ORAT
Office for Refugees
Archdiocese *of* Toronto

Refugee Resettlement
UPDATE

World Day of Migrants and Refugees

The theme announced by His Holiness Pope Francis for this year's World Day of Migrants and Refugees is "Building the Future with Migrants and Refugees." Click here to see Pope Francis' entire message.

This occasion will be marked with the celebration of Mass, which will take place on Sunday, September 25, 2022 at 10:30 AM at St. Joseph Syriac Catholic Church, located at 999 Lakeshore Road East, Mississauga, ON. Cardinal Collins will preside and Bishop Paulos Nassif will be the homilist. A reception will follow. All are welcome.

Please click here to obtain a soft copy of the poster that will allow you to promote this event at your parish.

The Archdiocese of Toronto together with the Syriac Catholic Community

invites you to a special Mass on the occasion of the 108th

World Day of Migrants *and* Refugees

Sunday, September 25, 2022
10:30 AM

at St Joseph Syriac Catholic Church
999 Lakeshore Road East, Mississauga

Celebrant:
Archbishop Thomas Cardinal Collins

Homilist:
Bishop Paulos Nassif

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

"You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God."
LEVITICUS 19:34

Archdiocese *of* Toronto
www.archtoronto.org/refugee

An Appeal to Host Ukrainians

With over 475,000 displaced Ukrainian Nationals applying to come Canada, and with the acute shortage of affordable rental accommodations, there is an urgent need for Canadians who would be willing to host a family. The Canadian Government has created the Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel (CUAET) program for Ukrainian nationals and their family members. Ukrainian nationals displaced by the war in Ukraine are able to apply for a temporary resident visa to travel to and to stay in Canada. This temporary visa can be extended for up to three years.

Already over 71k Ukrainian nationals have arrived to Canada, with many more expected to arrive in the coming months. While some of those arriving have family or friends in Canada that are able to host, many are arriving without any links to those in Canada, and as a result are vulnerable to human trafficking and exploitation. This is the group that we are most concerned about. ORAT has already received a number of inquiries from those who would like to host a Ukrainian family. But more hosts are needed. We would ask those that are interested in hosting a family to email the completed host information form to oratrefugeeoffice@archtoronto.org . Please include "Ukrainian Crisis" in the subject line.

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IRCC Announces 2022 Allocations

Immigration Canada (IRCC) has recently announced to Sponsorship Agreement Holders (SAHs) their allocation for 2022, which is the number of refugees that a SAH is able to sponsor.

Along with the allocation, IRCC announced to SAHs that they were able to begin submitting 2022 cases. In the coming weeks we will be doing just that, submitting applications to IRCC that we have already received from cosponsors. We ask cosponsors to remain patient as we anticipate that IRCC will be slow to acknowledge receipt of these applications.

Since we have fulfilled our allocation for this year, we are unable to process any additional applications.

If you are interested in sponsoring a refugee through this office, we encourage you to wait for information on the various programs that we have in place for the 2023 submission period, including the program that we have for members of the general public, which we plan to post information about on our website later this year.

RSTP Update Q&A
Source: RSTP Bulletin July 4, 2022

Q. If refugees being sponsored under the Private Sponsorship of Refugees (PSR) program are at risk and in need of urgent protection, can their sponsorship application be expedited?

A. If refugee(s) being sponsored under the PSR program need urgent protection, they must contact their nearest UNHCR office for an assessment. If UNHCR finds the refugee(s) in need of urgent protection, it will advise the IRCC Visa Office and follow the procedure for the Urgent Protection Program (UPP) outlined here. Refugees who are eligible for the UPP may include but are not limited to:

- Those who are under threat of refoulement, expulsion, prolonged arbitrary detention or extra-judicial execution.
- Those who are facing a real, direct threat to their physical safety, which could result in their being killed or subjected to abduction, rape, sexual abuse, violence or torture.

Please note that the UPP is primarily intended for refugees being resettled to Canada via the Government Assisted Refugees (GAR) program but can be used for PSR cases if UNHCR identifies the case as 'emergency' (or 'urgent' in IRCC terminology).

Help us, help refugees!

Volunteer with us and make a difference!

How can you assist?

You can help us in our daily administrative tasks, and we definitely can use your technical and computer skills.

Contact us

If you are ready to help us in addressing the plight of refugees, please contact us at:

Orateducator@archtoronto.org
Orateducator@archtoronto.org

The Story of an Afghani Refugee

This is a brief story of our life under the Taliban regime, and of our flight from Afghanistan to the safety of Canada.

Life is different for my family and for me now that we have arrived to Canada. My family is now safe, safer than I ever thought possible.

When I look back at all that has taken place, I see that my life and that of my family has been saved by the generosity of Canadians. My two children can now live in a society where there is peace and safety. My daughter can go to school next year, an opportunity that is now no longer possible for girls in Afghanistan.

I was a telecommunications engineer in Afghanistan before the Taliban took over the country. My wife was a vocational institute teacher in Kabul. In the blink of an eye, everything changed. With the collapse of the government and the take over by the Taliban, life in Afghanistan was changed. The Taliban, who oppose women in the workforce, and the education of girls, ordered my wife not to return to her work in education.

As most are aware, the situation in Afghanistan has been very unpleasant for decades. Groups of armed hardliners threatened the peace and stability within our country. They expected people to follow their teachings, which included forbidding girls from attending school, and women from working. Those who did not follow their teachings were not able to work.

For someone like me, working for a telecommunications company, it was difficult for me to continue to work under this regime. Both my colleagues and I were under constant surveillance. With this challenge and with my wife forbidden to work, we decided to search for a place of peace and safety where we could live, work, and raise our family. Thankfully, Canada opened its heart to vulnerable Afghans and welcomed them with open arms. Canada provided us an opportunity where we could work towards our dreams, and live in a peace-loving country.

We fled Afghanistan and found refuge in Pakistan, where we were for several months. It was there that we were received by the UNHCR, and as refugees, applied for resettlement to Canada.

My family and I are deeply grateful to ORAT and its kind staff for helping us relocate to Canada. We know that this would not be possible without the help of ORAT. Thank you to ORAT for your hard work and dedication.

Now that I am in Canada, I look forward to giving back to this beautiful country. We are looking forward to raising our children to serve this country, and together with my wife, to be good citizens and contributing members of society.

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Volunteer Opportunity

Programmer   *Reference: #V-DE02*

The Office for Refugees, Archdiocese of Toronto (ORAT), is seeking a talented and dedicated software developer highly experienced in both MS SQL Server database design / TSQL programming and Microsoft Access / VBA programming to help building an Access database.

The project entails:
- Building and customising an SQL Server database
- Building an Access application for the office.
- Importing existing Excel-based data into the Access application.

General Requirements:
- Must be at least 18 years old
- Able to work within a team
- Advanced knowledge of:
- MS Access and MS Excel, SQL and TSQL, VBA

Office hours are Monday to Friday (9am - 5pm)
If you are interested, please send your resume to this email address: Halgebraeel@archtoronto.org

Your Input is Welcome

If you would like to contribute an article to ORAT's newsletter, have any feedback on past articles, or have suggestions for future articles, please email us at: orateducator@archtoronto.org

ORAT Website

Please visit ORAT's website to find details about our mandate, goals, and policies, as well as to obtain immigration forms and info session materials. http://www.orat.ca

Join us on Facebook

Become a member of the ORAT Facebook Page to get the latest news and updates on resettlement issues. https://www.facebook.com/ORAT-Office-for-Refugees-Archdiocese-of-Toronto-324051570821/?view_public_for=324051570821

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