

RSTP Bulletin

Last call to register for the SAH national Conference!

As we have not received everyone's registrations for the National SAH Conference, this is a reminder to register **ASAP**. If we do not receive your registration by **Monday, April 27, 2015**, we cannot guarantee your participation.

AVAILABLE VOR CASES

VOR 008—They are Iranian refugees (41 year old male, 32 year old female, 11 year old son and 14 month old daughter) currently in Turkey. The PA was involved with some demonstrations in Iran back in 2013. A few weeks later, authorities came to the applicant's house looking for the PA because he had been accused of anarchy and participating in an illegal demonstration. The PA fled to a cousin's house, where his wife and children later joined him. The family then left the country and legally entered Turkey in July of 2013. The Applicant fears he would be arrested and executed for participating in a protest, if he returns to Iran.

VOR 088 – A Somalia single women living in South Africa. The PA fled Ethiopia after her husband was abducted, and she was imprisoned for her imputed political opinion. The PA managed to escape from prison and travelled to South Africa in 2010. She is unwilling to return to her home country because the government authorities will arrest and possibly torture her for leaving the country illegally.

FIRST TIME SAH CONFERENCE ATTENDEES

If you or someone from your organization is attending this year's SAH Conference for the first time, we encourage you to join our Conference Orientation by webinar on **May 5th from 12 pm to 1:30 pm EST**.

RSTP will be providing a general overview of the conference, logistical info, and other need-to-know information. A SAH Council representative will join us as well to provide info about the SAH Association day (day 1 of conference). There will be an opportunity to introduce yourself to others and make some connections before the conference in Winnipeg.

Please register as soon as possible via this link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/3430344703233307137>



Available JAS cases

JAS 160

The PA is a Burundian refugee of Hutu descent. She is a single female head of household with seven children. She has witnessed the deaths of her parents and all of her siblings. She has been displaced and had to move several times in order to find safety. She is a victim of sexual gender based violence and a survivor of violence and torture. She has been living in a refugee camp in Tanzania since 1996. She cannot return to Burundi as she believes the people who killed her parents and siblings will target her family. The PA is severely traumatized and under a lot of stress trying to provide for her family by herself. The PA would benefit from the assistance of a sponsor during her resettlement process in Canada. ***Destination: Vancouver, BC***



INQUIRIES & RESPONSES

YOU ASKED... A local CG would like to sponsor a refugee living in Syria and I noticed that there is a BVOR case which indicates the refugee is in Syria. Is submitting a sponsorship for refugees in Syria possible? How can visa officers interview people in Syria?

OUR REPLY... We contacted CIC to find out more information about sponsoring refugees living in Syrian and the VOR profile referred in your question. Their reply is as follows: *“ this PA [principal applicant] was interviewed via video call/conference through visa office Beirut. Yes, submitting a sponsorship for refugees in Syria is possible. The missions processing these cases would be Beirut, Amman and Ankara, as they are sharing the caseload.”*

The 2014 PSR Mission Specific report distributed to SAHs last year also explains the challenges of sponsoring refugees out of Syrian as follows:

“ Canadian officials are not able to travel to Damascus. Therefore For applicants residing in Syria, mission is using digital videoconference technology to conduct interviews and working with IOM and UNHCR to ensure medicals are completed and applicants are able to sign their loan forms. Since early 2013, departures from Syria have required use of a “land-bridge” where IOM obtains a transit visa through Lebanon for all applicants who travel by bus from Damascus to the airport in Beirut and then travel onward through Europe to Canada by airplane. (The road from Damascus to the Damascus airport is not secure.) The evolving conflict in Syria has caused us to prioritize applicants resident in Syria and we are making all efforts to expedite processing of these cases. However, UNHCRs agreement with the Syrian government prevents us from conducting videoconference interviews with applicants who have not already been recognized as a refugee by UNHCR. This means we have had to put a small number of PSR applications for non-Iraqi nationals on hold. This does not pose a problem for Iraqi PSR applicants.”

YOU ASKED... Could you explain to me what health coverage is available for privately sponsored refugees coming to Ontario?

OUR REPLY... Privately sponsored refugees are covered by federal (IFHP) and provincial (OHIP) plans. Please see [this link](#) for a summary of the IFHP coverage by category of refugees. Privately sponsored refugees receive what is called a Type 3 coverage, which includes a basic coverage and subscription drug for medical conditions that endanger the public safety. The details of the basic coverage can be assessed from [this link](#).

Regarding OHIP coverage, Protected Person and Convention Refugees which include privately sponsored refugees are exempted from the three months waiting period. Visit this [link](#) for more information.

Also, RSTP has compiled a list of supplementary or additional health services available by provinces and posted them on its website. Even though the information was posted a couple of years ago, it may still be relevant. To see these additional services, click [here](#).

Upcoming Events

Workshop Title: Introduction to Private Refugee Sponsorship

Date: Wednesday, April 22

Time: 10:00am – 1:00pm

Location: MOSAIC, 1720 Grant Street, Vancouver, BC

Registration: RSVP with Nadine Nasir at nnasir@rstp.ca or 1-877-290-1701, ext. 404

Workshop Title: PSR and BVOR Workshop for SAHs and CGs

Date: Thursday, April 23

Time: 6:00pm – 8:30pm

Location: Pastoral Centre, 4885 St. John Paul II Way, Vancouver, B.C.

Registration: RSVP with Felisa Ponce at fponce@rstp.ca or 1-877-290-1701, ext. 403

Workshop Title: Syrian Refugee Sponsorship Forum

Date: Saturday, April 25

Time: 9:30am – 3:00pm

Location: Bethlehem Retreat Centre, 2371 Arbot Road, Nanaimo, B.C.

Registration: RSVP with Nadine Nasir at nnasir@rstp.ca or 1-877-290-1701, ext. 404

Workshop Title: on Refugee Sponsorship

Date: Saturday, April 25

Time: 9:30 am – 4 pm

Location: Church of St John the Evangelist, 154 Somerset West (entry off Elgin Street)

Registration information: RSVP with Norma McCord 613.745.4626 or cor@bell.net

Registration: RSVP with Felisa Ponce at fponce@rstp.ca or 1-877-290-1701, ext. 403