



# Family reunification for all: Meeting with a Member of Parliament

## A. Request a meeting with your Member of Parliament

- Find the MP's contact details at: <http://bit.ly/qyxfKQ>
- The best time to meet your MP locally is when Parliament is not in session. Your MP will likely be in their riding these weeks: 13-17 March, 27-31 March, 17-28 April 2017
- Some suggested wording:

*I am writing to request a meeting as part of the Canadian Council for Refugees' Family Reunification Campaign.*

*This campaign is based on the principle that all families have equal value. However, Canada's immigration system treats families unequally – by immigration category, by world region and by law.*

*We would like an opportunity to talk about how these issues affect members of your constituency and how we can move towards solutions.*

## B. Gather together a small (3-4 person) team to attend the meeting

- Include someone who is personally affected by the family reunification issue. For tips to help prepare: <http://ccrweb.ca/en/meeting-preparation-lived-experience>
- If you haven't met the MP, find out a bit about them (a good source is <https://openparliament.ca/>)
- Identify ways in which the family reunification issues affect people in the MP's riding in particular.
- Make sure you know how long the MP is giving you for the meeting so you can plan properly.
- Agree on the plan for the meeting, using the suggested outline below.
- Plan the team's remarks carefully and be selective. You can't hope to communicate everything. It is better for the MP to go away with a clear message, than to be confused by too much information. Leave plenty of time for the MP to ask questions.

## C. The meeting

*The structure on the next page is meant to serve as a guideline, not as a rigid and only approach to your meeting with the MP (based on 30 minutes).*

## D. After the meeting

- C. Follow up on any commitments you made at the meeting.
- D. Send a summary of the meeting to the CCR at [families@ccrweb.ca](mailto:families@ccrweb.ca)



### **C. The meeting**

*The following structure is meant to serve as a guideline, not as a rigid and only approach to your meeting with the MP (based on 30 minutes).*

#### **a) Introduction** (3 minutes)

Introduce yourselves and establish your connections with the constituency.

Explain that you are participating in a national campaign led by the Canadian Council for Refugees, an umbrella organization with about 180 member organizations.

#### **b) Present the main campaign issue** (10 minutes)

Give the MP the campaign handout and explain the main issues covered:

<http://ccrweb.ca/sites/ccrweb.ca/files/family-reunification-campaign-handout-2017.pdf>

If one of the team is personally affected by one of these issues, have them speak to their situation.

Outline clearly the recommendations.

#### **c) Feedback from MP** (10-15 minutes)

Ask the MP for feedback. Ask whether the MP supports the recommendations, and if so, what they can do to support them.

#### **d) Speak to another issue** (optional: 5 mins)

If you wish, you could address one other of the recommendations listed at

<http://ccrweb.ca/en/family-reunification>

#### **f) Conclusion** (2 minutes)

Thank the MP for meeting. Recap the commitments made and promise to follow up with their office.