

REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



WORKING TOGETHER TO
HELP REFUGEES

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**103 MILLION
DISPLACED PEOPLE**



**32.5 MILLION
REFUGEES**



**72% OF
REFUGEES FROM
JUST 5 COUNTRIES**



**LESS THAN 1% OF
REFUGEES ARE
SPONSORED**

The Anglican Diocese of Toronto and the Anglican United Refugee Alliance (AURA) share a Private Refugee Sponsorship Agreement with the Canadian government. This agreement allows your parish to sponsor refugees and welcome them into your communities and AURA will support you through the process.

WHO IS A REFUGEE?

A refugee is a person who has fled their country of origin due to a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.

WHAT IS RESETTLEMENT?

Many refugees flee to countries where they do not have rights and freedoms. Resettlement is when a refugee is granted permission to establish themselves permanently in a third country, because they cannot stay where they are and they cannot return to their country of origin. For the refugees sponsored by AURA, resettlement is their only option for a safe future.

HOW CAN OUR PARISH MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Your parish can form a refugee sponsorship group and sponsor a refugee individual or family for resettlement to Canada. AURA will help you navigate the process.

OUR PARISH WANTS TO HELP, BUT WE HAVE LIMITED RESOURCES. WHAT CAN WE DO?

Partner with another parish or a group of parishes to sponsor together. Help facilitate a sponsorship in which a family or community group provide most of the required supports. Fundraise for something specific (e.g. one refugee's travel to Canada) or connect with a family that is already here. Donate to AURA or another sponsorship. Contact AURA to learn more.

HOW MUCH MONEY DO WE NEED TO RAISE?

Sponsors must provide financial support for 1 year from the refugees' arrival in Canada. Fundraising needs vary based on the cost of living, in-kind donations, family size and type of sponsorship application. Sometimes parishes partner with families here who provide some or all of the funds. Here are some examples of total funds needed:
Sponsor-identified (Named) Sponsorships: Single person: \$20,000, Family of 5: \$45,000.
Blended Visa-Office Referred Sponsorships: Single person: \$14,000, Family of 5: \$35,000.

HOW LONG DOES THE PROCESS TAKE?

It usually takes AURA and sponsors a few months to prepare a refugee application. After submission, it usually takes about 2 years for the Government of Canada to process a Sponsor-identified (Named) application. Refugees sponsored through the Blended Visa-Office Referred (BVOR) program have already been accepted to Canada, and usually arrive 2-4 months after being matched with a sponsor group. The sponsorship period lasts 1 year from arrival.

**Do you have any questions?
Please reach out to Marin or Alex at AURA.**

REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP:

QUOTABLE



"It is a privilege to be part of someone's new beginning."

-Henry, Refugee Sponsor

"It has been my biggest prayer that my children will not experience the life that I went through."

-Sarah, Sponsored Newcomer

"The sponsorship has been without a doubt the most valuable experience of my life."

-Stan, Refugee Sponsor

"The most important and most transformative aspect of this work was not in our helping them. Rather, it was the transforming of our own hearts. It was in learning to see the face of Christ in the other, the one who was different from us."

-Then Bishop Linda Nicholls, The Anglican, January 2016

"No one puts their children in a boat unless the water is safer than the land."

-Warsan Shire

"Refugees are mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, children, with the same hopes and ambitions as us—except that a twist of fate has bound their lives to a global refugee crisis on an unprecedented scale."

-Khaled Hosseini

"The world will not be destroyed by those who do evil, but by those who watch them without doing anything."

-Albert Einstein

"It is the obligation of every person born in a safer room to open the door when someone in danger knocks."

-Dina Nayeri