

# RSTP Bulletin

March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018

## TIME'S ==UP

**Protect the rights of refugee women and sponsor them through the BVOR program!**

**women and girls make up 50% of 65.5 million forcibly displaced people worldwide**

In the event of International Women's Day, a day of global celebration of women RSTP is dedicating this week's bulletin to recognize refugee women!

## Women and the Definition of Refugee

### Refugee Women as a Particular Social Group

Although the original refugee definition, didn't explicitly refer to 'gender' or gender based violence as a ground of persecution, through interpretation it is widely accepted and recognized that violence against women is one of the major forms of persecution experienced by women in the context of refugee status and asylum. This doesn't mean that all women are automatically entitled to refugee status. The woman in refugee situation must establish that she has a well-founded fear of being persecuted due to her membership in a particular social group, in this case her gender.

## What is Gender-related persecution?

- Acts of sexual violence such as rape and other forms of sexual assault;
- Family or domestic violence including forced/early marriage, dowry-related violence, coerced family planning or forced sterilization;
- Female genital mutilation;
- Trafficking;
- Discrimination against the LGBTQ community; and
- Political or religious persecution for holding feminist or other views, and failing to conform to gender-prescribed social norms

These include any acts that inflict severe pain and suffering, both mental and physical, and have been used as forms of persecution, whether by State or private actors.

## Women and Resettlement to Canada

Refugee women can be qualified as refugees and come through other private sponsorship streams. Canada's Women at Risk Program allows for the resettlement of women who face persecution in the country of asylum. In many cases, women eligible under this program will come through the Joint Assistant Sponsorship (JAS) program.

# Private Sponsors; What to Consider

## Pre-Arrival Preparation

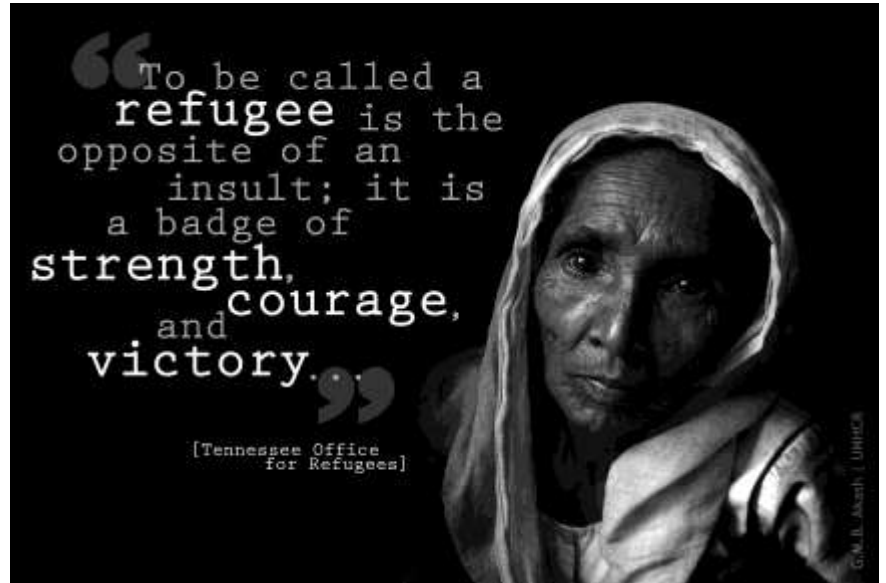
- Make sure a woman is part of the sponsoring group
- Have a female interpreter when the refugee doesn't speak English
- Consult with the refugee woman about the pre-arrival decisions and possible post arrival needs (especially regarding trauma and violence)
- Prepare the refugee woman for her interview and discuss available options and accommodations

## Arrival

- Have female members at the airport, so the newcomer feels safe
- Consult with female family members regarding documentation and information collected at the airport

## Post Arrival

- Include the resettled refugee woman in making decisions about temporary and permanent, accommodation, healthcare providers, schools, childcare and other settlement-related tasks
- Be mindful of the psychological needs the newcomer may have
- Provide orientation on the rights of women and resources for victims of torture, domestic violence and other forms of trauma



# Refugee Women you can sponsor through the BVOR Program

**BVOR PROFILE #: 0855-01-18**

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: None**

The PA is a widowed Eritrean woman with no education. She worked as a baker at the camp. She fears for her safety and as a result cannot return to her home country. The PA would benefit from additional support from a sponsor upon arrival to Canada.

**BVOR PROFILE #: 0849-01-18**

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: None**

The PA is Congolese women with her spouse and six children. They both have working experience as cultivators and the spouse additionally worked as a barber previously. They would benefit from the support from a sponsor upon resettling in Canada.

**BVOR PROFILE #: 0861-01-18**

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Woman at risk**

**XREF: 0862-01-18**

A is a 45 year old Eritrean woman. She has 7 years of formal education. PA has a friend in Hamilton, ON and to facilitate successful integration in Canada, it is recommended that the PA and her cousin



on BVOR 0862-01-18 resettle there. She cannot return to her home country as she fears for her safety and persecution based on ongoing ethnic conflicts. PA will appreciate the assistance of the sponsor in the country of resettlement.

