadine at [nnasir@rstp.ca](mailto:nasir@rstp.ca)

Available BVOR Cases (Cont)

BVOR 318

The PA is a 41 year old single man of Oromo descent. The PA has little education and has worked as a farmer and shop assistant. The PA has been a victim of violence and cannot return to Ethiopia for fear of his safety. He is seeking a better life and will appreciate the assistance of a sponsor. Note: Medicals expiring Dec. 2, 2015.

Travel ready.

BVOR 333

This young Congolese couple have 4 children who are currently missing. The couple fled their country of origin on the grounds of their political opinion. The PA is a victim of trauma and torture, and the spouse is a victim of gender based violence. They will likely need counselling upon arrival in Canada and would benefit from the support of a sponsoring group during their resettlement. Note: Medicals expiring Nov. 13, 2015.

Travel ready.

For more information on these cases, please contact Felisa Ponce fponce@rstp.ca

Upcoming Events & Webinars

1. Webinar: Overview of the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program

Date: Tuesday, September 29th

Time: 2:00PM - 3:30PM Eastern Daylight Time (EDT)

Registration Website: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2283727801458359041>

Recorded Webinar will be sent on SAHlist soon as well as more Overview webinars, once they have been scheduled.

Snapshot: Refugee Sponsorship in the News

["OPEN LETTER: Mr. Harper, think big on the refugee crisis"](#) *Globe & Mail* (Sept 59, 6459)

["Canada must set an example on helping refugees"](#) *Winnipeg Free Press* (David Matas, Sept 59, 6459)

["What it takes to bring a Syrian refugee to Canada: Paperwork, interrogations and up to 18 months"](#) *National Post* (Alia Dharssi, Sept, 57 6459)

["Religious groups make leaps of faith to support Syrian refugees"](#) *Globe & Mail* (Affan Chowdhry, Sept 55, 2015)

["Refugee sponsorship can be a long, complex process - here's how it works"](#) *Globe & Mail* (Joe Friesen, Sept 54, 2015)