

REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP: AN OVERVIEW



Working Together to Help Refugees

(416) 588-1612 | info@auraforrefugees.org | www.auraforrefugees.org

WHAT IS REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP?

Refugee sponsorship is Canadians personally welcoming refugee newcomers to their communities. A sponsor group commits to providing financial, emotional and settlement support to a refugee individual or family for the period of one year. The program began with the 'Boat People' in the 1970s and has earned Canada recognition worldwide.

ABOUT AURA

AURA is a Canadian charitable organization assisting in the sponsorship and resettlement of refugees. Our mission is to provide support and expertise to groups involved in refugee sponsorship and resettlement on behalf of the Anglican Diocese of Toronto.

HOW AURA WORKS

AURA works closely with parishes to develop, submit and monitor refugee sponsorship applications. We provide support and guidance throughout the entire process. We receive thousands of requests annually to sponsor refugees, but each application needs to be matched with an Anglican Parish.

ESTIMATED COST:

The total cost of a sponsorship depends on many factors and is impossible to predict exactly.

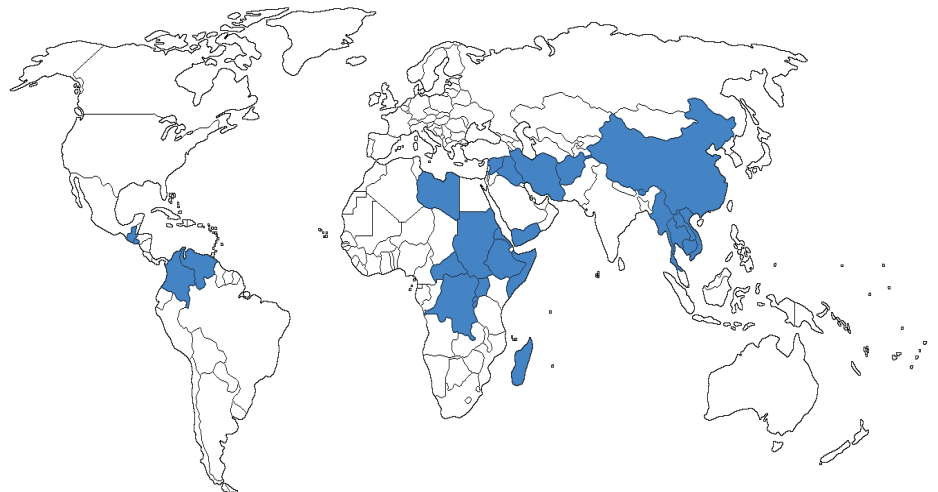
| Family Size | Approximate Cost |
|-------------|------------------|
| 1 | \$20,000 |
| 2 | \$30,000 |
| 3 | \$35,000 |
| 4 | \$40,000 |
| 5 | \$45,000 |
| 6 | \$50,000 |

About 60-70% of funds must be raised before an application can be submitted.

WHO IS A REFUGEE?

A refugee is someone outside their country of nationality, unable or unwilling to return because of a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership of a social group. For resettlement to Canada, they must also show that they are unable to remain in their country of asylum.

SINCE 1991, AURA HAS FACILITATED THE SPONSORSHIP OF REFUGEES FROM OVER 20 COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN:



SUPPORT FROM AURA

- AURA provides training and support to all sponsor group members.
- Our detailed sponsorship handbook provides up to date information about overarching considerations and specific settlement tasks.

We deeply value the integrity of the refugee sponsorship program. There are policies and guidelines in place based on decades of experience. AURA will meet with your sponsor group as a whole to answer questions, and explain the process.

SPONSORSHIP REQUIRES DEDICATED SPONSORS WHO TRULY WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

AURA WILL BE THERE TO SUPPORT YOU THROUGH EVERY STEP OF THE REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP PROCESS.



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TYPES OF REFUGEE CASES:

AURA works with 2 types of refugee sponsorship applications: Named and BVOR

| Private Sponsorship Type | Processing Time Submission to Arrival | Who names the refugees? | Family in Canada? | Accepted by Canadian Government? | Funding Available? | Number of Cases AURA can submit |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-------------------|----------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| Named | 1 - 3 years | Family members/ organizations in Canada | Almost always | Application required | None (sometimes family members contribute) | Limited (yearly allocation system) |
| Blended Visa Office Referred (BVOR) | 2 - 4 months | United Nations High Commissioner For Refugees (UNHCR) | Sometimes | Already accepted, 'travel ready' | Government provides financial assistance for 6 months | Unlimited |

OVERVIEW OF THE SPONSORSHIP PROCESS:

| Named Cases | Blended Visa Office Referred (BVOR)s |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A refugee is outside their country of origin, sponsors/relatives ask AURA to help. 2. A sponsor group/parish is found, AURA assesses the refugee's eligibility. 3. The sponsors raise the required funds, submit their contact info and police checks to AURA. 4. AURA completes paperwork with the refugees/sponsors/parish and receives Diocesan approvals. 5. AURA submits the application to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). Processing begins, including security checks, medicals and interview (1 - 3 years). 6. IRCC makes a final determination. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Refugees are referred to Canadian Visa Offices by the UNHCR. 2. Sponsors express interest to AURA to sponsor 'any' refugee(s). 3. The sponsors raise the required funds, submit their contact info and police checks to AURA. 4. AURA matches the sponsor group with a BVOR family/individual. 5. AURA completes the required paperwork with the parish and receives Diocesan approvals. 6. AURA submits the application to IRCC, IRCC assesses sponsor eligibility and travel is arranged (usually 2 - 4 months). |

Are you ready to get involved?

Invite AURA staff to speak to your outreach committee or congregation on a Sunday morning!

Contact AURA to learn more about sponsorship opportunities for your community.

Donate to AURA. Donations from refugee supporters enable us to continue our work supporting sponsors!