




WHY CELEBRATE
REFUGEE RIGHTS
DAY?



Community organizations and groups celebrate Refugee Rights Day each April 4th in Canada to bring attention to the advances made in the protection of refugee rights in Canada as result of the Singh Decision. Refugee Rights Day is also a time to learn about the threats to those rights.

Find more information about refugee rights at the Canadian Council for Refugees website:

www.ccrweb.ca

For Toronto events and updates visit:

www.ocasi.org



Appreciation is extended to Councillors Joe Mihevc, Janet Davis and the City of Toronto for their support.

**Refugee Rights Day Planning and Events
are supported by:**

Amnesty International Toronto, Canadian Arab Federation, Canadian Council for Refugees, CCR Youth Network, Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture, Canadian Red Cross—First Contact Program, FCJ Refugee Centre, OASIS Centre des Femmes, Mennonite New Life Centre, Nellie's Shelter, Northwood Neighbourhood Services, Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants, Red Tree Artists Collective, Springtide Resources, Inc., Sojourn House, St. Christopher House, Supporting Our Youth (SOY), Tamil Eelam Society of Canada, The Salvation Army Immigrant & Refugee Services, Thorncliffe Neighbourhood Office, Toronto Refugee Affairs Council, Toronto Roma Community Centre, and the YMCA Newcomer Information Centre.



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Refugee Rights Week

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Commemorating the 23rd Anniversary of the Singh Decision

Every year on April 4th we commemorate and celebrate the 1985 Supreme Court Singh Decision, which expresses the best in Canadian society's wish for fairness and justice. The ruling states that everyone physically present in Canada has rights under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

This decision led to the formation of the Immigration Refugee Board (IRB), so that today every Refugee Claimant has the right to an Oral Hearing, to make his/her case before the decision maker.

REFUGEE RIGHTS WEEK EVENTS IN TORONTO

All events are free!

Thursday, April 3rd

Workshops:

10:00am—Refugee Artists will share their stories

12:30 pm —Proclamation by City of Toronto

2:00pm—Update on Refugee Situation in Canada

- Speakers: Andrew Brouwer

Francisco Rico-Martinez

Location:

City Hall, Committee Room #2

Exhibition of Refugee Art

March 31– April 4

9:00am– 4:00pm

Rotunda, Toronto City Hall

100 Queen St. West (Queen & Bay)

Participants:

Al-Awda (Palestinian & Iraqi)
Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture
FCJ Refugee Centre
Kouchani Afghan Art Society
Roma Community Centre
Sojourn House
Supporting Our Youth
Thorncliffe Neighbourhood Office

Paintings, Photographs, Arts & Crafts, Murals

OTHER EVENTS IN THE GTA

March 26 & 27th

York University Centre for Refugee Studies

Film Festival ' *Tales and Trials of Forced Migration*'

Nathan Taylor Cinema, Ross Building, N102

3:30 pm each day

April 2nd

St. Stephen's Community House

91 Bellevue Ave. Phone: 416-925-2103

Settlement Service Coordination Forum

April 3rd

St. Christopher House

248 Ossington Avenue

Social Evening & Discussion in celebration of

Refugee Rights Day: 5:30-8:30pm

Dinner will be served.

If you wish to attend, please RSVP:

To: Darshan Ambalavanar:

darshanam@stchrishouse.org

Tel : 416-532-4828 Ext 124

April 3rd

Romero House

United in Prayer for Refugee Rights

8:00am - 8:30am (followed by coffee and donuts)

1558 Bloor St W (Dundas W subway)

Join refugees and allies as we pray together for refugee rights. Prayer and reflection led by Father Jack Costello.

April 8th

Toronto Roma Community Centre

160 Springhurst Ave Phone: 416-561-0770

International Roma Day Celebrations

2:00—10:00pm

Art Exhibit, Music

April 10th

York University Centre for Refugee Studies

Founders Assembly Hall

First Annual Howard Adelman Lecture

Does Research on Refugees Help Refugees?

Reception: 5:00pm Lecture: 6:00pm

A CELEBRATION OF REFUGEE RIGHTS

Friday, April 11th 6:30-9:30pm

Labios Lounge and Restaurant

584 Bloor St. W.

Entertainment & Refreshments provided.

RIGHTS FOR REFUGEES IN CANADA

For Refugee Rights Day, support these campaigns:

1. Proud to Aid and Abet Refugees

Campaign to oppose the criminalization of assistance to refugees. The Canadian Council for Refugees invites organizations and individuals to join the campaign and take action to ensure that the law is changed so that no one acting on humanitarian motives will be charged for aiding and abetting refugees. For further information and to endorse this campaign go to:

<http://www.ccrweb.ca/aidandabet/index.htm>

2. Refugee Appeal Division

In Canada, refugee claimants have no appeal on merits of a negative decision on their case. An appeal exists in Canadian law, but the government has not implemented it. A bill currently before the Senate would give refugees their appeal rights. Call Senators today to pass Bill C-280 on the Refugee Appeal Division!

3. Family Reunification

Refugees frequently face years of waiting before being reunited with family members still overseas. Demand drastic reduction in processing time. Endorse the Canadian Council for Refugees Manifesto on Family Reunification at:

<http://www.ccrweb.ca/reunificationen.html>