

# BULLETIN

The latest news and updates on Canada's Refugee Sponsorship and Resettlement Programs

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



**Question:**

Are there any alternatives if refugees cannot sign their forms by hand?

For example, if the applicants are illiterate or have a disability or medical condition that prevents them from doing so.

**Answer:**

If a refugee is not able to sign their forms because they are illiterate, fingerprints or another type of mark will be accepted in lieu of a written signature. A cover letter must be included with the application package that explains the reasons why the forms were signed with a fingerprint or an alternative mark.

If a refugee has a medical condition or disability that prevents them from signing the forms, a relative or guardian can sign them on their behalf. A cover letter must be included with the application package that explains who signed the forms and the reasons why the refugee was not able to sign themselves.

**Question:**

Do refugees sponsored by SAHs need to have refugee status?

**Answer:**

Refugees being sponsored by SAHs, regardless of their nationality, do not need to have refugee status (unlike refugees being sponsored by Groups of Five and Community Sponsors).

However, depending on the country of asylum, they may need to be registered with UNHCR and/or the government of the country to obtain an exit permit.

Refugees that are not registered in the country of asylum should do so as soon as possible to avoid any delays when travel arrangements are being made by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and to avoid being fined for not registering at the earliest opportunity.

## SURVIVING STRUGGLES AND FINDING HOPE: FORMER REFUGEE HASSAN AL KONTAR TO SPEAK IN VANCOUVER ON MARCH 30TH

Join us on **March 30th** for the BVOR Speakers series at the ISSofBC, where we will be hosting **Hassan Al Kontar**, a former Syrian refugee who captured the world's attention with his story of being stranded at Kuala Lumpur International Airport for months.

In his talk, Hassan will share his journey of survival, resilience and how he managed to stay positive through his struggles. He will also touch on the importance of refugee sponsorship, and the support sponsors can provide to refugees resettling in Canada.

This event is an opportunity to learn about the challenges refugees face and how we can all play a role in helping them integrate and thrive in their new homes.

[This is an in-person event available to all who reside in Vancouver. Click here to reserve a seat.](#)



## UNHCR BRIEFING ON MALAYSIA: UNDERSTANDING THE CHALLENGES FACED BY REFUGEES AND THE UNHCR'S EFFORTS TO SUPPORT THEM

Join us for the **UNHCR Briefing on Malaysia** on **April 6th at 9 AM!** This informative event will provide you with a comprehensive understanding of the challenges refugees face in Malaysia and how the UNHCR is working to support them.

During this briefing, you'll have the opportunity to hear from experts in the field and ask questions to gain a deeper insight into the issues facing refugees in Malaysia. You'll also learn about the UNHCR's efforts to protect and assist refugees, including access to healthcare, education, and employment opportunities.

Don't miss this opportunity to increase your awareness of the refugee situation in Malaysia and the UNHCR's vital work in the region.

[To participate in this event, click here to reserve a seat.](#)

## UPCOMING RSTP WEBINARS/WORKSHOPS

### FILL THOSE FORMS, FILL THOSE SPONSORSHIP FORMS

Learn the tips and tricks to save time and prevent returns or refusals by correctly filling out your sponsorship forms.

You will also gain valuable insight into the essential documents required for a successful Refugee Sponsorship application.

Our knowledgeable trainers will guide you through the process and provide the tools you need to confidently fill out your sponsorship forms and ensure your application is complete.

Date: March 26th  
Time: 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM CST

Virtually: via Zoom  
OR  
In-person: 106-129 Third Avenue North, Saskatoon

[REGISTER HERE](#)



### SPONSORS' POST-ARRIVAL RESPONSIBILITIES VIRTUAL WORKSHOP FOR G5 AND CS

The Sponsors' Post-Arrival Responsibilities Workshop provides sponsors with information and training on their obligations and responsibilities to support their sponsored refugees.

The workshop covers settlement topics such as housing, healthcare, education, employment, legal, financial, and social integration responsibilities. The workshop aims to help sponsors provide practical support to refugees and assist them in successfully integrating into Canadian society.

Date: March 27th  
Time: 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM CST  
Virtually: via Zoom

[REGISTER HERE](#)

### EXPLORING POST-ARRIVAL RESPONSIBILITIES – FOCUS ON EMPLOYMENT (ENGLISH/VIRTUAL)

Learn about the various post-arrival responsibilities of sponsors towards the sponsored refugees, explicitly focusing on employment-related issues. The webinar will cover topics such as helping refugees navigate the job market, identifying and accessing employment support programs, and understanding the cultural differences that may impact employment opportunities.

Date: March 29th, 2023  
Time: 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM EST  
Virtually: via Zoom

[REGISTER HERE](#)

### G5/CS SPONSORS' POST-ARRIVAL RESPONSIBILITIES WORKSHOP

This workshop is designed to educate sponsors on the responsibilities of sponsoring a newcomer refugee after their arrival. The workshop will focus on managing expectations and understanding the post-arrival responsibilities outlined in the Private Sponsorship of Refugees (PSR) program. Sponsors will learn how to support and assist with essential tasks such as finding housing, enrolling in language courses, and accessing healthcare services.

Date: March 31st, 2023  
Time: 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM CST  
Location: Welcome Place Immigration Council | Manitoba Place  
521 Bannatyne Avenue  
Winnipeg, MB R3A0EA

[REGISTER HERE](#)

## APRIL

RSTP MONTHLY WEBINAR

- 5th** Before You Apply to Sponsor
- 11th** Preparing a Settlement Plan
- 13th** Preparing a Successful Application
- 18th** Preparing for Arrival and Orientation
- 25th** Fulfilling Your Obligations through Assurance
- 27th** Completing a Successful Sponsorship Year



### CONNECTING WITH SETTLEMENT AGENCIES (ENGLISH/VIRTUAL)

With our trainer, you will understand what supporting documents must be included in each package and how to complete application forms for both the applicants and the sponsors.

Date: March 30th, 2023  
Time: 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM EST  
Virtually: via Zoom

[REGISTER HERE](#)