

August 11, 2017

# RSTP Bulletin

**1** refugee without hope  
**is too many.**

**Number of PSR Applications filed from  
January 1 to July 31:**

**3,016\***

\* This number does not include applications for 1,511 received in 2017 in all sponsorship categories (G5/CS/SAH).

**Number of PSR Applicants Admitted to  
Canada from January 1 to May 31:**

**8,770**

**Current PSR Inventory  
(in persons, as of May 31):**

**41,151**

**PSR SAH Cap Space Remaining in 2017:**

**57%**

Photo: UNHCR

## Highlights from Visa Office Specific Information on PSR processing

### Common Challenges Faced by Visa Offices and How Sponsors Can Help

#### Family Composition

- Most delays in processing occur as a result of the addition of dependants being added at the end stages of processing. Sponsors are encouraged to be proactive in submitting required documentation and forms to the Refugee Operations Center in Ottawa (ROC-O) when they first become aware of new dependants.
- De-facto Dependants: Unless a clear relationship of dependency can be established, sponsors should submit separate applications for new, adult applicants who are not the spouse or children of the principal applicant (such as siblings).

#### Communication

- Most refusals or withdrawals occur because the visa office cannot contact the applicant to proceed with the application.
- Sponsors must ensure that they have up to date contact information for the refugees they are sponsoring
- Sponsors can assist processing by passing on communication to applicants (e.g. interview convocation and request letters) given the difficulty with communications in some locations.

#### Eligibility

- An applicant may provide elaborate details on forms, yet when they are interviewed and pressed for further details or questioned on the details presented in the forms, the applicants are often unable to recount what they already provided on paper or they provide vague responses which can be contradictory to the forms.
- In some cases, applicants may only be adding to or embellishing their accounts, which erodes their credibility unnecessarily.
- Encourage applicants to be forthcoming and truthful with all information provided to the visa office, as not doing so could lead to the refusal of their application.

#### Interviews and Documents:

- Sponsors should ensure applicants come prepared to the interview with requested documentation listed on the convocation letter, such as updated and completed Schedule A for each dependant over the age of 18 and completed forms for each new family member (children, spouse) not listed on the original application.
- Sponsors should advise applicants to only submit genuine documentation with their applications.

#### Background / Personal History:

- Although information about political or military history may not render the applicant inadmissible, failure to provide truthful information about personal history will lead to refusal.
- To reduce processing time and the need to request additional information, applicants that have worked for the government, or have military history, should also include a detailed Government/Military table. These applications may take longer to process as background checks will be required.

#### Information

- Sponsors are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the Country of Origin Information available on UNHCR's RefWorld.
- Visa officers use this to assess the credibility of claims.

FYI: RSTP website has detailed information and recommendations on [Preparing for Interviews](#)

# Highlights from Visa Office Specific Information on PSR processing

\* Visa office specific information included in this report was provided as of March 2017.

All visa office specific data included in this report (i.e. approval rate, target space remaining) is as of May 31, 2017.\*

## ABU DHABI

Areas of responsibility: Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen

**Approval Rate = 94%**

**Processing Time = 13 months**

**Target Space for 2017 Remaining: 46%**

## ACCRA

Areas of responsibility: Ascension, Benin, Equatorial Guinea, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, Sao Tome e Principe, Sierra Leone, St. Helena, Togo, Tristan da Cunha

**Approval Rate = 89%**

**Processing Time = 47.8 months**

## AMMAN

Areas of responsibility: Jordan, Iraq, Syria

**Approval Rate = 91%**

**Processing Time = 17.4 months**

**Target Space for 2017 Remaining: 46%**

## ANKARA

Areas of responsibility: Azerbaijan, Georgia, Iran, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan

**Approval Rate = 96%**

**Processing Time = 18.2 months**

**Target Space for 2017 Remaining: 42%**

## BEIRUT

Area of responsibility: Lebanon

**Approval Rate = 94%**

**Processing Time = 13.1 months**

**Target Space for 2017 Remaining: 53%**

## CAIRO

Areas of responsibility: Egypt, Palestinian Authority (Gaza)

