

BULLETIN

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



NEW APPLICATION FORMS AND GUIDES LAUNCHED ON NOVEMBER 01, 2023

New application forms and guides for **SAHs, Groups of Five and Community Sponsors** launched on November 01, 2023.

The latest versions of the forms and guides can be found on IRCC's website.

CLICK HERE FOR IRCC WEBSITE

The grace period for using previous versions of the forms runs until **December 31, 2023**. For details of upcoming RSTP training sessions on the new forms and requirements...

CLICK HERE

IMMIGRATION LEVELS PLAN 2024-2026 RELEASED

IRCC has released the Immigration Levels Plan for **2024-2026**. The 2024 and 2025 targets for refugees resettled to Canada via the Private Sponsorship of Refugees (PSR) program remain the same as the [multi-year levels plan from last year](#).

As a reminder, the figures in the Immigration Levels Plan represent the number of arrivals each year by program. The figures **DO NOT** represent the number of applications IRCC will accept for a particular program.

CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE 2024-2026 IMMIGRATION LEVELS PLAN



SURVIVORS OF STRIFE: THE ROHINGYA IDENTITY EXPLORED

WHO ARE ROHINGYA

Myanmar is made up of over 100 ethnic groups, one of which is the Rohingya, a Muslim ethnic group located mostly in the southwestern state of Rakhine. Despite living in the Buddhist country for thousands of years, they are not recognized as an official ethnic group and since 1982 have not been granted citizenship, making them the largest group of Stateless people in the world. The Rohingya are denied basic human rights and protections from the State leaving them vulnerable to violence and exploitation. Rohingya women are especially vulnerable to Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV). Clashes in Rakhine broke out in August 2017, after a militant group known as the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) claimed responsibility for attacks on police and army posts. Military forces claimed they were entering the region to reinstate stability. Many villages and towns were invaded and burned to the ground, reports of rape, torture, and genocide caused almost 1 million people to flee within a few months.

WHERE ARE ROHINGYA REFUGEES

As of July 2022, there were 980,000 Rohingya refugees outside of **Myanmar** and an additional 769,000 people internally displaced. Most go to **Bangladesh**, while others go further to **Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia**, and **India**.



A SNIPPET OF ASIA

Before 2017, approximately 200,000 Rohingya had already fled Myanmar for neighbouring Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar region. In the month after violence erupted in August 2017 that number increased to almost 920,000 people mostly residing in two refugee camps near the border. There is a lack of education for the 400,000 children and basic hygiene is challenged by lack of clean water or sanitation. Almost 60% of the water supply in the camps is contaminated.

Rohingya in Bangladesh and other neighboring countries face unimaginable challenges, including limited access to healthcare and being denied the right to work or attend school. They receive no government protection. There is rampant human trafficking, with children being kidnapped and women sold into prostitution. Others have been killed for their organs by local gangs.

Until recently, Bangladesh was not issuing exit permits to Rohingya refugees to be resettled to other countries. However, this has recently changed and exit permits are now being issued.

INTERESTED IN SPONSORING ROHINGYA REFUGEES?

We have recently started seeing Rohingya refugees in the Blended Visa-Office Referred (BVOR) program. If you are interested in sponsoring Rohingya refugees via the BVOR program, please email bvorerstp.ca to be matched with a case.

The BVOR program helps to resettle refugees identified by the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) as those who are the most vulnerable and most in need of resettlement.

The BVOR program is a partnership program between sponsor groups in Canada, Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), and the newcomers. IRCC provides up to six months of income support for the newcomers, while the private sponsors provide the start-up costs, remaining six months financial support, along with social and emotional support for the newcomers' first year in Canada.

CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE BVOR PROGRAM

UPCOMING RSTP WEBINARS & WORKSHOPS



NEW FORMS AND GUIDES FOR GROUPS OF FIVE AND COMMUNITY SPONSORS

Discover IRCC's innovative PR Portal for Refugee Applications. Learn about the recent changes in application forms and guides through our dedicated training sessions for sponsors.

ENGLISH SESSIONS

November 7th

November 17th

November 22nd

FRENCH SESSIONS

November 10th

December 5th

NOVEMBER MONTHLY WEBINARS

9th PREPARING A SETTLEMENT PLAN

16th PREPARING A SUCCESSFUL APPLICATION

21st PREPARING FOR ARRIVAL AND ORIENTATION

23rd FULFILLING YOUR OBLIGATIONS THROUGH ASSURANCE

29th COMPLETING A SUCCESSFUL SPONSORSHIP YEAR

CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT OUR WEBINARS & WORKSHOPS



POST-ARRIVAL REQUIREMENTS FOR PRIVATE SPONSORSHIP OF REFUGEES

In order to facilitate sponsor interaction with this document, RSTP is extending an invitation to members of **Groups of Five and Community Sponsor** organizations to participate in one of the forthcoming webinars, available in both English and French.

These webinars will focus on showcasing essential elements and offer sponsors a review of their post-arrival duties.

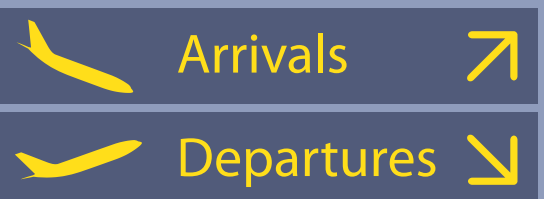
ENGLISH SESSIONS

November 29th

FRENCH SESSIONS

November 30th

THIS DOCUMENT CAN BE FOUND HERE



DIGITAL PORTAL WALKTHROUGH FOR GROUPS OF FIVE AND COMMUNITY SPONSORS

These sessions will provide a guided walkthrough of IRCC's digital intake portal

ENGLISH SESSIONS

November 8th

November 21st

December 2nd

December 12th

FRENCH SESSIONS

November 28th

EMPOWERING NEWCOMERS: INSIGHT FROM HELEN SMITH-MCINTYRE WORKSHOP SERIES

What to do Between the Application and Arrival:

Explore the crucial actions and preparations needed during the waiting period between submitting your application and the refugees' arrival. Maximize your time and ensure a smooth transition.

How to Prepare for Pre-arrival:

Get ready to welcome the sponsored refugees by understanding the pre-arrival process. From logistics to cultural orientation, you'll learn how to create a supportive environment for their arrival.

After the Refugees Arrive to Month Thirteen:

Discover the essential post-arrival responsibilities and strategies for effective integration during the first year of sponsorship. Empower the newcomers and foster their successful settlement.

NOTE: THE SESSIONS WILL BE HELD IN ENGLISH, IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT PARTICIPANTS HAVE CLB 4+ LEVEL.

Date: November 14th to December 12th, 2023

Time: 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM CST

Hybrid Sessions

REGISTER HERE