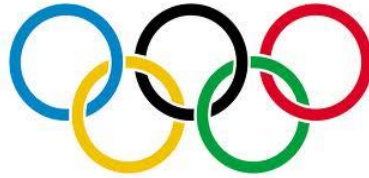


Congratulations for Team Canada's victories at the Sochi Olympic games especially in curling and hockey!



NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

UNHCR: New Call for Resettlement or Other Forms of Admission for 100,000 Syrians

In a public statement issued on February 21, 2014, UNHCR called on "states to make multi-annual commitments towards a goal of providing **resettlement and other forms of admission for an additional 100,000 Syrian refugees in 2015 and 2016.**" "UNHCR has earlier called upon states to provide solutions for 30,000 of the most vulnerable Syrian refugees through resettlement or other forms of admission by the end of 2014. To date, 20 countries have offered more than 18,800 places towards this goal. UNHCR remains confident that the 30,000 goal will be met by the end of the year through a significant number of submissions to the United States of America..." The refugee agency anticipates that in the coming years "there will be increasing numbers of vulnerable Syrian refugees who will be in need of resettlement, relocation, or other forms of humanitarian admission." For more information, click [here](#).

Note that the other form of admission mentioned in the statement may include [Humanitarian Admission](#) – a process by which *countries admit groups of vulnerable refugee population abroad and provide them with temporary protection on humanitarian grounds.* Those admitted under this program are provided with temporary residence status that will be reviewed periodically to determine their ongoing protection needs. In March 2013, the Government of Germany announced that it would admit 5,000 Syrian refugees from Lebanon via a Humanitarian Admission.

Charleswood Churches Bring Refugees to Safety

...Ghimire, now with a wife and two sons, was still living in the refugee camp... "It was a bad life," he says. "Even with a tailoring background, and selling clothes, it was hard to survive." Ghimire's lucky day, however, came when his family was chosen by Canada for private refugee sponsorship through CREST, the Charleswood Refugee Economic Sponsorship Team... Bruce Berven is the chair of CREST. For him, being involved with refugee sponsorship is a way to make a concrete difference in someone else's life. **"We can't save the world," he says. "But we can help one person, or one refugee family.** It's always pleasantly surprising how much support that comes out from the Charleswood community..." To read the whole article, click [here](#).

BVOR CASES THAT NEED SPONSORS

VOR 012

The PA is a single 29 year old Eritrean male of Tigrinya ethnicity, currently residing in Egypt. Due to financial difficulties, he left school after completing Grade 10 and began working as a machine operator. The PA escaped forced military service but was eventually arrested and has been imprisoned on several different occasions. He fears returning to Eritrea where he will be persecuted for deserting the military.

VOR 013

The PA is a single 26 year old Eritrean male of Tigrinya ethnicity, currently residing in Egypt. He has experience farming and herding cattle. The PA fled forced conscription and suffered violence during his journey. He fears returning to Eritrea because he evaded military service, and fled the country illegally.

If you are interested in any of the above profiles or want to get more information, please contact Felisa Ponce via fponce@rstp.ca

Upcoming events

Webinar:

The Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program 101

Date: February 27, 2014

Time: 12 pm EST

This webinar will provide an introductory overview of the Private Sponsorship of Refugees program in Canada including who is eligible for sponsorship, what are the criteria for sponsorship, what does the refugee sponsorship process look like, and what are sponsors' responsibilities.

Organized by: [CLEO](#)

Presenters: RSTP

To register, please click [here](#).

CCR Overseas Protection and Sponsorship Working Group meeting

Date: February 28, 2014
9:30 am – 5 pm

Location: Salvation Army, 160 Jarvis Street, Toronto, ON

Addressing refugee trauma in resettlement: Is PTSD under-diagnosed or over-diagnosed?

The CAMH Refugee Mental Health Project invites to attend its second annual educational and networking titled: Addressing refugee trauma in resettlement: Is PTSD under-diagnosed or over-diagnosed?

Date: Friday, February 28, 2014
12:30 PM – 03:30 PM

Location: CAMH, Room 2029, 33 Russell Street, Toronto
Greater Toronto Area

If you have any PSR news on cases or arrivals that you would like to share with the SAH community, please send a message to info@rstp.ca and we will gladly include it in our next bulletin.

Inquiries & Responses

You asked... Regarding the process of adding a family member on an existing refugee sponsorship application, there is a confusion between the Visa Office and CPOW on who does what. Could this be sort out?

Our response... We have requested clarification from CPOW about the process. Please find their answer below:

"When a request is received to add dependants to an application, visa officers must notify CPO-W of the request to add a new family member. Then the file is placed on hold for final processing until a response from CPO-W is received.

CPO-W will:

1. *correspond with the sponsor and ask them to submit a completed Request to Add Dependent(s) to a Private Sponsorship Undertaking (IMM 5618) form along with any necessary supporting documents to CPO-W by a certain deadline;*
2. *advise the visa office that the request to add dependants has been approved or refused, or that the entire sponsorship undertaking has been withdrawn.*

If the request is approved, CPO-W will inform the visa office, who will continue processing.

A completed IMM 5618 form is acceptable proof of sponsor support. A new undertaking is not necessary. "

You asked... We have received a spate of interview notices, but they are accompanied by a standard-form letter asking refugees to produce (apparently new) IMM0008s and the schedules. New photos I can understand, but new applications disturb and puzzle me. Could this issue be looked into?

Our response... From time to time, refugees are instructed to redo their IMM 0008 forms especially when there are newly hired or assigned staff dealing their applications, this issue was raised by SAH Council with CIC. Accordingly, refugees do not need to complete the whole IMM 0008 forms, but they should provide updated information on important changes or facts that are relevant to the determination of their refugee claims. To this end, they are expected to complete Schedule A and provided current information especially regarding their personal activities and addresses since they signed or submitted their IMM 0008 forms. If there are various changes on their life and/ or the conditions of their countries of origin and asylum, it is advisable to update schedule as well.

You asked... Is there a different CIC code for Blended VOR cases?

Our response... Blended VOR cases are identified with the 'CRS' code.