**Approval Rate = 55%**

**Processing Time = 67.1 months**

**Target Space for 2017 Remaining: 57%**

## COLOMBO

Areas of responsibility: Sri Lanka, Maldives

**Approval Rate = 100%**

**Processing Time = 14.2 months**

**Target Space for 2017 Remaining: 13%**

## DAR ES SALAAM

Areas of responsibility: Burundi, Comoros, Rwanda, Seychelles, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia

**Approval Rate = 98%**

**Processing Time = 26.6 months**

**Target Space for 2017 Remaining: 77%**

## DAKAR

Areas of responsibility: Burkina-Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Republic of the Congo, Senegal

**Approval Rate = 86%**

**Processing Time = 65.1 months**

**Target Space for 2017 Remaining: 60%**

## ISLAMABAD

Areas of responsibility: Afghanistan, Pakistan

**Approval Rate = 76%**

**Processing Time = 69.2 months**

**Target Space for 2017 Remaining: 71%**



Photo: UNHCR



Photo: UNHCR



# Highlights from Visa Office Specific Information on PSR processing

\*All visa office specific data included in this report (i.e. approval rate, target space remaining) is as of May 31, 2017.\*

## LONDON

Areas of responsibility: Channel Islands, Denmark, Falkland Islands, Faroe Islands, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Ireland, Isle of Man, Norway, Sweden, Scotland, United Kingdom

**Approval Rate = 79%**

**Processing Time = 36.6 months**

**Target Space for 2017 Remaining: 45%**

## MOSCOW

Areas of responsibility: Armenia, Russia

**Approval Rate = 92%**

**Processing Time = 56.1 months**

**Target Space for 2017 Remaining: 52%**

## NAIROBI

Areas of responsibility: Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan

**Approval Rate = 84%**

**Processing Time = 76.9 months**

**Target Space for 2017 Remaining: 69%**

## NEW DELHI

Areas of responsibility: Afghanistan, Bhutan, India, Nepal

**Approval Rate = 90%**

**Processing Time = 75.5 months**

**Target Space for 2017 Remaining: 33%**

## PARIS

Countries of responsibility: Algeria, Andorra, Belgium, France, Gibraltar, Libya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, Portugal (including Azores and Madeira), Spain (including the Canary Islands), St. Pierre et Miquelon, Switzerland, Tunisia

**Approval Rate = 89%**

**Processing Time = 13.8 months**

**Target Space for 2017 Remaining: 38%**

## PRETORIA

Areas of responsibility: Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zimbabwe

**Approval Rate = 90%**

**Processing Time = 68.4 months**

**Target Space for 2017 Remaining: 62%**

## ROME

Areas of responsibility: Albania, Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Malta, San Marino, Sudan, Vatican City

**Approval Rate = 90%**

**Processing Time = 59.4 months**

**Target Space for 2017 Remaining: 52%**

## SINGAPORE

Areas of responsibility: Bangladesh, Brunei, Burma/Myanmar, Cambodia, East Timor, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam

**Approval Rate = 74%**

**Processing Time = 19.8 months**

**Target Space for 2017 Remaining: 55%**

## TEL AVIV

Areas of responsibility: Israel, Palestinian Authority (West Bank)

**Approval Rate = 100%**

**Processing Time = 18.2 months**

**Target Space for 2017 Remaining: 9%**

## VIENNA

Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Netherlands, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia

