

Are You Tom?



“We were shopping at the giant Costco store on Regent last Sunday afternoon. I was pushing the cart as usual, with June going ahead to find our items. As we neared the end of our rounds I paused to admire the display of containers of macadamia nuts – a weakness – and choose one. June was by this time well ahead of me.

Suddenly a disembodied voice said, ‘Are you Tom?’ I looked around, then down to see a little girl, very close, and staring up at me. She was a beautiful child, I would say of Congolese origin, with her hair neatly done in tiny braids. There was no one in sight who could have been her family.

‘Yes, I’m Tom’, I replied. And then she said earnestly, looking up at me from what seemed a long way down, ‘Thank you for bringing my auntie and my uncle to Canada.’

I admit that at this point I just about lost it. But I recovered to thank her, and then to enquire who she was with. By this time June had come back to see what was up, and then a smiling mother figure appeared ‘round a corner. All was well.

I don’t know who this mother and child were. But the gift that little girl gave me was far greater than she could possibly know. It rewarded my work in a memorable way and encouraged me to continue. I shall not forget her.” (Tom Denton, April 17, 2014)

Do you have a story you’d like to share with other sponsors? Email us and we’d be happy to share it in this bulletin.

AVAILABLE JAS CASE

In-Canada JAS 019- The PA is a 35 year old divorced mother of four children (16, 12, 9 and 6) who have all been victims of domestic violence. The PA would benefit from emotional support, counseling, and help with parenting skills. The 9 year old son has medical needs, and the PA may need assistance to get the child to specialists or other medical service facilities.

The family is currently living in **London, Ontario** and would benefit greatly from having the support of a sponsoring group in the AREA.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SAH National Conference

Theme: *Towards Effective Communication – Listening To Each Other*

Date: May 26-28, 2014

Venue: Four Point Sheraton Hotel, Halifax, NS

Registration deadline has passed; please contact RSTP for more info

CCR Spring Consultation

Theme: *Gateways to hope, pathways to belonging*

Date: May 29-31, 2014

Venue: Saint Mary’s University campus, Halifax, NS

For more Information about the consultation and online registration please visit : crrweb.ca/meetings

Friendly reminder! The deadline for re-submitting your expression of interest is TODAY, Tuesday, April 22, 2014.

Refugees And Other Forced Migrants In Turkey

Refugees	511,936
Asylum Seekers	14,758
Returned Refugees	0
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	0
Returned IDPs	0
Stateless Persons	780
Various	306
Total Population of Concern	527,780

Source: [UNHCR's website](#)

REFUGEE POPULATION

Syrian Arab Republic
Iraq
Afghanistan
Islamic Republic of Iran
Somalia
Sudan
Kyrgyzstan
Occupied Palestinian Territories
Various

ASYLUM-SEEKER POPULATION

Afghanistan
Islamic Republic of Iran
Iraq
Somalia
Occupied Palestinian Territories
Uzbekistan
Syrian Arab Republic
Kyrgyzstan
Yemen
Various
Total asylum-seeker population

**As of Jan 01/2013. Source: UNHCR Projected Global Resettlement Needs 2014*

INQUIRIES & RESPONSES

You asked... There were some changes ('relaxation') which allowed **SAHs to sponsor refugees in Turkey**. Can we now sponsor refugees who are there? Is it limited to certain countries of origin?

CIC response ... The FAQs prepared by CIC in relation to sponsorship allocation provides the following response:

"In 2004, CIC invoked section 13(e) of the SAH Agreement, restricting SAHs from sponsoring refugees in Turkey. This clause was invoked due to difficulty obtaining exit permits for privately sponsored refugees in Turkey. CIC continues to monitor the situation. Given the changing environment in Turkey, CIC is implementing a pilot through which we will be accepting a **small and limited** number of applications from SAHs for refugees in Turkey. Our goal is to assess the feasibility of resettling SAH-sponsored cases out of Turkey in the medium term. Please contact the SAH Secretariat for more information on specific criteria that SAHs must meet to participate in this pilot."

You asked... What is the eligibility criteria for the pilot project?

CIC response... "As we are trying to test a small number of cases to see if exit permits can be successfully received for them, the following cases will qualify for the project:

- ✓ Strong cases with a high chance of acceptance under Canada's resettlement program
- ✓ Refugees must be registered with UNHCR and Turkish authorities
- ✓ Refugees must not have received a negative refugee status determination from UNHCR
- ✓ Syrian refugees will not be eligible at this time as they are not registered with UNHCR
- ✓ Iraqi refugees who have moved from Syria to Turkey are not good test cases as there is already an avenue available to continue processing their cases through Turkey"

You asked... What is the process?

CIC response... "This is the agreed upon process:

- ✓ SAH emails case details to Secretariat
- ✓ Secretariat confirms case meets pilot criteria (registration with UNHCR and Turkish authorities)
- ✓ Secretariat sends email to CPO-W with copy to PSR inbox to provide notification of the forthcoming case submission and the name of the refugee
- ✓ Secretariat informs SAH that case can be submitted (this step could perhaps be combined with above if sponsor is included in email)
- ✓ CPO-W processes case as usual
- ✓ At year-end, NHQ communicates to Ankara regarding total number of test cases to be submitted as part of pilot
- ✓ CPO-W transfers all Turkey pilot cases to Ankara following December 31st, 2014 submission deadline

In the event that a SAH submits a Turkey case without contacting the Secretariat first, CPO-W will bring to IPMB's attention for follow-up as required."

You asked... Syrian refugees are now registering with UNHCR – so does that qualify them for sponsorship by a SAH?

CIC response... Syrians are not included in the pilot project at this moment.