

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CIC's update on Turkey pilot Project

"The SAH Turkey Pilot Project has been extended into 2015. While the project was initially limited to a total of 100 persons to be submitted up until December 31, 2014, it has been extended in recognition of the time needed to identify and put forward cases. The number of persons to be accepted under the pilot will be reassessed as the project progresses.

We are in the process of preparing additional information on pilot criteria in order to help SAHs identify eligible cases for inclusion in the pilot, and will be sending out an update shortly.

In the meantime, guidance remains that persons included under the pilot must:

1. Have entered Turkey legally
2. Have valid passports at the time of departure or UNHCR registration
3. Have blue ikamets/*mavi kimlik*s at the time of departure (Ankara has reported that they are no longer seeing the white foreigner registration cards); and
4. Be Iranian, Iraqi or Syrian

This guidance is consistent with information we have received from the visa office in Ankara and the UNHCR, as well as experiences of other resettlement countries."

Urgent Protection Program

While all refugees considered for resettlement are in need of protection, there may be a sense of urgency to resettle refugees who are in need of urgent protection because of immediate threats to their life, liberty or physical well-being. While sponsors may advocate for a case to be processed faster, sponsor cannot refer a case to CIC's Urgent Protection Program (UPP). Only the UNHCR can refer cases that it has prioritized as 'emergency' cases to CIC for urgent processing under the UPP designation. In such cases, Canadian visa officers will make a decision within 24 to 48 hours and resettle the person within 3 to 5 days from the receipt of the referral. A privately sponsored refugee in need of urgent protection must therefore present themselves to the UNHCR as soon as possible for an assessment and possible referral to the Canadian visa office.

For more information, visit: www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/publications/ref-sponsor/section-3-03.asp

Registration for next Introductory & Advanced E- Training Courses Open

The RSTP is pleased to announce that we are now accepting registrations for the Winter 2015 session of the introductory online course on private refugee sponsorship. Beginning on January 19th, this 10-week course provides a comprehensive overview of the refugee sponsorship program. For more information about the course content and to register, please visit: www.rstp.ca/en/training/e-training/iet101/. Registration forms must be received by Monday, January 12th to be considered for enrollment.

If you wish to register for the advanced-level e-training course, please visit:

www.rstp.ca/en/training/e-training/advanced-e-training/

Available JAS cases

JAS 091

PA is a 35 year old male accompanied by his 25 year old wife. Both are Iraqi nationals of Arab ethnicity. PA attended school for nine years and his spouse 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. PA and his spouse are unable to integrate locally as they are not legally allowed to work. PA fears that he and his wife would be persecuted should they be forced to return to Iraq.

JAS 120

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 file. 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. PA speaks some English but not fluently. PA's children sometimes sell water on the streets in order to supplement their income. PA fears that her children may be at risk of abduction, sexual abuse and exploitation.

JAS 158

PA is a 36 year old Colombian mother of 5 children, accompanied by 3 of the children (ages 9, 8 and 5). PA has endured abusive relationships with the fathers of her children. Her spouse of 5 years abandoned the family after arriving in Ecuador last year and the family has not heard from him since. PA and her family fled Colombia after persistent harassment from guerillas that culminated in an attack against the PA's former spouse during which the PA was also kicked repeatedly in the stomach. PA, who was pregnant at the time, believes this attack resulted in her youngest daughter being born with severe brain injury. PA is unwilling and afraid to return to Colombia, fearing that guerilla members who attacked her husband and harassed her family will find, threaten, or even kill them.

INQUIRIES & RESPONSES

YOU ASKED... We noticed that the category on last year's BVOR arrival was "CRS" but our most recent arrival's papers say "BSR". I was under the impression they were both BVORs and am not sure of the significance of the "category".

OUR RESPONSE... CIC has recently informed RSTP that the codes used on the Confirmation of Permanent Residence (COPR) documents have changed. BSR is indeed the code now being used for refugees resettled through the Blended VOR Program. For a list of CIC codes, please visit www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/publications/copr-category.asp and under "Application Type", expand the "Permanent Residence (PR)" section and click on "Refugee application class".

YOU ASKED... Do BVORs receive winter clothing when they arrive at the airport?

CIC's RESPONSE... BVORs are not entitled to start-up (which includes winter clothing) and are entitled to the same Port of Entry services as regular PSRs. Which means, only in circumstances where the sponsor cannot provide the clothing when it is needed, will winter clothing be provided. For instance where the clients are taking a second domestic flight into a smaller airport where they would have to walk outside in the secured area, before they meet with their sponsors."

YOU ASKED... We had signed a lease agreement before the refugee arrived a few days ago, and we have deposited a rent for one month as a condition of the lease. Will CIC be refunding us the deposited amount?

OUR RESPONSE... No. Rent deposits are not covered for BVOR refugees, as it is considered part of the start-up costs, which BVOR refugees are not entitled to. Even though in cases of GARs and JAS cases, RAP covers costs incurred for rent deposits, furniture, food staples, school start-up and phone and internet hook ups, BVOR refugees are not eligible for these costs. When you sign the undertaking, you have assumed the responsibility to pay for these costs.