

About Refugee Ministry

Office for Refugees Archdiocese of Toronto
(ORAT)



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Office for Refugees
Archdiocese of Toronto

Overview

- **Why Become Involved in Refugee Sponsorship**
 - A Theological Perspective
 - The Size & Scope of Refugee Crisis
 - Christian Persecution & Marginalization
- Who is affected by the Global Refugee Crisis
- Who is coming to the aid of refugees (A Canadian Perspective)
- What does it mean to be a CG?
- Q&A
- Determine Next Steps

Why become involved in refugee sponsorship?

A Theological Perspective

- A response to the Commandment to “Love our Neighbour”
- Baptismal call of our faith in service of others, especially to those on the margins
- Refugee Resettlement supports/is consistent with the Mission of the Archdiocese and its Pastoral Plan
 - Help to save the lives of innocent victims of war, violence and persecution
 - Resettlement opens doors and gives hope to refugees without a place to call home



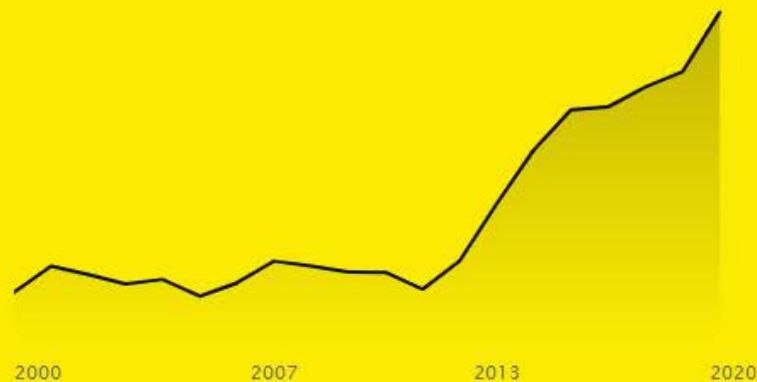
Why become involved in refugee sponsorship?

The Size of the Global Refugee Crisis

80 MILLION

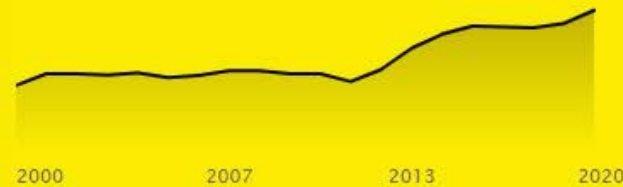
Forcibly displaced people worldwide

While a full picture is yet to be established, UNHCR estimates that global forced displacement has surpassed 80 million at mid-2020.



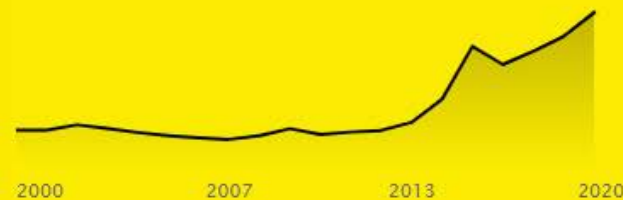
45.7 MILLION

are internally displaced people (Source: IDMC, as of end-2019)



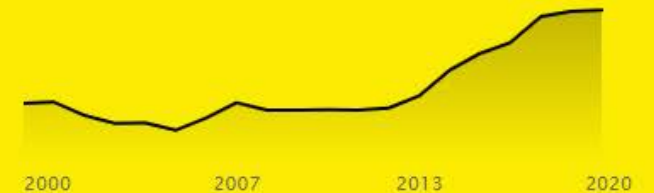
4.2 MILLION

are asylum-seekers (as of mid-2020)



26.3 MILLION

are refugees (as of mid-2020)



3.6 MILLION

are Venezuelans displaced abroad. A total of 4.5 million Venezuelans have left their country as of mid-2020, including 138,600 refugees, 808,200 asylum-seekers and 3.6 million Venezuelans displaced abroad.