**Approval Rate = 19%**

**Processing Time = 52.9 months**

**Target Space for 2017 Remaining: 86%**



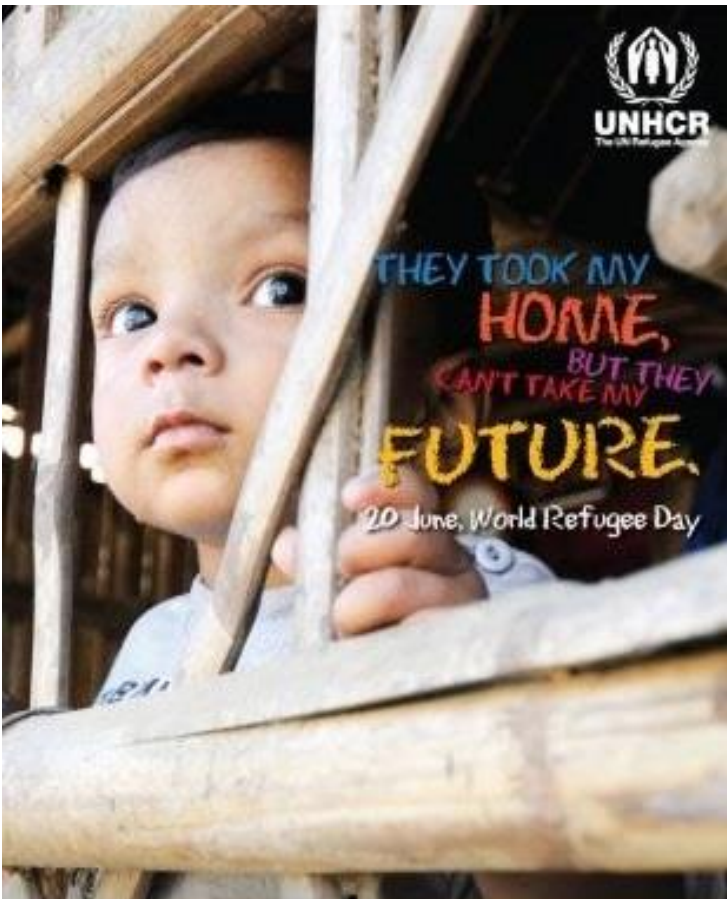
Photo: UNHCR



Photo: UNHCR

# Upcoming RSTP Workshops:

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## Private Refugee Sponsorship – Group of 5 & Community Sponsor

**Date:** Thursday August 17, 2017

**Time:** 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm MDT

**Where:** Calgary Central Library, Basement Rm #1 616 Macleod Trail SE, Calgary, AB T2G 2M2

**Description:** A workshop for new sponsorship groups and interested community members who wish to form a Group of Five or submit an application as a Community Sponsor.

**Registration link:**

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/private-refugee-sponsorship-group-of-5-and-community-sponsor-tickets-36684673847> or by contacting the Refugee Sponsorship Training Program at [mnewman@rstp.ca](mailto:mnewman@rstp.ca) or (403) 515-5868.

Please consider filling out the [Refugee Sponsor Survey](#), developed by researchers at University of Toronto and York University for private sponsors of Syrian refugees. For more information about the survey: Website: <https://privatesponsorship.wordpress.com> E-mail: [privatesponsors@gmail.com](mailto:privatesponsors@gmail.com)

## Sponsorship, Refugee Settlement Services and the Resettlement of Yazidi Refugees in London, ON

**Date:** Saturday August 19th, 2017

**Time:** 11:00 am – 4:00 pm EDT (Registration starts at 10:30 am)

**Where:** Cross Cultural Learner Centre (CCLC), 505 Dundas St, London, ON N6B 1W4

**Description:** The RSTP and London Cross Cultural Learner Centre (CCLC) are conducting this session that will be open to potential and active private refugee sponsoring groups and will include the topics below: Private Sponsorship Of Refugee (PSR) Program – Requirements and Process; Blended Visa Office Referred (BVOR) Program; Resettlement of Yazidi Refugees under the Joint Assistant Sponsorship Program; and Settlement and Post Arrival Support. The session will be followed by panel discussion.

