

About Working Groups

• What are they?

A Working Group (WG) is a collaborative network of individuals acting as **representatives of member organizations** who are engaged in exchanging information and developing policy positions on issues* relating to a particular area of concern.



**An issue can be anything that challenges our members' work and thus newcomer rights on the ground, including anything from the impact of racism to immigration detention.*

A WG has a broad agenda of issues with which it is concerned including new initiatives as well as issues with which the CCR has been engaged. As such, a WG is in charge of:

- Proposing Resolutions
- Proposing Action Items
- Advising the Executive Committee on policy and strategy
- Undertaking special projects
- Planning Consultation workshops

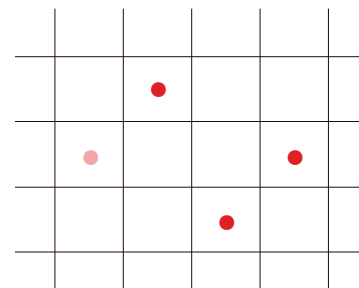
• Who is involved?

A Working Group is member-driven; two elected Co-chairs, a Steering Committee, an Executive liaison and a CCR staff member make up the WG leadership.



• When does a WG meet?

The WG meet 3-4 times a year, virtually or in-person. One meeting takes place in Toronto, earlier in the year, the second takes place in Montreal, later in the year. They also meet at the Consultation(s).



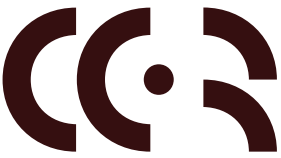
• How are issues addressed?

Once members have proposed an issue of general interest to the WG, it is addressed in various ways:

- Organize a workshop/virtual meeting
- Pass a resolution
- Launch a public opinion campaign
- Create practical or policy resources
- Bring attention to the issue in the media
- Take legal action
- Engage in dialogue with government

• The impact of our work

- Changes in government policies and practices
- Changes in the practices of community actors
- Increase in awareness of related issues (public education)
- Increase in knowledge and empowerment of CCR members



Participate in a Working Group

Immigration and Settlement

Topics covered:

- Newcomer integration
- Access to services
- Broader social justice issues
- Anti-trafficking and Migrant Workers

Examples of ongoing projects:

- Advocating for regularization of all status through a call to action
- Information sharing and strategizing on how to confront Anti-Black Racism
- Creating a sub-group to discuss issues faced by international students

Achievements

- Open letter in support of precarious migrant workers in COVID-19 context
- GAR virtual meeting on IRCC Review of Services leading to report used by IRCC to make recommendations (highlighted during opening session of a past Consultation)

Inland Protection

Topics covered:

- Refugee claimants issues
- Immigration detention
- Deportation

Examples of ongoing projects:

- Advocacy on immigration detention
- Regular information-sharing on refugee claimant issues and communication of issues to IRCC
- Advocating for special COVID-19 Refugee Claimant Measures to grant permanent residence to claimants

Achievements

- Developed a practical tool to help people assess whether to apply to the pathway to permanent residency for claimants working in the healthcare sector
- Submitting detailed recommendations to Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) on gender-based violence
- Launch of an advocacy campaign highlighting the horrifically long wait times for refugee family reunification

Overseas Protection and Resettlement

Topics covered:

- Protection needs and challenges of refugees
- Resettlement of refugees
- Private sponsorship

Examples of ongoing projects:

- Advocating for increased resettlement to Canada (both Government-Assisted and privately sponsored)
- Exploring barriers to resettlement faced by Palestinian refugees
- Outreach to Group of Five sponsors

Achievements

- Made ten recommendations to IRCC following the announcement of their resettlement program for Afghans.
- Engagement in international resettlement discussions through the Annual Tripartite Consultations on Resettlement