

SAH Reference Materials

We are happy to inform you we have created a new page listing various SAH reference documents in the password-secured area of the RSTP website. The page will enable SAH reps to find information faster than going through their emails. To access the materials, click [HERE](#) and login in using **user name (client)** and **password (sahpass)**.

IRB's Research Directorate - Introduction and Relevance

The Research Directorate of the Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB) plays a vital supportive role in the adjudication of refugee claims in Canada. The program mainly meets the information needs of the Refugee Protection Division "by providing and making publicly available, current, and reliable information related to human rights and to refugee and migration issues, through documentation that supports fair refugee determination."

The two main products of the Research program are **National Documentation Packages** and **Responses to the Information Requests**. The former is a package of country-specific information that has been compiled from a broad range of sources. The package contains information on various subjects that are relevant to assessing refugee claims, including country-specific information on human rights, political activities and organizations, gender, sexual minorities, the judicial and legal system, religion, media freedoms, nationality, ethnicity, race, freedom of movement, police and security forces, etc. Response to Information Requests are reports that have been researched and written by staff at the IRB's Research Directorate to respond to country-specific questions that IRB adjudicators have asked in order to obtain more information about a situation before making a decision.

Even though these materials are primarily created to support the IRB's refugee determination process, they are also used by others, including visa officers. The documents can also be very helpful to private sponsors of refugees, as they will provide information that may be helpful in pre-screening sponsorship requests for eligibility. To access the online **National Documentation Package**, visit <http://www.irb-cisr.gc.ca/Eng/ResRec/NdpCnd/Pages/index.aspx>

You can also search the Responses to Information Requests at the link below:

<http://www.irb-cisr.gc.ca/Eng/ResRec/RirRdi/Pages/index.aspx>

UPCOMING EVENTS

WEBINARS

Refugee Status Recognition for Groups of Five

Date: Thursday, March 19^h

Time: 1:00 PM – 2:30PM (EST)

The majority of refugee sponsorship applications submitted to the Centralized Processing Office in Winnipeg (CPO-W) by **Groups of Five** are returned due to insufficient proof of refugee status recognition. Participate in this online seminar on what 'refugee status recognition' is and what the CPO-W expects in terms of proof of this status.

To register, click [here](#).

CCR WORKING GROUP MEETINGS

FRIDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2015:

9:30am - 5pm: **Inland Protection Working Group meeting**

SATURDAY 28 February 2015:

9:30am - 5pm: **Overseas Protection & Sponsorship Working Group meeting**

9:30am - 5pm: **Immigration and Settlement Working Group Meeting**

Where: Salvation Army Harbour Light Ministries, 160 Jarvis St., Toronto

For more information, go to [here](#)

ABOUT REFUGEE MENTAL HEALTH PROJECT

The Refugee Mental Health Project is a CIC-funded project which provides online training to service providers about refugee mental health. The online course that is open to all Ontario professionals working in the areas of settlement, social services and health care. It is for service providers interested in learning more about mental health issues pertaining to refugees. For more information, visit this [website](#).

Available JAS Cases

JAS 091

The PA is a 35 year old male accompanied by his 25 year old wife. Both PA and spouse are Iraqi nationals of Arab ethnicity with no children. The applicant attended school for nine years and his spouse attended for six. The couple left Iraq after being repeatedly harassed over their religious beliefs and imputed political opinion. Additionally, due to their respective disabilities - the PA has a malformed leg and his spouse is legally blind - the couple was unable to support themselves in Iraq and were unable to be supported by members of their family. The PA and his spouse are unable to settle locally as they are not legally allowed to work. The Applicant fears that he and his wife would be persecuted should they be forced to return to Iraq.

In Canada JAS 007

The PA is a single 29 year old Congolese woman accompanied by her 11 and 9 year old daughters and 3 year old son. They arrived in Canada in November 2014 and speak only Swahili. The PA will require additional settlement and emotional support from a sponsoring group. She will require some surgery and will need assistance in connecting with local community group supports so that she can make arrangements for the care of her children while she is recuperating. **Destination: London, ON**

In Canada JAS 099

The PA is a single 25 year old Iraqi female with minimum education and is currently 5 months pregnant. She arrived in Canada as a GAR, but the local CIC office in London, Ontario, along with the Service Providing Organization has requested an In-Canada JAS. The PA would benefit from the added emotional support of a sponsoring group, as well as companionship and support with becoming a new mother. **Destination: Kitchener, ON**

If you have any questions or interested in any of the above profiles, please contact the Matching Centre: Matching-Centre@cic.gc.ca

INQUIRIES & RESPONSES

YOU ASKED... "I was just checking the CIC website and it says that Dakar now handles permanent resident applications for both Congo's. Does that include refugees? Is that a recent change?"

OUR RESPONSE... We have contacted CIC and here is their response: "The website is correct. Dakar is processing applications for PR including for refugee resettlement for applicants in Democratic Republic of Congo and Republic of Congo. This change occurred last summer with the realignment of responsibilities for certain missions. "

YOU ASKED... We have a case from Burma. He belongs to the Rohingya minority. He fled to Pakistan and lives there for the last 25 years. Would you have any info/ documents that could support his resettlement? Any suggestions or advice?

OUR RESPONSE... Unfortunately there is not a lot of documentary information/reports available on the Rohingya in Pakistan (more so on Rohingya in Thailand and Bangladesh) other than newspaper articles. Apart from such articles, I found the following reports which may be useful to you:

- On the Rohingya as persecuted persons:
<http://www.amnesty.org.au/refugees/comments/35290/>
- Human Rights Watch, *All You Can Do is Pray: Crimes Against Humanity and Ethnic Cleansing of Rohingya Muslims in Burma's Arakan State* (2013)
<http://www.refworld.org/docid/518230524.html>
- HRW's World Report 2015:
<http://www.hrw.org/world-report/2015/country-chapters/burma?page=2>
- 2012 the Star article which mentions Rohingya refugees being resettled to Canada (but from Bangladesh mainly, as majority are in camps there):
http://www.thestar.com/news/world/2012/08/22/persecuted_rohingyas_who_fled_to_canada_remember_harsh_life_in_native_burma.html

Even though the Rohingya are generally stateless, it seems that in some parts of Pakistan, some Rohingya Muslims were able to obtain Pakistani citizenship (especially in Karachi where there are large informal settlements of Rohingya). The NIC (ID card) proves their citizenship. Others may have residence permits, especially if they fled to Pakistan in the late '70s.