**BVOR PROFILE #: 0864-01-18**

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Friend in Edmonton, AB**

PA is a 38 year old Sudanese married woman with three children. She has 8 years of formal education. PA and her family cannot return to their home country as they fear for their safety and persecution based on ongoing ethnic conflicts. PA has a friend in Edmonton, AB and it is recommended that they resettle there.



**BVOR PROFILE #: 0890-01-18**

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Uncle in Ottawa, ON**

PA is a 29 year old Somali divorced woman with one child. PA's child resides with her mother at the present time. PA was threatened and persecuted by her family, and she will benefit from counselling. Her uncle resides in Ottawa, and it is recommended that she resettles in the same area.

**BVOR PROFILE #: 0912-02-18**

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: AWR; X-refs: children; preferred destination, Ottawa, ON near daughters.**

**XREF: BVOR 0913-02-18 and BVOR 0914-02-18**

Married Burundian travelling with 5 children, two of which are on BVOR 0913-02-18 and BVOR 0914-02-18. The PA is a woman at risk. She can speak French and a little bit of English as do some of her children.

If you are interested in the above profiles, **log in to the RSTP Matching Database** with your username and password: [cathcrosscultural.sharepoint.com/RSTP](https://cathcrosscultural.sharepoint.com/RSTP)

## Available JAS Profiles (JAS cases can only be sponsored by SAHs)

**We have 33 In-Canada JAS cases waiting to be sponsored!**

**PROFILE #: 0983-03-18**

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Currently living in Calgary AB**

**Family Size:** Iraqi family of 5 including 3 young children.

**Language:** The PA started a Languages Instruction for New Comers (LINC) class after they arrived. The wife attended one month in the LINC class.

**Support Needed:** The 5 year old son, is wheelchair bound. They require emotional support because of past experiences and their son's health condition.

**PROFILE #: 0763-11-17**

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Currently living in: Toronto**

**XREF: 0764-11-17**

The Iraqi family recently arrived in Canada, along with the principal applicant's mother and siblings (0764-11-17). They have now moved into their own home and the children have started attending school. There are 5 children between the ages of 4 and 11.

**Language:** they have been scheduled for language classes.



**Support needed:** The family needs support in getting to know their local community and Canadian culture and to explore employment options. The family will benefit from being connected to a sponsor or a sponsor group who can dedicate more time to helping them become more familiar and comfortable with navigating their local community and accessing resources/services. A sponsor group who can help involve the family in seasonal and cultural activities will also be beneficial.

**In-Canada JAS PROFILE #: 0780-12-17**

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Currently living in Toronto**

**Family size:** Sudanese husband, wife and two children.

**Language:** The husband is educated and has been successful in his language classes.

**Support Needed:** The children have medical needs. The older child has undergone surgery but will likely require to remain at the hospital for a longer period. The family needs transportation support to hospital.

