

SPONSORING IRAQI AND SYRIAN REFUGEES IN 2015

We have been asked to confirm the interpretation of communications received by SAHs along with the sponsorship allocations for 2015, particularly regarding allocations for sponsoring Iraqi and Syrian refugees. **There are no sponsorship allocations for Syrian and Iraqi refugees.** Since there is no cap or limit on sponsorships of these refugee populations, there is no need to allot sponsorship spaces for them. As a result, you are allowed to sponsor as many Iraqi and Syrian refugees as you are reasonably able to settle. For any questions about the allocation process, please contact the SAH council and secretariat.

OPERATIONAL GUIDANCE NOTE ON SYRIA

As you prepare to sponsor Syrian refugees, [Operation Guidance Notes on Syrian Asylum Seekers](#) published by UK government could assist you in assessing the eligibility of Syrian sponsorship applicants. Due to the prevalent security and humanitarian situations in Syria, the guide indicates that **most Syrian asylum applicants may qualify for refugee protection**, except those who are excluded because past crimes and involvements in gross human rights violations or reasons. Even though the list is not exhaustive, the guide points out the following groups as particularly at risk.

- ✓ **Kurds**- especially activists or those perceived of supporting the political or armed opposition groups;
- ✓ **Perceived opposition to the government** – members of the official opposition and low level activities such as news providers, protestors, perceived critics and their family members
- ✓ **Perceived opposition to the government** – for those living in opposition-controlled areas who are suspected of opposing the rulers or committing ordinary crimes;
- ✓ **Affiliation to the Muslim Brotherhood** – current or former members of the Muslim Brotherhood in Syria;
- ✓ **Forced military conscription, forced recruitment, military deserters and defectors** –those who have refused to join to or have fled from the armed forces of both government and opposition groups;
- ✓ **Returning failed asylum seekers** - most returnees, including failed asylum seekers;
- ✓ **Women** – victims of cultural, societal and family pressures, including victims of spousal abuse.

UPCOMING EVENTS

WORKSHOPS

Group of Five Forms & the IMM6000

When: Thursday, February 19th

Time: 9:30 am – 1:00 pm

Where: Afghan Women's Organization
Please pre-register by contacting Sara at sshahsiah@rstp.ca by February 16th.

Feel free to bring completed forms with you for review. To request a Forms Clinic in your area, contact us.

Other Upcoming Events

CCR WEBINAR

Social Media And Refugee Rights, 5 March 2015

This webinar will offer an overview of strategic communications, campaigning and content creation with special attention to issues affecting refugees and others seeking protection in Canada. Go to <http://ccrweb.ca/en/webinars> for more information.

CCR WORKING GROUP MEETINGS

FRIDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2015:

9:30am - 5pm: **Inland Protection Working Group** meeting

SATURDAY 28 February 2015:

9:30am - 5pm: **Overseas Protection & Sponsorship Working Group** meeting

9:30am - 5pm: **Immigration and Settlement Working Group** meeting

Where: Salvation Army Harbour Light Ministries, 160 Jarvis St., Toronto

For more information, go to [here](#)

INQUIRIES & RESPONSES

Available JAS Cases

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.

In Canada JAS 099

The PA is a single 25 year old Iraqi female with minimum education and is currently 5 months pregnant. She arrived in Canada as a GAR, but the local CIC office in London, Ontario, along with the Service Providing Organization has requested an In-Canada JAS. The PA would benefit from the added emotional support of a sponsoring group, as well as companionship and support with becoming a new mother.
Destination: Kitchener, ON

In-Canada JAS 161

This is a single 40 year old woman at risk from Côte d'Ivoire, who suffers from a severe speech impediment and is considered illiterate. She has been in Canada for 7 months now without a sponsor. The Service Providing Organization has determined that she would benefit from the one on one support provided by a sponsor. The PA was also a victim of Gender based violence before arriving in Canada and has been receiving some counselling. Given the degree and number of challenges she faces, the additional time and assistance provided under the JAS program would allow the PA to focus on her challenges. *Destination: Winnipeg, MB*

If you have any questions or interested in any of the above profiles, please contact the Matching Centre: Matching-Centre@cic.gc.ca

YOU ASKED... How many identity documents do visa offices (Ankara in particular) want translated? Iraqis, like Syrians, tend to have National Identity, Citizenship, Family Household records, etc., in addition to passports and UNHCR registration. It must be expensive to get certified translations. Do I need to reject applications where not all Iraqi and Syrian documents have been translated?

OUR RESPONSE... Unless it is a mandatory document or a document that is important to corroborate the refugee story, it is not necessary to translate and submit all documents that refugees have. Based on the attached latest Turkey Pilot Project document checklist shared by Elizabeth, the documents can be divided into two categories: mandatory and those supporting or helpful.

Mandatory

- Valid Passports – if available
- Required documents for each refugee populations as listed in the latest SAH Turkey Pilot Eligibility Checklist (See attached document)

It is fair to require that any of these mandatory documents are translated and submitted.

Supporting documents

- *National ID document* could be translated and submitted to show the nationality of an applicant, especially if the refugee does not have a passport.
- *Family Household Records* may help to show the family composition
- *Baptism Certificate* – for Christian refugees, this may demonstrate their religious background
- *Birth Certificate* - it may help to identify the applicant and his or her relationship with their parents or siblings
- *Marriage Certificate* could be relevant to indicate the marital status of an applicant.

Given the expenses of translating documents, you can require them to translate any of the supporting documents that you consider very essential to corroborate their refugee claims. Also, it is possible to get the documents translated in Canada with the help of provincially recognized translators.

YOU ASKED... Please note one of our constituent groups has received interest from a family for 4 refugee spots in Israel. In looking at the [website link](#) regarding the Tel Aviv Visa office, are we reading correctly that refugees in Israel wouldn't qualify?

OUR RESPONSE... The website posting is related to referrals done by UNHCR and the GAR program. Even with in the GAR program, CIC has begun to resettle refugees from Israel. It seems that the posted information may need to be updated given current developments. As to private sponsorship of refugees, you are allowed to sponsor refugees out of Israel. Several sponsors are already sponsoring refugees from there and some even have arrivals. Besides, the attached document explains CIC's position on the sponsorship of refugees from Israel. Even though it is written in the context sponsorship of Eritrean refugees, it indicates the possibility of sponsoring refugees from Israel.