

BULLETIN

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



SPECIAL MEASURES FOR EXTENDED FAMILY MEMBERS IN GAZA OPEN

Special measures to apply for a temporary resident visa (TRV) have been put in place for Palestinians who:

- Live in Gaza;
- Are related to a Canadian citizen or permanent resident who lives or intends to live in Canada; and,
- Will be supported in Canada by their family member for a period of one year.

[INFORMATION ON THE REQUIREMENTS AND HOW TO APPLY ARE AVAILABLE HERE](#)

The measures will end when **1,000** complete TRV applications have been received and have been accepted for processing or one year after the measures come into effect (whichever comes first).

FOLLOW UP ON THE NEW HUMANITARIAN PATHWAY FOR PERSONS AFFECTED BY THE CONFLICT IN SUDAN

In the [January 05, 2024, edition of the RSTP Bulletin](#), we provided an overview of the recently announced family-based humanitarian pathway to permanent residence for persons who resided in Sudan when the conflict began on April 15, 2023.

YOU HAD QUESTIONS? WE GOT ANSWERS!

For more information on the requirements of the new humanitarian pathway, including the requirements for the Principal Applicant and the family member in Canada, [click here](#). Information on how to apply will be posted on [IRCC's website](#) shortly.

YOU ASKED

Can non-Sudanese nationals that are or were residing in Sudan (such as refugees) apply under the pathway?

ANSWER

Yes, if they were residing in Sudan when the conflict began on April 15, 2023, and meet all the requirements of the pathway (e.g., they do not have a durable solution available to them)

YOU ASKED

Do applicants need to be outside of Sudan currently or are those who are still in Sudan eligible?

ANSWER

Applicants can either currently be in Sudan or outside of Sudan, but must have resided in Sudan when the conflict began on April 15, 2023.

YOU ASKED

Is there an estimated processing time for applications submitted under the new pathway and will they be expedited?

ANSWER

There are no current estimated processing times for applications submitted under the new pathway.



JOURNEYS BEYOND BORDERS

Welcome to another riveting segment of our exploration series, "**Journey Beyond Borders.**" Today, let's embark on an exhilarating adventure through the captivating land of **Afghanistan**, where history, culture, and diversity converge in a tapestry unlike any other.

EXPLORING THE ENIGMATIC AFGHANISTAN

Location and Roots: Where Central and South Asia Embrace

Nestled at the crossroads of **Central** and **South Asia**, Afghanistan, known as the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, has a history that dates back to its establishment as an **independent** country in **June 1926**. Imagine the vibrant cultural intersection as it shares borders with Pakistan, Iran, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and China.

Modern Boundaries: A Tapestry Woven by Empires

The modern boundaries of Afghanistan were shaped in the late **19th century** amidst the imperial rivalries between Britain and Tsarist Russia. This historical backdrop adds layers to Afghanistan's identity and its place in the geopolitical stage.



Faith and Spirituality:

The land of Afghanistan has witnessed the rise of **Zoroastrianism** and **Buddhism**. Today, Islam dominates, with **Sunni Muslims 80%**, **Shi'i Muslims 19%**, and other practices making up the remaining **1%**



SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS, AND LET'S CONTINUE THIS CAPTIVATING JOURNEY TOGETHER!

Afghanistan beckons us with its rich tapestry of history, culture, and resilience.

What aspect of Afghanistan's story resonates with you?

UPCOMING WEBINARS & WORKSHOPS

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT ROUNDTABLE: INSIGHTS FOR SPONSORS AND SETTLEMENT WORKERS

Join the **Allies for Refugee Integration (ARI)** Roundtable, where experts **Anoush Newman** and **Mimi Merrill** will guide you through settlement workers' and sponsors' roles and responsibilities. Elevate your understanding and engage with peers in this immersive session.

Date: January 24th, 2024
Time: 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM EST
Virtually: via Eventbrite

[REGISTER HERE](#)

NAVIGATING SUPPORT: CONNECTING WITH SETTLEMENT AGENCIES

Embark on a journey of support! We unravel the wealth of services settlement agencies offer in **Ottawa** for privately sponsored refugees. You can learn how to access these services and enhance your sponsorship experience.

Date: January 24th, 2024
Time: 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM EST
Virtually: via Zoom

[REGISTER HERE](#)

EMPOWER YOUR GROUP: MASTERING GROUP OF FIVE APPLICATIONS FOR SUCCESSFUL REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP

Calling all **Groups of Five** sponsors! Dive into the essentials of submitting a successful Refugee Sponsorship Application with our comprehensive guide. Learn the basic requirements, get insights into the submission process through the new web portal, and elevate your sponsorship journey.