The size of the current global migrant crisis is comparable to the crisis at the end of WWII



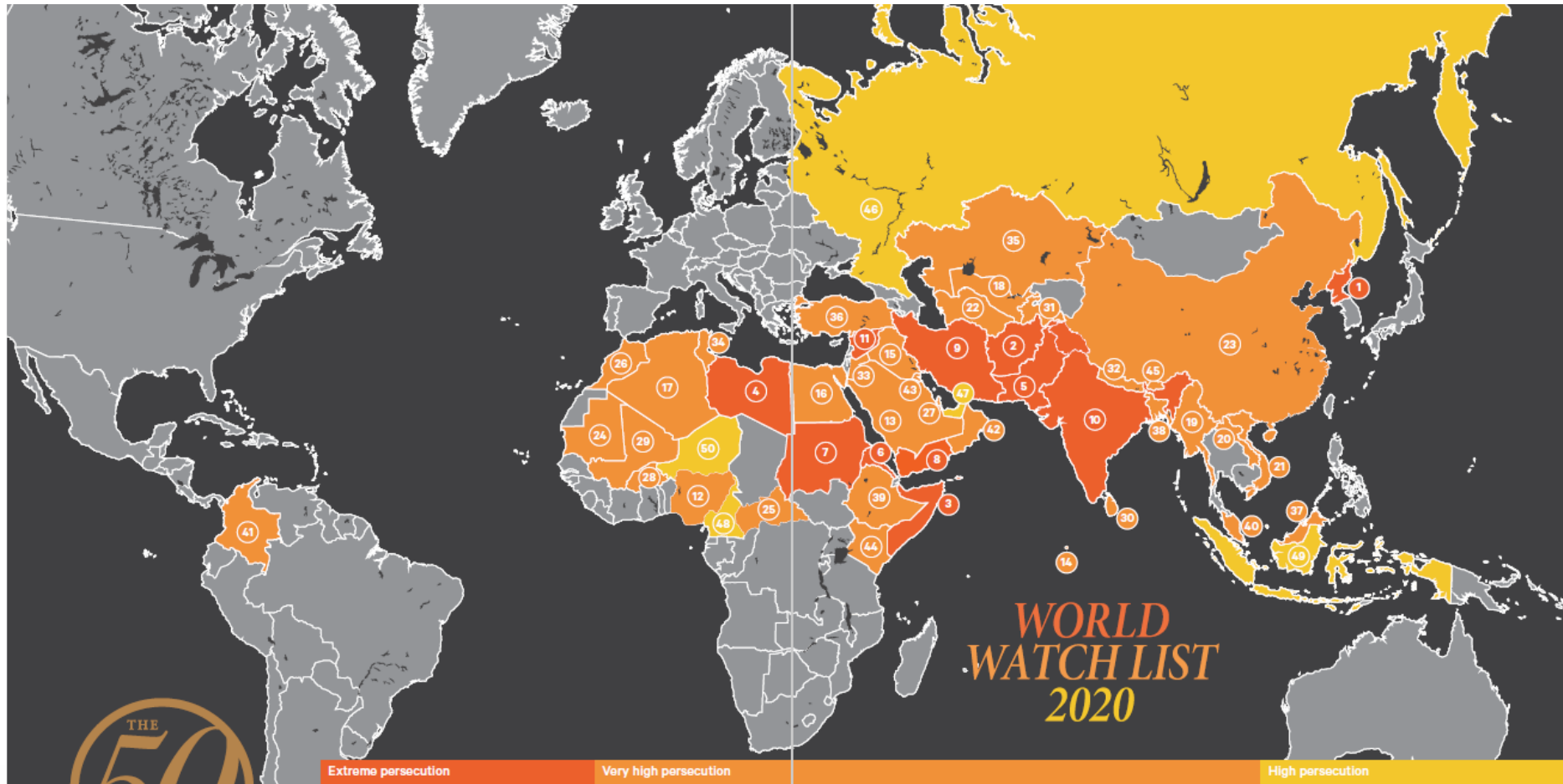
Why become involved in refugee sponsorship?

Christian Persecution and Marginalization

- The global refugee crisis has affected peoples of many different faiths
- But in a particular way, it has affected the Christian community
 - Christian Persecution
 - Under-representation of Christians in Government Resettlement Programs

