

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

UNHCR Protection Manual

UNHCR has recently launched its updated online Protection Manual – **a repository of protection policy and guidance documents**. Various guidelines and policy documents are organized by subjects and made more accessible. Of particular importance to refugee sponsoring groups are the materials under Section G - **Durable Solutions**, including **Resettlement (G.2) and Local Integration (G.3)** and Section B – **Refugee Protection**. Click [here](#) to access the manual.

International Protection Considerations With Regard To People Fleeing Southern and Central Somalia

An updated [UNHCR guidelines](#) issued in January 2014 indicates that Somalis residing in the Southern and Central Somalia, which includes the capital city, and belonging to the following 12 profiles are considered at risk and thus in need of international protection. The profiles at risk are:

- Those affiliated to the Somalia Federal Government and the international community;
- Individuals (perceived as) contravening Islamic *Sharia* and decrees imposed by Al-Shabaab;
- Those (perceived as) opposing the Somalia Federal Government and related interests and suspected of supporting armed anti-Government groups;
- Journalists, members of the judiciary, humanitarian workers and human rights activists, teachers and staff of educational facilities, business people and other people (perceived to be) of means;
- Individuals (at risk of being) forcibly recruited;
- Members of minority groups such as members of the Christian religious minority and members of minority clans;
- Those belonging to a clan engaged in a blood feud;
- Women and girls;
- Children;
- Victims and persons at risk of trafficking
- Sexual and/or gender non-conforming persons (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) individuals), and
- Persons with a mental disability or suffering from mental illness.

BVOR CASES THAT NEED SPONSORS

VOR 012

The PA is a single 29 year old Eritrean male of Tigrinya ethnicity, currently residing in Egypt. Due to financial difficulties, he left school after completing Grade 10 and began working as a machine operator. The PA escaped forced military service but was eventually arrested and has been imprisoned on several different occasions. He fears returning to Eritrea where he will be persecuted for deserting the military.

VOR 013

The PA is a single 26 year old Eritrean male of Tigrinya ethnicity, currently residing in Egypt. He has experience farming and herding cattle. The PA fled forced conscription and suffered violence during his journey. He fears returning to Eritrea because he evaded military service, and fled the country illegally.

If you are interested in any of the above profiles or want to get more information, please contact Felisa Ponce via fponce@rstp.ca

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

Online Discussion Forum on Gender, Security and Access to Education in the Dadaab Refugee Camps

Date: March 26 - April 9

Hosted by - Refugee Research Network online.

The Refugee Research Network online was created to "*mobilize and sustain a Canadian and international network of researchers and research centres committed to the study of refugee and forced migration issues and to engaging policy makers and practitioners in finding solutions to the plight of refugees and displaced persons.*"

To learn more about the forum or participate in the discussion click [here](#).

CCR Spring Consultation

Date: 29 - 31 May 2014

Place: Halifax, NS,

Venue: St. Mary's University, 923 Robie Street

For more information, click [here](#)

Inquiries & Responses

You asked... Are visa officers travelling to the Northern Iraq to interview refugees?

Our response... According to CIC "there aren't any trips planned to Northern Iraq for interviews".

You asked... Refugee applicants were instructed to do medical exams, but the instructions did not include medical screening for their 6 month old child. When they went to see a designated medical doctor, they were informed that the instruction should have included the child. The sponsor and refugees are a bit confused and would like clarification on the policy related to immigration medical examination of infants.

Our response... Both the CIC website and the Designated Medical Practitioner Handbook, indicate that all family members, even those who are not accompanying the principal applicant, are expected to do medical examinations, and children are not exempted.

You asked... What status would a Syrian have? I thought that if a person has registered with UNHCR and has the 'first instance' acknowledgement of their claim, they would be a protected person. 'Refugee claimant' is a Canadian term. It's not used anywhere else. So - what should they write?

Our response... The instruction guide does not explain these terms. Although "refugee claimant" is a Canadian term, it may describe more aptly those who have just registered with UNHCR and are waiting for their refugee determination cases to be decided.

On the other hand, "Protected Persons" refers to those who are recognized as refugees by UNHCR or host governments. Most Syrians may have 'asylum seekers status' until they are recognized as refugees by UNHCR through a refugee status determination process.

You asked... The refugee applicant had made an error on *IMM 0008* form in page that has the signature. Our question is: can we correct it by pen and submit? Because CIC has become so legalistic, I'm concerned that they won't accept a correction like that - even though the application demonstrates it was a simple input error.

Our response... A correction by pen on its own is not a problem. The question is who is doing the correction? A correction done by a sponsor on the signed page is questionable as it could be interpreted as doctoring the document. So, either the correction should be made by the refugee or simply include a note in the cover letter explaining the error and submit the form as is. You can also place an asterisk and reference the attached note, or somehow highlight the error and call the attention of the examiner to look at the related explanations.