



Speak up for a warm welcome and fair treatment for refugees. For action ideas, see:

www.ccrweb.ca/rrd



For resettled refugees repaying transportation loans

CALL ON the Canadian government absorb transportation costs for refugees.

For refugees facing long delays in reuniting with family members

DEMAND that refugees in Canada be immediately reunited with family members who are overseas.



Photo: Settlement Arts/Anna Hill



For refugees facing stereotypes and scapegoating

SHOW members of your community the realities that many refugees face.



CANADIAN COUNCIL FOR REFUGEES

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Refugee Rights Day

April 4th, 2010



1985 - 2010

Guaranteeing life, liberty, security and humanity for refugees in Canada



Canadian Council for Refugees
Conseil canadien pour les réfugiés

What is the 1985 Singh decision?

On April 4th, 1985 the Supreme Court recognized that:

- > The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms guarantees the basic rights of refugee claimants in Canada.
- > Refugee determination must respect the principles of fundamental justice.
- > Fundamental justice requires that, where credibility is an issue, refugee claimants must have an oral hearing.

What is Refugee Rights Day?

Refugee Rights Day is celebrated each April 4th to bring attention to the advances made in the protection of refugee rights in Canada as a result of the Singh decision. Refugee Rights Day is also a time to learn about the threats to those rights.

2010 is the 25th anniversary of the Singh decision.

Since the Singh decision...

- > An independent, specialized tribunal, the Immigration and Refugee Board, makes decisions on refugee claims following oral hearings.
- > Courts have recognized in subsequent decisions that the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms protects people from deportation to persecution.
- > Canada's refugee system has won the reputation for being one of the fairest in the world.

Why is the Singh decision important?



The Singh decision has given us the opportunity to express our stories face-to-face to another person and to be more empathetic to what we are facing.

- Leonardo Zuniga, Toronto

For refugees to be able to tell their stories in front of the Immigration and Refugee Board is really important. It's part of the healing process so that they can feel they are being heard.



- Wanda Yamamoto, Winnipeg



For me, the Singh decision is critical because it means that my clients have the chance to tell their story directly to the person who is making the decision in their case.

- Heather Neufeld, Ottawa

For me, it's really important to be heard because when we're not listened to it's difficult, and we feel very frustrated.

- Alfredo Lombisi, Montreal



The act of celebrating or commemorating the Singh decision is a time for refugees and asylum seekers to be heard by the community. It's a time to celebrate rights that have been won, including the right now guaranteed by the Singh decision: the right to have your case heard by an independent decision-maker.

- Sylvain Thibault, Montreal



Everybody that I have helped in Canada to become a Convention refugee has been through this system that was developed through the Singh decision. I can't imagine Canada without this refugee process.

- Francisco Rico-Martinez, Toronto