



BVOR NEWS

Refugee
Sponsorship
Training
Program

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Lifeline Syria Initiative



The Lifeline Syria Fund announced last September has just wrapped up after funding sponsorships for 115 Syrian BVOR refugees. That's 115 more Syrian refugees than would have otherwise been able to come to Canada!

Lifeline Syria's donation of nearly \$500,000 from the Lifeline Syria Fund (hosted at the Toronto Foundation) covers the start-up settlement costs and half of the first year of the newcomers' income support. The Government of Canada provides the other six months of income support through the BVOR program. Lifeline Syria funds came from generous Canadians of all backgrounds and were initially intended to sponsor 100 BVOR Syrian refugees.

With the collaboration of Sponsorship Agreement Holders, Syrian refugees from Jordan, Turkey and Lebanon have settled in eleven Canadian cities, primarily Winnipeg, Vancouver and Toronto.

The donation has allowed private sponsor groups to focus on settlement duties – up to one year of social, emotional and logistical support—without having to raise funds. All but five of the refugees have now arrived.

The Blended Visa Office-Referred (BVOR) Program

The BVOR Program helps resettle refugees identified by United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) as the most vulnerable in need of resettlement. It is called blended because it is a cost sharing arrangement. Immigration Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) provides up to six months of income support for the newcomers, while private sponsors provide another six months of financial support, start-up costs and up to one year of social and emotional support.

Author Robin Stevenson supports LGBTQ+ BVOR refugees in a novel way



Look for B.C.-based BVOR supporter and author [Robin Stevenson's new book](#). "My picture book Ghost's Journey: A Refugee Story is going out into the world! It's my 26th book but my very first picture book," she says. Her royalties will go to support LGBTQ+ refugees through Rainbow Railroad, Rainbow Refugee and Canada's PSR/BVOR programs.

Ghost's Journey tells the true story of the flight and resettlement in Canada of Rainer and Eka, two gay refugees from Indonesia, through the eyes of their cat, Ghost. The book is geared to young readers ages 3 to 8 and is meant to help them understand what it means to become a refugee, and why people who live in countries like Canada should welcome those who are seeking safety. Ghost's Journey is available at bookstores and [online](#).

Sponsors needed for LGBTQ+ refugees

Sponsoring groups are desperately needed for the more than 10 LGBTQ+ BVOR refugees now on our list. They come from Uganda, Iran, Burundi and other countries.

Featured BVOR profile

A Single Gay man looking for Sponsors in Canada :

A 32-year-old, single male from Burundi living as a refugee in Kenya . He has completed a technical degree and has work experience as a sales representative, merchant and trader. He speaks French and some English. He cannot return to Burundi due to fear for his safety stemming from his sexual orientation. He has no contacts in Canada and would greatly benefit from the support of a sponsor in his resettlement process.

You can make a difference in his life by sponsoring him to come to Canada. Form a group and contact the Refugee Sponsorship Training Program. Ask us about the BVOR program and we will support you with the sponsorship process.

Refugee Hub BVOR Fund deadline September 9

Time is running out to apply to the Refugee Hub BVOR Fund. The Fund helps groups with financial support for BVOR sponsorship, except for start-up costs.

Right now, there are over 100 BVOR profiles available on RSTP's matching database.

Refugee populations in the BVOR program include:

- Syria, Iraq, Iran, Vietnam
- Democratic Rep. of Congo, Somalia
- Burundi, Ethiopia, Colombia, Rwanda
- Tanzania and Uganda.

Particular vulnerabilities or reasons for resettlement include:

- Women and girls at risk
- Survivors of violence and/or torture
- Lack of foreseeable alternative solutions
- Persecution based on sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

To learn more about the countries BVOR refugees come from, visit: <http://www.rstp.ca/en/refugees/country-condition-information/>


To view [BVOR profiles](#), please visit [RSTP's website](#). If you are interested in sponsoring any of them, enter your user name and password to log in. If you do not have a username or password, please contact us at bvor@rstp.ca.

BLENDED VISA OFFICE-REFERRED (BVOR) PROGRAM

For more information, visit www.rstp.ca or email bvor@rstp.ca

Refugee
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 Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada

