

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CEDAW on Gender-Related Dimensions of Refugee Status, Asylum, Nationality and Statelessness of Women

On November 4, 2014, The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), an independent UN body made up of experts that monitors implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women issued its General recommendations No 32, which discusses in detail gender-based refugee claims. Among other things, the committee has clarified what constitutes gender-based persecution: "Gender-related forms of persecution are forms of persecution that are directed against a woman because she is a woman or that affect women disproportionately. The forms of violence that are recognized as legitimate grounds for refugee protection include:

- ✓ "the threat of female genital mutilation,
- ✓ forced/early marriage,
- ✓ threat of violence and/or so-called 'honour crimes',
- ✓ trafficking in women,
- ✓ acid attacks,
- ✓ rape and other forms of sexual assault,
- ✓ serious forms of domestic violence,
- ✓ the imposition of the death penalty or other physical punishments existing in discriminatory justice systems,
- ✓ forced sterilization,
- ✓ political or religious persecution for holding feminist or other views and the persecutory consequences of failing to conform to gender-prescribed social norms and mores or for claiming their rights under the Convention."

RSTP's Factsheet on the IFH Program

To assist private sponsors understand the impacts of the recent changes to the Interim Federal Health program, RSTP has prepared a fact sheet on IFHP

The fact sheet explains the difference between the IFH coverage and benefits for PSRs vs. BVOR and JAS cases, including explaining the coverage for the various categories that CIC has created, including PSRs who are under 19 years old, and pregnant PSRs.

The fact sheet also answers some of the frequently questions such as on how to apply? Where to inquire about IFHP? and what resources are available in relation to IFHP? Go to this [link](#), to read the document.

IMPORTANT REMINDER!
SAHs must use the new IMM0008 forms for all applications sent in after January 1, 2015.

To read the whole report, click [HERE](#).

INQUIRIES & RESPONSES

Available JAS cases

JAS 059

The PA is a single 32 year old Somali male of Abgal descent with no children. He has experience in farming and can speak basic English. He is a survivor of violence and torture. He was shot by a stray bullet in Somalia which was removed, but part of his colon was cut, and he is left with a colonoscopy bag. He is not able to work because of his medical condition.

JAS 091

The PA is a 35 year old male accompanied by his 25 year old wife. Both PA and spouse are Iraqi nationals of Arab ethnicity with no children. The applicant attended school for nine years and his spouse attended for six. 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 locally as they are not legally allowed to work. The Applicant fears that he and his wife would be persecuted should they be forced to return to Iraq.

JAS 120

The PA is a widowed 44 year old Liberian mother of 6 children who is considered a woman at risk. Five of the children are included in this submission. The oldest daughter left home in Conakry and the PA has been unable to trace her since 2007. The PA will require follow-up medical appointments due to her heart disorder. She has limited education and lacks work experience. The PA does speak some English but not fluently. The PA's children are sometimes engaged in the sale of water on the streets in order to supplement their income. The PA fears that her children may be at risk of abduction, sexual abuse and exploitation.

YOU ASKED... I am going through an application for two brothers and one is acting as the household representative. One of the UNHCR forms indicates that there is a dependent included but really they are both over 18 and so need to submit individually and the link is recorded in section G of the undertaking form. What do I do with the designation as dependent from the UNHCR form? Should I still include the younger brother in section E as well?

OUR RESPONSE... Generally speaking, it does not matter what the UNHCR document says, as for the PSR program you will need to follow Canadian definition of 'dependent' and the rules for eligibility. So if there are 2 brothers over the age of 18, you will need to submit 2 sponsorship Undertakings and all required forms and supporting documents.

YOU ASKED... Can I sponsor a refugee's de facto dependent under the One-Year Window of Opportunity if the dependent is living inside of their country of origin?

OUR RESPONSE... A de facto dependant, wherever he or she is, cannot be sponsored under the one-year window of opportunity. Please also remember that a de facto dependant must have an entirely separate application package, and is assessed based on his or her own eligibility. Therefore, anyone who is assessed based on their own eligibility would not be eligible to be sponsored if they are still inside of their country of origin.

YOU ASKED... When do we have to fill out the Additional Dependents/Declaration form?

OUR RESPONSE... A maximum of five dependants can be added on the Generic Application Form for Canada (IMM0008). If the Principle Applicant (PA) has more than 5 dependants, then he or she has to fill out the Additional Dependents/Declaration form to provide information about the dependants that have not already been listed on the Generic Application Form for Canada. If the PA has five dependants or less, he or she does not have to fill out the Additional Dependents/Declaration form.

YOU ASKED... I thought the requirement for # of photos changed from 6 to 2. But the document check list still says 6. So how many are required?

OUR RESPONSE... Even though the instruction guide is not yet update, you only need to submit one (1) photo of each refugee applicant.