**Registration link:**

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/sponsorship-refugee-settlement-services-and-the-resettlement-of-yazidi->

## Managing Expectations and Ethical Considerations in Refugee Sponsorship

**Date:** Saturday, August 19th, 2017

**Time:** 9:30 am - 1:00 pm

**Where:** St. John's Institute, 1st Floor Gallery, 11024 Whyte Avenue, Edmonton, AB T6G 0T2

**Description:** This training session is being offered free of charge and is intended for the sponsors of refugees. The workshop will explore a variety of topics valuable to refugee sponsorship, including:

- Managing expectations: What are sponsors' expectations and refugees' expectations of each other and how can expectations be managed to promote a positive relationship between sponsors and newcomers?
- Code of ethics for privately sponsoring groups: What are some ethical practices sponsors may wish to consider?
- Power imbalance: How do power imbalances affect the relationship between sponsors and refugees and how can this be minimized?
- Sponsorship dynamics: How might sponsorship dynamics be navigated using an ethics-based approach to promote successful newcomer settlement?

**Registration link:** [https://rstp\\_aug19.eventbrite.com](https://rstp_aug19.eventbrite.com)

## Refugee Sponsorship Training Workshops at IS-GW

**Date:** Friday, August 18, 2017

**Time:** 9:30 am to 2:30 pm EDT

**Where:** 104 Dawson Road, Unit 102 Guelph, ON N1H 1A6

**Description:** The RSTP and Immigration Services Guelph-Wellington (IS-GW) are conducting this workshop to provide an overview of sponsorship, explain application forms and provide updates on new changes to Private Sponsorship of Refugees. There will also be a hands-on forms review and Q&A with the specialist. A mobile computer lab will be available for interested clients to type their forms and have questions answered.

**To register, please call:** Dayami at 519-836-2222 ext. 225 or email [dramirez@is-gw.ca](mailto:dramirez@is-gw.ca).



# Upcoming RSTP Workshops Continues:

## Planning for the End of Sponsorship, or "Month 13"

**Date:** Thursday, August 17, 2017

**Time:** 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm ADT

**Where:** The Salvation Army, Spryfield Community Church and Family Resource Centre, 328 Herring Cove Road, Spryfield, NS B3R 1W2

**Description:** Private sponsors will learn and discuss: When to start helping newcomers plan for the end of the sponsorship period, or "Month 13"; The role of sponsors during the "transition period", including the post-sponsorship relationship; and Private sponsors will be given the opportunity to share their own experiences, challenges, and ideas about Month 13 planning. RSTP is pleased to have ISANS Settlement Counsellor, Shahnaz Sobhani, in attendance to help sponsors navigate the local programs and services available to newcomers after the sponsorship period is over.

**Registration link:**

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/private-refugee-sponsorship-planning-for-month-13-tickets-36724983414>

## Refugee Sponsorship: Community Sponsors

**Date:** Wed, 23 August 2017

**Time:** 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM EDT

**Where:** Toronto Public Library - Danforth/Coxwell Library, 1675 Danforth Ave. Toronto, Ontario, M4C 5P2

**Description:** The Refugee Sponsorship Training Program (RSTP) is hosting a free workshop for new and experienced sponsors. The workshop will provide an in-depth look into sponsoring refugees under the Private Sponsorship of Refugees (PSR) program as a Community Sponsor.

**Topics covered will include:**

- The specific requirements for Community Sponsors sponsoring under the PSR program;
- Eligibility and admissibility requirements for refugees being sponsored by Community Sponsors;
- The sponsorship process;
- Which forms need to be completed and how to complete the forms; and,
- A step-by-step guide for Community Sponsors on how to prepare and submit a complete and successful application package.

**Registration link:** <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/refugee-sponsorship-community-sponsors-tickets-36954692480>

## BVOR Profiles:

### **0554-07-17- Eritrean Family of 8**

We have a BVOR Eritrean family of 8, including 6 children between 1 and 12 years old. PA and his family have a well-founded fear of return to Eritrea on grounds of imputed political opinion. PA and his family are seeking a better life and would appreciate the assistance of a sponsor during his resettlement in Canada. The family would benefit from additional support to help them integrate into Canadian life, including providing basic knowledge and necessities. They have a relative in Canada, the spouse's mother in Winnipeg (MB), and would like to resettle near them.

