

## NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### From Crisis to Catastrophe: The Situation of Minorities in Iraq:

The Minority Rights Group International, an NGO based in UK, has recently released a report documenting human rights violations against minorities in Iraq, especially since the rise of ISIS. Beside the major ethnic groups, Iraqi is composed of various ethnic and religious minorities, including Chaldo-Assyrian; Armenian Christians, Turkmen, Yazidis, Kaka'I, Shabak, Sabeen-Mandaeans, Baha'I, Faili Kurds, Black Iraqis and Roma. Even though most of these minorities have been marginalized for many years, their conditions have deteriorated significantly with the occupation of their cities and villages by ISIS. "Summary executions, forced conversions, kidnappings, torture, sexual violence and destruction of property" were perpetrated against the minorities in Iraq by extremists. To read the report, click [here](#).

### Equal Only in Name- The Human Rights of Stateless Rohingya in Malaysia

With the purpose of highlighting discrimination and inequality faced by Rohingya refugees in Malaysia and coming up with measures to promote equality, the Equal Rights Trust, in partnership with the Institute of Human Rights and Peace Studies, Mahidol University (IHRP) has published a report about the human rights of stateless Rohingya in Malaysia. The report issued out under the title "*Equal Only in Name- The Human Rights of Stateless Rohingya in Malaysia*" has four sections, and section 3 provides detail information about the patterns of discriminations and inequalities. Some of the discriminations revealed relate to the right to an identity and nationality, health, access to adequate housing, marriage and family life, death and burial. Go to [this link](#) to access the full report which will help you to assess the un/availability of local integration for Rohingya refugees in Malaysia.

### Webinar on Local Integration as a Durable Solution

Resettlement is one of three durable solutions to refugee situations. The purpose of this webinar is to take a closer look at another durable solution: local integration in the country of asylum. What is local integration? When does it exist, and how does a Canadian Visa Officer assess the existence or prospect of local integration as a durable solution in a country of asylum? What have been SAHs experiences with PSR cases that have been rejected on the basis of local integration?

To register for this webinar, click the link below.

<https://www4.gotomeeting.com/register/21508415>

- According to [UNHCR](#), there are Over 100,000 asylum-seekers and refugees in Malaysia with 90 per cent from Myanmar, and 10 per cent from Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia, and Sri Lanka. There are also approximately 40,000 stateless persons mainly ethnic Tamils.
- Refugees have no right to work, and as a result they are exposed to high exploitations; refugee children have no access to government schools; refugees recognized by UNHCR have access to public health care at a reduced rate, and refugees and asylum-seekers and undocumented migrants are vulnerable to arrest, detention and deportation.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Topic: *Workshop on Private Sponsorship of refugees and Blended VOR Program*

Date: Oct 23 , 2014

Time: 9 am - 4 pm.

Location: St. John's, NL

Venue : Association for New Canadians

For registration, contact Ken Walsh  
[kenwalsh@nfld.net](mailto:kenwalsh@nfld.net)

Topic: *Blended VOR Program*

Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2014

Time: 2:00pm – 4:00pm

Location: Calgary, AB

Venue: The Ethno-Cultural Council of Calgary, 915 – 33rd Street N.E

For more information, please contact Felisa Ponce [fponce@rstp.ca](mailto:fponce@rstp.ca)

Topic: *Private Refugee Sponsorship, including sponsoring refugees from the Middle*

Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2014

Time: 5:00pm – 8:00pm

Location: Calgary, AB

Venue: The Ethno-Cultural Council of Calgary, 915 – 33rd Street N.E

To register contact Nadine Nasir Ponce [nnasir@rstp.ca](mailto:nnasir@rstp.ca)

## OTHER EVENTS

Topic: *Connecting Communities, Saving Lives, CCR Fall Consultation,*

Date: 27-29 November 2014

Location- Gatineau, QC

Venue : Crowne Plaza Gatineau-Ottawa, 2 Montcalm Street

For more information, click [HERE](#)

## INQUIRIES & RESPONSES

**RSTP ASKED...** Generally speaking we have been advising sponsors that dependents who are separated from the PA, and reside in the country of origin or elsewhere, need to be declared as non-accompanying family members on the application forms. Since the last SAH Conference however there has been some confusion, with some sponsors believe that dependents who are in the country of origin but would like to, and theoretically would be able to, be resettled at the same time as the PA, can be listed as **accompanying** dependents. Is this true?

**CIC RESPONSE...**“Private sponsorship groups should declare dependents who are separated from the PA, and reside in the country of origin or elsewhere, as **non-accompanying** family members on the application forms and to always keep the visa office up to date on any address changes. This is based on the assumption that we don't want to delay the PA's application by examining dependents that may be inaccessible or who reside in an area that is beyond the usual geographic area of the visa office.

It will be up to the visa office to determine if and when it might be possible to process dependents in another location as accompanying. Whether or not a dependent can accompany will depend on many factors specific to the refugee context, the country of origin, the country of asylum and the visa office where the case is being processed. “

**YOU ASKED...** As a co-sponsor who signed previous sponsorship applications will be participating in a refugee sponsorship that we are planning to submit, what information is required from the co-sponsor about previous refugee sponsorships.

**OUR RESPONSE...**The following information will be required in relation to the previous or ongoing refugee sponsorship applications submitted by the co-sponsor:

- ✓ name of sponsoring group (at time of sponsorship)
- ✓ name, date of birth, and country of birth of all persons sponsored
- ✓ the client identification numbers issued by CIC as a result of the sponsorship

We also suggest providing information about the status of the previous applications. Some applicants, who have been sponsoring refugees for many years, may not remember or have all the information regarding undertakings signed in the past. If that is the case, they should state so.