---

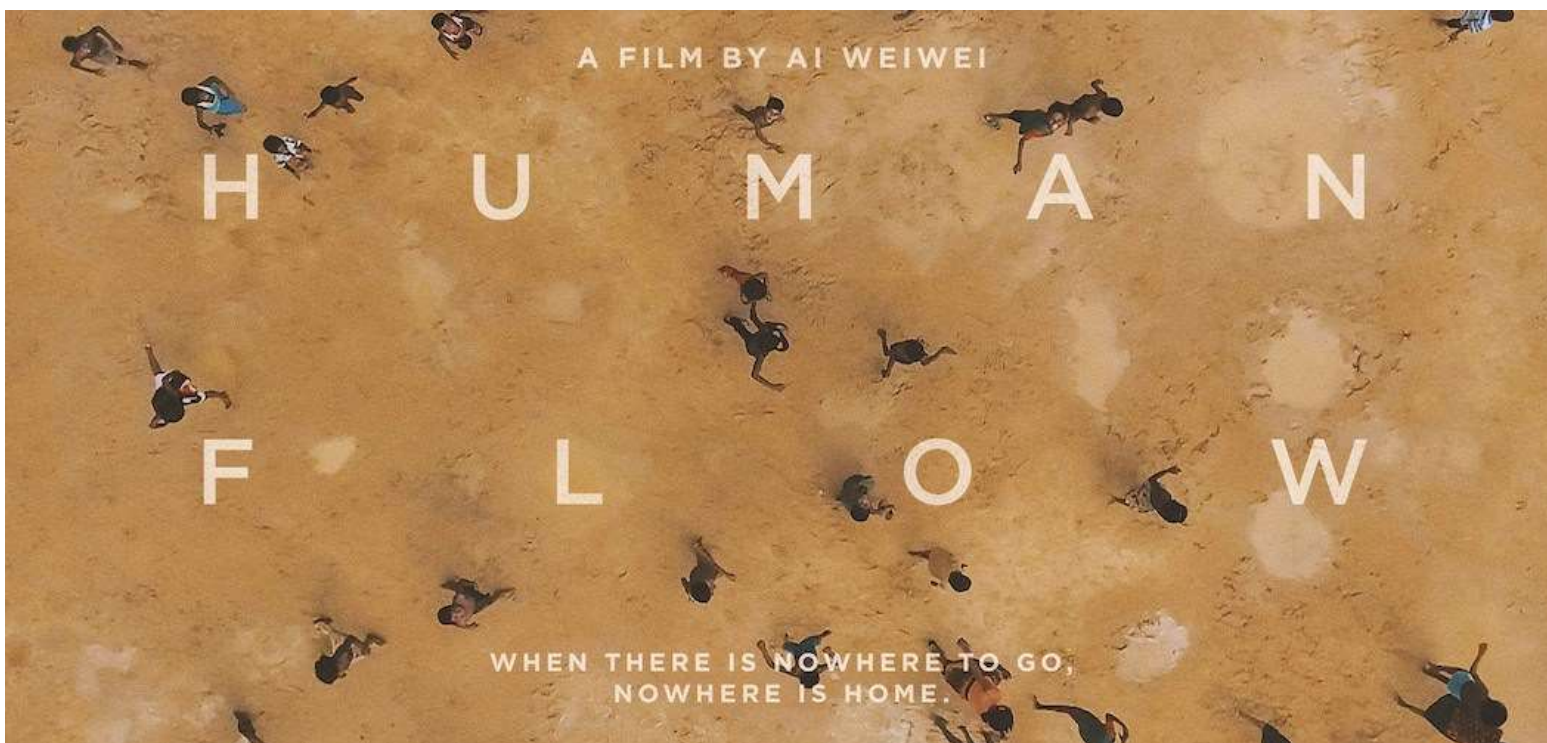
For more information on JAS profiles or on the BVOR Program, contact our Refugee Resettlement Project Worker at [bvor@rstp.ca](mailto:bvor@rstp.ca) or click on: [http://www.rstp.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Blended-VOR-FAQ\\_2017-1-1.pdf](http://www.rstp.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Blended-VOR-FAQ_2017-1-1.pdf)

---

# RSTP Movie Night in Halifax, NS!

**Wednesday March 14, 2018**

**From 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm ADT**



**At the Immigrant Services Association of Nova Scotia - Classroom #18**

**6960 Mumford Rd Suite 2120, Halifax, NS B3L 4P1**

**Popcorn, pizza and refreshments provided!**

**Please register for the event by clicking here:**

**<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/rstp-movie-night-human-flow-tickets-43745815913>**

# Upcoming RSTP Workshops & Webinars

## Workshops

### Alberta

#### **Sponsoring & Settling Refugees as a Group of Five or Community Sponsor**

**Date:** Saturday March 10, 2018

**Time:** 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm MST

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

**Register by clicking [here](#)** or contact RSTP Trainer Anoush Newman at (403) 515-5868; [mnewman@rstp.ca](mailto:mnewman@rstp.ca).

### Ontario

#### **Information Session and Legal Clinic on Privately Sponsoring Refugees**

**Date:** Thursday March 15, 2018

**Time:** 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm EDT

**Where:** The Human Rights Research and Education Center (HRREC), 57 Louis Pasteur Private (Fauteux Hall), 5th floor, Room 570, Ottawa, ON K1N 6N5

**Register by clicking [here](#)**

#### **Information Session and Legal Clinic on Privately Sponsoring Refugees**

**Date:** Saturday March 17th, 2018

**Time:** 1:00 pm – 4:30 pm EDT

**Where:** Bath Road Baptist Church, 193 Bath Road, Kingston, ON

**Register by clicking [here](#)**

#### **Groups of Five Sponsorship – Settlement Planning and Financial Assessment**

**Date:** Wednesday, March 21, 2018

**Time:** 5:45 pm - 8:00 pm EDT

**Where:** Catholic Crosscultural Services, 3660 Hurontario Street, 7th Floor, Mississauga, ON L5B 3C4

**To Register: [Click Here.](#)**

## Webinars

### **RAP Rates – Manitoba**

**Date:** Friday March 9, 2018

**Time:** 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM CST

**To register, click [here](#)**

### **Private Sponsorship of Refugees in AMHARIC**

**Date:** Friday March 16, 2018

**Time:** 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm CDT

**To register, click [here](#)**

### **Preparing for the End of Sponsorship or “Month 13”**

**Date:** Tuesday March 27, 2018

**Time:** 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm ADT

**To register Click [here](#)**

**These sessions will be recorded and posted in [RSTP's Video Library](#)**

Please visit:

<http://www.rstp.ca/en/training>  
/ for more information on upcoming trainings, workshops & webinars!



WE ARE ALL WONDERWOMEN!



*H. Osg*

CONTACT US VIA:



Refugee  
Sponsorship  
Training  
Program



Funded by:

Financé par:



Immigration, Refugees  
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés  
et Citoyenneté Canada