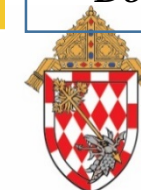


Two Additional Dynamics at Play: Christian Persecution



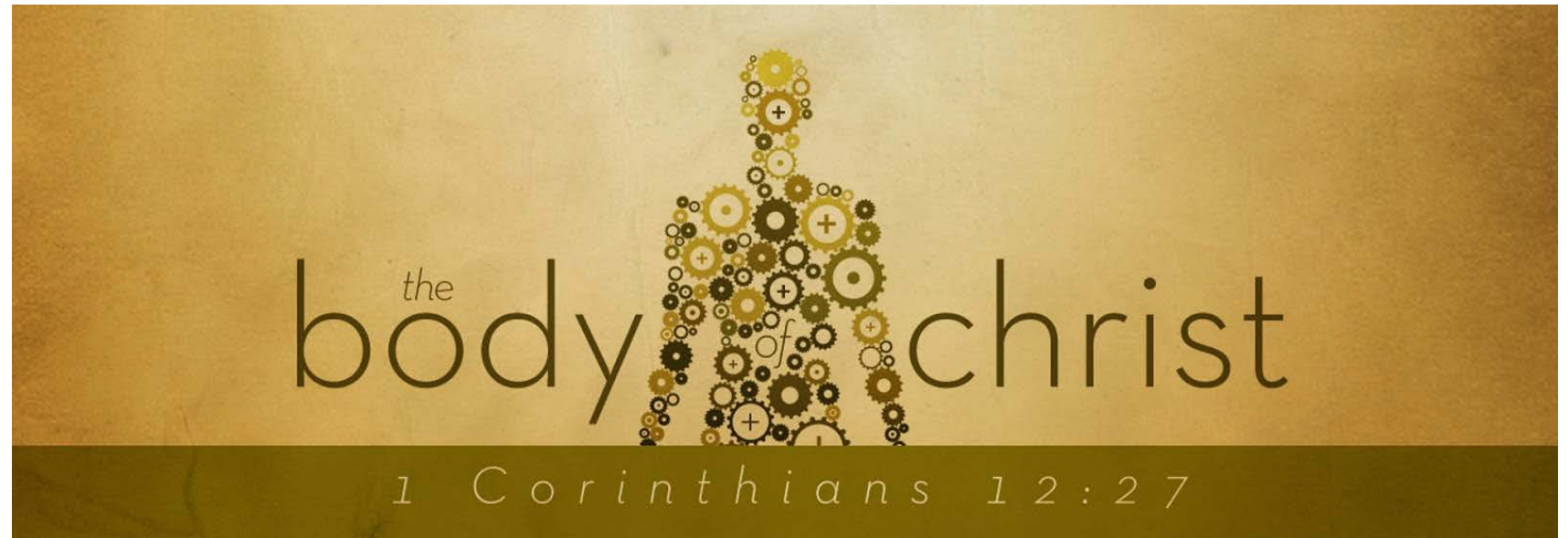
Key Facts

- 80% of people live in countries where there are serious restrictions on religious freedom (2018 US Religious Freedom Report).
- 80% of all religious persecution is being done to Christians worldwide (Open Doors).



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“I was a stranger and you welcomed Me”



Our Office is guided by the words of St. Paul in his Letter to the Galatians, “Therefore, whenever we have opportunity, let us do good for all men, but especially to those who are of the household of faith.”



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Canada assists refugees from abroad through two key streams

Inland/At Port Refugee Claimants

- Claimant initiates a refugee claim at port of entry (POE) or at an inland IRCC office;
- Surge in 2017 and 2018 have resulted in a crisis in temporary and permanent housing for key cities.

Overseas Refugee Resettlement

1. Government Sponsored Refugees
 - Government Assisted Refugees (GAR)
 - Joint Assistance Sponsorship (JAS)
 - Blended Visa Office Referral (BVOR)
2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees (PSR)
 - Sponsorship Agreement Holders (SAH)
 - Groups of 5 (G5)
 - Community Sponsorship (CS)



UNHCR
Names
Refugees



Sponsors
Name
Refugees



In 2019, ORAT conducted a mission trip to Thailand, where we interviewed 65 Pakistani Christian families