Date: January 28th, 2024
Time: 3:30 PM - 5:30 PM EST
Virtually: via Zoom
Location: 106-129 Third Avenue North, Saskatoon

[REGISTER HERE](#)

HEALING HORIZONS: NAVIGATING POST-ARRIVAL RESPONSIBILITIES IN MENTAL HEALTH

Learn strategies to assist sponsored refugees dealing with trauma/mental health issues and discover how and where to access crucial mental health services in Ottawa.

Date: January 30th, 2024
Time: 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM CST
Virtually: via Zoom

[REGISTER HERE](#)

UNLOCK THE POWER OF PR PORTAL: UPCOMING LIVE TRAINING SESSIONS

Attention, compassionate sponsors and advocates! As we embrace the New Year, exciting changes are happening in the world of private refugee sponsorship. Starting **January 1st**, all sponsorship applications must be submitted via **PR Portal** or by **mail**. To ensure you're ready for this shift, we've got an array of training sessions lined up just for you!

PR PORTAL WALKTHROUGHS FOR GROUPS OF 5 AND COMMUNITY SPONSORS

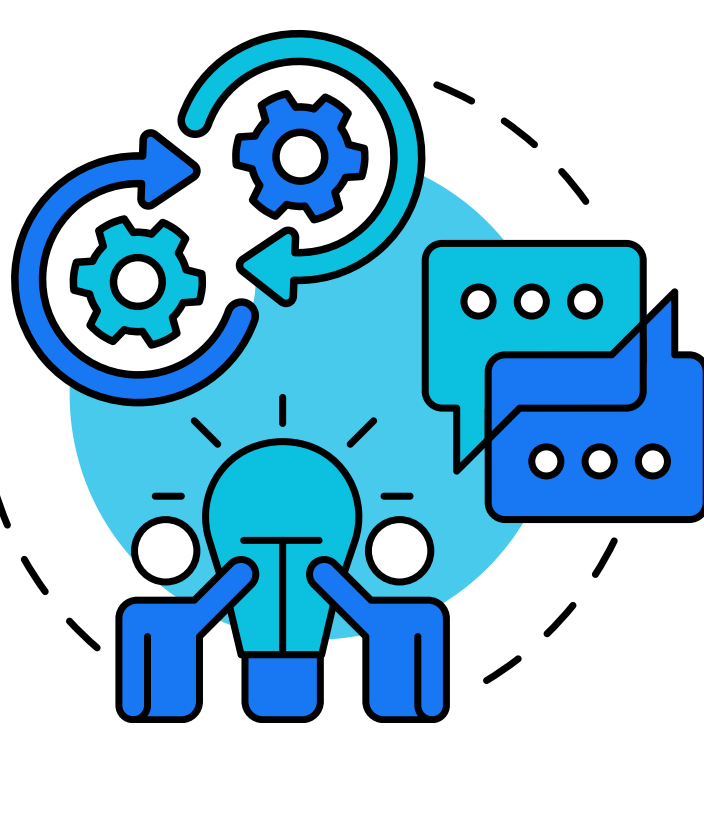
February 21st

EXPLORE PAST INSIGHTS

Missed our Fall training sessions?

No worries!

Dive into a treasure trove of recordings by checking out trends on our YouTube channel by clicking the icon below



REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP SUMMIT: NAVIGATING THE NEW HORIZON

Join us at the **Regina Public Library Downtown Branch** for a day dedicated to private sponsors of refugees and all those passionate about refugee sponsorship. This summit promises insightful discussions and an opportunity to stay updated on the latest developments in refugee sponsorship.

Date: January 27th, 2024
Time: 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM EST
Virtually: via Zoom
Location: Regina Public Library, 2311 - 12th Ave.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

BEYOND ARRIVAL: MASTERING PSR POST-ARRIVAL RESPONSIBILITIES WORKSHOP

Are you wondering what comes next after your sponsored refugees arrive?

Join our workshop for valuable insights! From managing expectations to practicing ethical considerations, we've got you covered on all things post-arrival. Let's enhance your sponsorship journey together.

Date: January 29th, 2024
Time: 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM CST
Virtually: via Zoom

[REGISTER HERE](#)

JANUARY MONTHLY WEBINARS

23rd FULFILLING YOUR OBLIGATIONS THROUGH YOUR OBLIGATIONS

29th COMPLETING A SUCCESSFUL SPONSORSHIP YEAR

[CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT OUR WEBINARS & WORKSHOPS](#)

HAS AN RSTP TRAINER MADE A DIFFERENCE FOR YOU? SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE BY CLICKING HERE

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www.rstp.ca

416.290.1700, 1.877.290.1701

info@rstp.ca

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