

Making Speedy Family Reunification a Priority

Many refugees and immigrants face barriers to family reunification. These barriers cause tremendous hardship for the families, and also have huge costs for Canadian society as a whole.

Impact on children

Prolonged family separation has its most dramatic impacts on the many children affected. As a society we have particular obligations to protect children, including by respecting their right to be with their family.

Yet children of refugees in Canada often wait years to be allowed to travel to Canada, especially if they are in Africa or Asia. Even in cases where children are separated from both their parents, and by definition at risk, processing can take years.

SOLUTION The CCR recommends that the spouses and children of people recognized as refugees in Canada be brought immediately to Canada, to be processed here.

Wish you were here!

Family Reunification Campaign



Ben Andrei Niloufar Akino Ali Meraj Samia Qüenty

All the people pictured above are affected by Regulation 117(9)(d)

Excluded family members

Children are also the principal victims of Regulation 117(9)(d), an inflexible immigration rule that excludes family members if they were not examined by an immigration officer when the sponsor immigrated to Canada.

Victims of the R. 117(9)(d) include a two-year-old girl in Pakistan denied reunification with her mother, an Iranian refugee in Canada.

SOLUTION The CCR recommends the elimination of Regulation 117(9)(d), the Excluded Family Member rule.

Family Reunification Campaign

The CCR is calling for an immigration and refugee system that respects basic rights by favouring the speedy reunification of families in the interests of the healthy, humane, respectful and productive integration of newcomers.

For more information
www.reunification.ca

Trafficking

- Involves the exploitation of people, often through forced labour.
- Often involves the transportation of victims across borders or within a country.
- Exploits the vulnerable.



What happens to trafficked persons in Canada?

Canadian law does not protect trafficked persons. As a result, trafficked persons are not always treated appropriately by Canadian authorities. Instead they may be detained and deported.

SOLUTION The CCR has developed a proposal to amend the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* in order to provide temporary and permanent protection to trafficked persons.

For more information
www.trafficking.ca



PHOTO: UNHCR

Iraqi Refugee Crisis

The violence in Iraq has forced over two million Iraqis to flee as refugees. The vast majority are in Syria and Jordan.

So far Canada has opened its door to only a very few Iraqi refugees.

SOLUTION The CCR recommends:

- Increasing the overall number of refugees resettled to Canada, including of Iraqi refugees.
- Expediting the processing of Iraqi refugees being resettled to Canada.
- Increasing public awareness of the needs of Iraqi refugees.



PHOTO: UNHCR

We need your support

The CCR depends on private donations to carry on its work.

You can support the CCR in its efforts to make Canada a welcoming place for refugees and newcomers by:

- **JOINING THE "FRIENDS OF THE CCR"**, our monthly giving program. Giving through "Friends of the CCR" is the easiest, most cost efficient method of supporting the CCR. Application forms are available at www.ccrweb.ca (under Donate).
- **MAKING A DONATION TO THE CCR** by credit card online through CanadaHelps (www.canadahelps.org).
- **MAKING A DONATION TO THE CCR BY MAIL OR TELEPHONE** (see contact information below). You will receive a receipt for income tax purposes for all donations over \$20, or on request.

For more information on the Canadian Council for Refugees, its concerns and campaigns and how you can become involved, see:

www.ccrweb.ca



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Pathways To Gender Justice

The CCR has developed a tool kit for people working in the immigrant- and refugee-serving sector in Canada to help organizations and individuals apply a gender analysis to their work.

Our vision is for a future when all immigrants and refugees will be able to participate fully and in the manner that they choose in Canadian society, in full respect of their human rights.

Safe Third Country

Since December 2004, Canada has designated the US as a Safe Third Country for refugees, closing the door on most refugee claimants at the US-Canada border.

The Canadian Council for Refugees strenuously opposes this designation, because the US is not safe for all refugees. The CCR also denounces the purpose and effect of reducing the number of refugees who can seek Canada's protection.

The CCR joined others in challenging the designation in the courts, as a violation of the Canadian Charter and international human rights obligations. In November 2007, the Federal Court upheld the legal challenge. The government has appealed the ruling.



CANADIAN COUNCIL FOR REFUGEES

JUSTICE FOR REFUGEES AND IMMIGRANTS

Some key issues

Ali
Ziba
Nilofar
Sana
Sayada
Ben
Akino
Andrei
Nafar