Religious Persecution

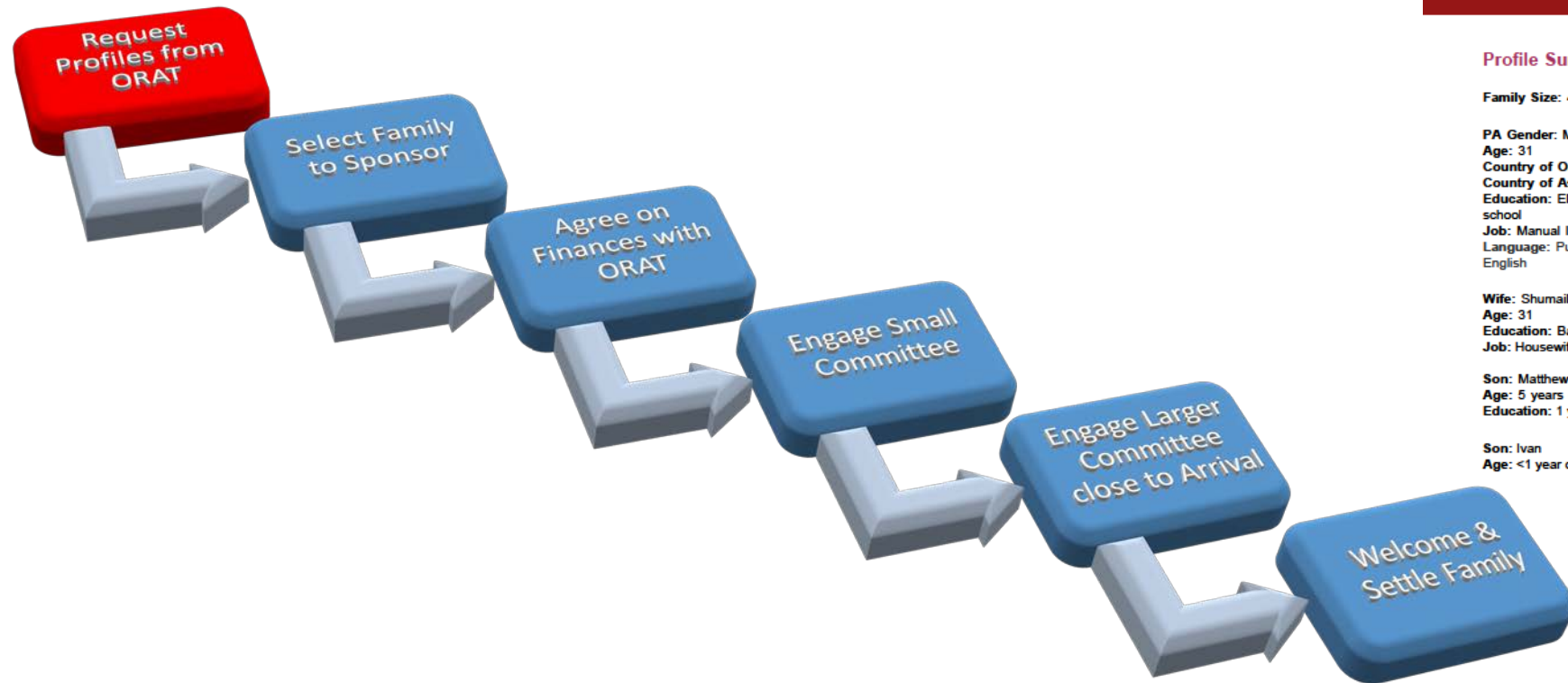
- Intense Persecution of Religious Minorities
- Use of the Blasphemy Law
- Little/no protection from civil authorities

No Protection from Thai Authorities

- Thailand is not a signatory to the 1951 Geneva Convention. No protections afforded to refugees or asylum seekers
- Thai officials routinely conduct raids of illegal immigrants, who, if caught, are placed into overcrowded detention centers where they languish until they are resettled to western countries or return to Pakistan, where many will face an uncertain future.



The Sponsorship Process



SUNNY Y.

Profile Summary

Family Size: 4

PA Gender: Male
Age: 31
Country of Origin: Pakistan
Country of Asylum: Thailand
Education: Elementary/primary school
Job: Manual labour, janitor
Language: Punjabi, Urdu and English

Wife: Shumaila
Age: 31
Education: Bachelor's degree
Job: Housewife

Son: Matthew
Age: 5 years old
Education: 1 year

Son: Ivan
Age: <1 year old

Background

Sunny worked as a janitor with a man who was highly sought after by extremists. These same men burned the entire Joseph colony, from which both Sunny and his colleague were from. Despite fleeing several times to different family houses, Sunny's affiliation led to attacks and threats to him and his family. Sunny married in 2013 and fled to Thailand where they have been in hiding since.

Additional Information

Religious affiliation: Catholic
Medical needs: Wife is a breast cancer survivor

Please note that the information on this document is to be kept confidential and not to be published or widely announced due the refugees' safety and wellbeing



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CG Responsibilities

Time & Talent

- Commitment to welcome & journey with the refugee;
- Assisting with their integration during their first year to Canada
- Responsibilities include:
 - Airport Welcome;
 - Arrange for Temporary and Permanent Accommodation;
 - Help register with a settlement agency (Language Assessment, Language Training, Employment Counseling);
 - Assist with required forms such as health insurance, social Insurance Card, Canada Child Benefits, etc.;
 - Help to open a bank account, register children in school; facilitate employment, find a family doctor & dentist.

Treasure

- Consider fundraising when possible to support the settlement needs of the refugee.
- Consider collection of in-kind support to reduce the financial support required.



Q&A, Next Steps and Thank You

- Questions & Answers
 - Determine Next Steps
 - Thank You!!
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- ORAT Outreach Contact Information
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 - Phone: (416) 934-3400 x804