

Remaining Syrian Ministerial Priority Spaces

The remaining 325 Syrian ministerial priority spaces are now available and they will be released on a first-come-first served basis, to a maximum of 20 spaces per SAH. All SAHs are eligible to apply for spaces including those SAHs who already have Syrian spaces. To apply for spaces please send an email to Elizabeth (ewalton@sahsecretariat.com) with Syrian Spaces **in the subject line**. On September 1 any number of the remaining spaces can be requested by any SAH regardless of how many spaces they have requested previously. (*Elizabeth Walton, Capper Tracker*).

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MCC Toronto Video

Click [here](#) to watch a video created by Metropolitan Community Church Toronto to support their refugee. Brian Berne – thanks for sending it us and we also encourage others SAHs to share if they have any tool or exciting news.

Self-Assessment Tool For Groups Of Five

RSTP has made available an interactive self-assessment tool on online. This tool is created to assist Group of Five Members to assess themselves if they meet the eligibility criteria to participate in Groups of Five Applications. Groups and individuals can enter their including incomes, planned contributions toward a particular sponsorship and existing responsibilities, the tool will assess if they have the capability including financial ability to participate in a sponsorship. By using this tool, Groups of Five members and those working with will have some sense if they qualify to sponsor refugees before they submit their application. To access the tool, click [here](#).

Upcoming Event

Webinar on Group of Five – Applications & Processing,

Date: Wednesday, June 25, 2014 (6:00 PM - 7:30 PM Eastern Time)

Are you a member of a Group of Five but not sure what forms are needed? Wondering what happens to a refugee sponsorship application after you submit in Canada? Has your refugee sponsorship application been recently rejected, but you are not sure why? Join us for this web-based training session to find out more information about the in-Canada processing of G5 applications, common reasons for returns/rejections,

Upcoming Event - continues

Workshop: *Private Sponsorship of Refugees From Syria*

Where: Catholic Cross-Cultural Service, 4557 Hurontario Street, Unit B11, Mississauga, ON

Date: June 26, 2014 (TBC)

Time: 6:00 – 8:00 pm

For more information contact Nadine

Nasir: nnasir@rstp.ca

AVAILABLE VOR

VOR 036

The PA is a 27 year old Eritrean woman accompanied by her 5 year old son. The PA was confronted and threatened by security forces concerning the whereabouts of her spouse, so she decided to flee the country. After making contact with him, the PA and her child were reunited with her spouse. While on her way to Ethiopia, the PA was the victim of violence and continues to struggle with the trauma of the event. Once re-united with her spouse the relationship quickly broke down and the PA suffered abuse at the hands of her spouse. The PA lives alone with her son, which places her in a particularly vulnerable position within the camp. *As such, her case is considered high urgency.*

AVAILABLE VORs

VOR 083

The PA is a 23 year old Iraqi woman accompanied by her 19 year old sister. The PA was six years old when her mother left her father due to physical abuse and he placed her and her sister in an orphanage for many years. They were routinely underfed and mistreated. In 2013, their father expressed interest in their welfare and they went to live with him. The PA and her sister were soon forced to travel from Turkey to Lebanon to feel their abusive father. They are women at risk with no supporting family members and are also members of a minority religion. *This case is considered URGENT.*

VOR 064

The PA is a 32 year old Iranian woman. She is accompanied by her 39 year old spouse and their 14 year old son. The PA fled after being targeted based on her religious beliefs. Her spouse, who is of a different religious denomination, was pressured to bring his wife to religious ceremonies at his work. Once his employers found out his wife was of a different religion, their home was raided by government authorities during which the PA suffered physical injuries. The family speaks English and can be resettled anywhere in Canada.

VOR 079 & 080

The PA is a 43 year old Colombian woman accompanied by her 19, 16, and 16 year old sons and her 12 year old daughter. Her eldest daughter, 21 years old, is cross-referenced in VOR 080 with her 4 year old son. This family was targeted by a paramilitary group. The PA's husband (079) disappeared after refusing to pay a war tax to this group and the whole family was threatened after reporting his disappearance to the authorities. They were internally displaced but were soon forced to flee to Ecuador to avoid being tracked down by this armed group. The family would like to be resettled together, anywhere in Canada.

refugee status recognition proof and overseas processing. Click [here](#) to register.

INQUIRIES & RESPONSES

YOU ASKED ... From where can we sponsor Syrian refugees?

OUR REPLY.... SAHs can use 2014 Syrian Ministerial Priority spaces or any other allocated sponsorship spaces, either non-capped spaces (for countries not covered under sub-capped missions) OR sub-capped spaces (for countries covered under sub-capped missions), to sponsor Syrian refugees in **any country.**

YOU ASKED ... Who can be sponsored under the Syrian Ministerial Priority Spaces?

OUR REPLY...As mentioned above Syrian refugees from any country can be sponsored as long as they meet the regulatory requirements i.e. they are members of the Convention Refugee Abroad and Country of Asylum classes.

YOU ASKED... Are there any resources that could assist us to assess inquiries to sponsor Syrian refugees?

OUR REPLY... Even though as a sponsor you have a full right to select any case that you want to sponsor, consulting reports prepared by UNHCR and other credible agencies could assist you in making an informed decision. In particular, UNHCR guidelines on *International Protection Considerations with regard to people fleeing the Syrian Arab Republic, Update II* lists the following as “risk profiles” that deserve international refugee protection.

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- ✓ **Real or perceived opponents of the Syrian Government – such as** members of political opposition parties; human rights and civil society activists; protestors; civilians residing in urban neighbourhoods, villages and towns (perceived to be) opposing the Government; army defectors and deserters; draft evaders; family members and affiliates of (perceived) Government opponents;
- ✓ **Real or perceived supporters of the Syrian Government,** including for example Government officials; civilians of urban neighbourhoods, towns or villages (perceived to be) supporting the Government; family members of (perceived) Government supporters;
- ✓ Persons (perceived to be) **opposing armed opposition groups and Kurdish armed groups** in areas under the *de facto* control of such armed groups;
- ✓ **Professionals, in particular journalists and other media professionals,** including citizen journalists and bloggers; doctors and other health professionals; academics; artists; human rights defenders; and humanitarian workers;
- ✓ **Members of religious groups** (Sunnis, Alawites, Shi'ites, Christians, Ismailis, Druze) and persons perceived to be contravening Shari'a law by Islamist opposition groups;
- ✓ **Kurds and members of other minority ethnic groups;**
- ✓ **Palestine refugees who had their former habitual residence in Syria;** [Note that Palestine refugees cannot be sponsored under the Syrian ministerial priority space; however, SAHs can use their uncapped sponsorship spaces to sponsor Palestine refugees].
- ✓ **Women and girls** who are victims of or at risk of sexual violence, early and forced marriage, domestic violence, “honour crimes”, sexual exploitation, and, in particular, women without male protection;
- ✓ Children who are victims of or at risk of child-specific forms of violence, underage and forced recruitment, and systematic denial of access to education;
- ✓ Persons with a lesbian, gay or bisexual sexual orientation and gender-

nonconforming persons (lesbians, gay and bisexual persons; transgender and intersex persons **[LGBTI]**);

✓**Victims of trafficking** in human beings and persons at risk of being trafficked.”