



REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The Anglican Diocese of Toronto partners with AURA, the Anglican United Refugee Alliance, to share an agreement with the Canadian government which allows individual parishes to sponsor and welcome refugees.

Who is a refugee?

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

What is resettlement?

Many refugees are stuck in countries where they do not have rights and freedoms. Resettlement refers to a refugee being granted permission to establish themselves in a third country, because they cannot stay where they are and they cannot return to their country of origin.

How can I make a difference?

You can form a refugee sponsor group through your parish, and commit to sponsoring an individual or family to Canada. You could also form a partnership with other parishes, faith groups, or community groups. You can volunteer, help fundraise or donate to AURA or FaithWorks to ensure others can continue doing this work.

What does sponsorship cost?

Sponsors are responsible for providing financial support for one year from the day the sponsored refugees arrive in Canada. The amounts required vary based on the cost of living, in-kind donations, family size/composition and unique needs. Some examples: Single person: \$20,000.00, Couple: \$30,000, Family of 5: \$45,000. About 3/4 of the total funds required must be in place before an application can be submitted. It costs AURA roughly \$5,000 to facilitate a family of 4 sponsorship

How has COVID affected sponsorships?

Canada's border restrictions have resulted in a significant reduction in arrivals. However, submission of new applications has never stopped. Welcoming refugee newcomers in a pandemic presents new challenges, but the situation facing our world's displaced people has only increased the need for sponsorship. For applications in process, COVID has created unwelcome delays and the Blended Visa Office Referred program paused.

How long does the process take?

Once AURA commits to submitting a particular sponsorship, it usually takes a few months to prepare the refugee application before AURA can submit it to the government of Canada. After submission, it usually takes 1.5-2.5 years before a "named case" arrival, or 2-4 months for a BVOR arrival (as BVOR refugees have already been accepted by Canada).



OVER 80
MILLION
DISPLACED
PEOPLE



OVER 26
MILLION
REFUGEES



68% OF
REFUGEES
COME FROM
JUST 6
COUNTRIES



LESS THAN 1%
OF REFUGEES
ARE
SPONSORED

"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



For more information contact AURA: