



Canadian Council for Refugees Conseil canadien pour les réfugiés

What We Want for Refugees: Four faces, four values

We want refugees to be treated fairly and honourably, in a process that is independent and affordable.

These are Canadian values and treating refugees in this way is good for Canada and good for refugees.

Fair

We believe in fair treatment for refugees:

- > Equal rules for everyone everywhere
- > Listening to people's stories
- > Decisions in a reasonable time



Miriam fled a war in her country, where she was persecuted because of her ethnicity. Several members of her family were killed. She has been three years in a refugee camp, where women are vulnerable to rape, and is being processed for resettlement to Canada. How much longer is it fair for her to wait?

Independent

We believe in independent decision-making for refugees:

- > Decisions for refugees based on facts and law
- > Each case decided on its own merits, not on politics



Benissa arrived in Canada thinking that she could tell her story to an unbiased judge. But now she realizes that Canada wants to increase business dealings with the country she fled. Can we reassure her that the person deciding her refugee claim will be truly independent and free from political influence?

Honourable

We believe in honouring our legal obligations towards refugees:

- > Respecting the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms
- > Respecting international commitments, such as the Refugee Convention and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.



Abiola's family fled their country because their political activism put them in danger. Abiola's son has nightmares about the time the police vandalized their home and arrested his father. Is it honourable for Canada to detain his son when they arrive here?

Affordable

We believe in refugee policies that avoid unnecessary costs for refugee families and the Canadian taxpayer.

- > Reasonable costs to reach the right decision the first time.
- > Enabling refugee families to support each other and contribute to Canadian society.



David, Florence and their children were separated when they were forced to flee violence. David reached Canada with one child and they have been accepted as refugees: he is applying for Florence and the other children to join him here. How much money can be saved by bringing the family together immediately?

Our Vision for Canada's Overseas Refugee System:

- > Fast processing, to meet the protection needs of refugees
- > Available to refugees everywhere in the world, without discrimination
- > Engaging Canadians as true partners through private sponsorship
- > Government doing its part to resettle refugees, based on need
- > Fair decision-making
- > Keeping families together

Our Vision for Canada's Refugee Claim Process:

- > Take no risks with human lives: hear every claim, on its own merits
- > Refugees are not criminals: detention should be the exception
- > Timeliness costs everyone less: avoiding unnecessary delays for refugee hearings and family reunification saves heartache and taxpayer's money
- > Refugee decisions mean life or death: decision makers must be up to the task
- > Decision makers aren't perfect: everyone deserves the right to a second opinion



Our goal:

To shift public opinion by highlighting the profiles of individuals - the basis for our vision of what we want in Canada for refugees.

Here's what you can do:

- > **STAY ON MESSAGE**
 - > Fair
 - > Independent
 - > Honourable
 - > Affordable
- > **TELL** human stories, **SHOW** real faces
- > **HIGHLIGHT** positive messages
- > **RAISE** the voices of allies