### **0551-07-17- Large Iraqi family and PA speaks some English**

Large Iraqi family with older children. The PA was a market owner and his wife has some experience as a Primary school teacher. The PA can understand some English and has a friend living in Hamilton, ON. The PA would like to settle near his friend for moral support if possible. The PA has a heart condition and should consult a Cardiologist within 6 weeks of arrival. This family cannot return to their home country as they fear for their safety.

### **0561-07-17 Young single Syrian male travelling with his mother and sister - preferred destination near friend in Windsor, ON**

Young, single Syrian male travelling with his mother and sister on BVOR 0562-07-17. He has experience working in various factories and computer shops and has an elementary level education. He cannot return to his home country with his family as they fear for their safety. They would benefit from the additional support of a sponsor.

### **0562-07-17- preferred destination near friend in Windsor, ON**

The PA is a widowed Syrian woman with grade six education and no work experience. She is travelling with her daughter who has high school education but no work experience. The PA's son is travelling on BVOR 0561-07-17 and they must be resettled together. They PA and her family are seeking a better life and would appreciate the assistance of a sponsor during resettlement in Canada.

### **0577-07-17- Single Congolese male**

The PA is a 20 year old male and he is at risk. He has a grade 11 education and he is able to communicate well in English. The PA is seeking a better life and would appreciate the assistance of a sponsor during his resettlement in Canada.

For more information on any of these cases, please contact the BVOR worker and she can forward the extended profile. You can also login to RSTP matching database using your username and password to view the profiles.

**In addition to these cases we have 7 more BVOR profiles available on the matching database.**

**For more information on the BVOR Program, please click this link:** [http://www.rstp.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Blended-VOR-FAQ\\_2017-1-1.pdf](http://www.rstp.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Blended-VOR-FAQ_2017-1-1.pdf) or contact our **Refugee Resettlement Project Worker** at: [bvor@rstp.ca](mailto:bvor@rstp.ca)

# Upcoming RSTP Webinars:

## Private Sponsorship of Refugees: Supporting Settlement and Integration

**Date:** Tuesday August 22, 2017

**Time:** 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm EDT

**This webinar will cover:**

- Sponsors' responsibilities
- Connecting with Settlement Services for Newcomers
- Ethical Considerations in Sponsorship
- Managing Expectations
- Preparing for Month 13

**Registration link:**

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1772207519533280770>

## Private Sponsorship of Refugees: Group of Five and Community Sponsor

**Date:** Thursday August 17, 2017

**Time:** 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm EDT

**This webinar will cover:**

- Overview of G5 sponsorship (eligibility criteria and requirements for sponsors)
- Overview of CS sponsorship (eligibility criteria and requirements for sponsors)
- Who can be sponsored?
- Application forms for G5 and CS
- Application forms for refugee applicants
- Sponsorship process

**Registration link:**

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4999488551823171330>

## Introduction to PSR

**Date:** Tuesday August 15, 2017

**Time:** 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm EDT

**This webinar will cover:**

- Launch of PSR program
- Program evolution over the years
- PSR as part of Resettlement Eligibility criteria for sponsors and refugee applicants
- Sponsorship process

**Registration link:**

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7989689588397122562>



Photo: UNHCR

## INQUIRIES...

### You Asked...

What forms should a recently arrived refugee use to bring his family under the one year window program?

### We Answered...

For refugees sponsored under the PSR and BVOR programs, the following forms need to be completed for a One-Year Window of Opportunity Provisions application:

- Request for Processing Family Members under the One-Year Window of Opportunity Provisions (IMM 5571);
- Generic Application for Canada (IMM 0008) (in the name of the dependent/s coming under the One-Year Window of Opportunity Provisions); and, if applicable,
- Schedule A - Background/Declaration (IMM 5669).

The PA who is already in Canada, would also needs to include a copy of his/her Permanent Residence card or Confirmation of Permanent Residence with the application package.

For further information on how to complete the forms, and to download the forms, please see the One-Year Window of Opportunity Provisions Instruction Guide [IMM 5578] at the following link:

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/applications/guides/5578ETOC.asp>