



## YOUTH NETWORK REFUGEE PHOTO PROJECT PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES

**EVERYONE CAN PLAY A ROLE IN MAKING FEEL REFUGEES WELCOME IN CANADA.**

### OVERVIEW

The CCR Youth Network's national refugee photo project is designed to highlight the faces and voices of former refugees. As a leading national voice for the active and engaged refugee rights supporters, the CCR Youth Network is organizing this project to help Canadians appreciate how refugees contribute to our communities and reflect on what makes someone feel welcome.

The project is part of a joint Canadian Council for Refugees (CCR) - Amnesty International refugee awareness campaign, Refugees Welcome Here.

### What?

Groups of newcomer youth across Canada will identify and photograph local people who came to Canada as refugees. They will also interview the people so that the photo can be accompanied by some information on how they contribute to Canada and what made them feel welcome and at home in Canada. The photos and captions will be collected and presented as an online gallery and may be used for exhibits.

### Why?

1. To highlight the faces and voices of former refugees and the many ways that people who came to Canada as refugees are contributing to our communities.
2. To promote welcoming communities in Canada through a youth-led initiative that raises awareness by rebutting myths about refugees and exploring what makes refugees feel welcome.

### Who?

- Newcomer youth (25 years old and under) from across Canada who want to get involved.
- Refugee-serving organizations willing to support newcomer youth participating in this project.
- Photographers willing to support and mentor participating newcomer youth.

### How?

This is a process by which newcomer youth will photograph and audio record former refugees. In order to participate in the Youth Photo Project, you will need to:

1. Identify a former refugee who would be willing to be interviewed and have their photos taken and asked questions
2. Take a few photos of your subject and ask them some questions.
3. Submit your photos and text to [jelatifi@ccrweb.ca](mailto:jelatifi@ccrweb.ca). We will upload the photos to the online gallery and share them with our members, allies, community, and more!

## When?

- January 2016-April 2016

## Where?

- Anywhere in Canada

## GUIDELINES

### 1. Forming a group to work on the project

The first step is to get a group of newcomer youth who are interested in participating in the project. It is good to have at least 3 or 4 youth, so that you can support each other and divide up the tasks. If there are many newcomer youth, you might want to divide into several sub-groups after the planning stage, so that everyone can play a role.

Preferably each group should be supported by an organization and mentored by a photographer. If you would like help finding an organization or photographer, contact Jihane at [jelatifi@ccrweb.ca](mailto:jelatifi@ccrweb.ca)

### 2. Getting ready

The group will need to meet one or more times to get ready and make your plans.

Start with a discussion on three themes (More refugees, More fairness, More welcoming communities) addressed in this project. Take about 30-45 minutes to brainstorm the questions below (10-15 minutes for each theme).

#### a) Thinking about representation of refugees

Begin with a discussion in your group about how refugees are presented. Have the group discuss questions like:

- How are refugees presented in the media and elsewhere in our society? (e.g. as strong or weak, as threatened or threatening, as active or passive, as young or old?)
- Is this presentation balanced and complete, or are there gaps or distortions?
- How would we want to present refugees?

*Hint:* Need to learn a bit more about the definition of a refugee? Go to

<http://ccrweb.ca/en/refugee-facts>

#### b) Thinking about contributions of refugees and former refugees

Have the group discuss some of the many ways refugees contribute to the community and to Canada.

- What are some of the ways refugees contribute through their work? Through their volunteer commitments? Through their creativity? Through their role in the family? In other ways?
- Is there anything special or different about contributions made by refugees compared to other citizens?
- Are there contributions that we would particularly like to highlight?

### **c) Thinking about feeling at home**

Have the group explore what it means to feel welcomed and at home.

- Thinking about times when you went somewhere new (new country, new town, new school), what made you feel at home?

### **3. Developing skills in photographing and doing interviews**

Ideally, a skilled photographer will give you some training on how to take good photographs.

Do some role play interviews. Get some input from someone who has experience doing interviews. (Ex: Journalists and journalism students)

Resources:

- How to take great photos with your smart phone tip sheet
- Rock your interview tip sheet

### **4. Planning**

Review everything you need to do (prepare your questions, print out the consent form, etc.) as well as the materials you need to gather for the project (e.g. camera, recording device) and make a plan, including timelines.

Note: CCR will host cross-Canada conference calls so that participating youth can exchange with each other about the project.

*Hints for organizations:*

- You can provide meeting space, logistical support, access to phones, mentorship, help with finding former refugees etc.
- We hope to make this a youth-led project: encourage and support the youth in taking leadership (chairing the meetings, writing the workplan, etc).

*Hints for photographers:*

- You can help the youth develop their skills and express their creativity.
- You can explore with the youth how photographs can present a subject in very different ways.
- Please support youth in taking control of the project: this is a youth-led project.

### **5. Identifying and reaching out to former refugees**

The group will need to decide how many refugees they want to reach out to, and which ones, taking into account the discussions about refugee representation and contributions. If the group is doing more than one, think about diversity in age, gender, sexual orientation, region of origin, and types of contributions in Canada.

Note: for some ideas about where refugees have come from in past decades, see <http://ccrweb.ca/en/brief-history-canadas-responses-refugees>

Here are some suggestions for how to find former refugees:

- Refugee-serving organizations have wide networks that you can tap into.

- Use your networks: at school, faith community, neighbours, etc. For example, if you would like to find a nurse who came as a refugee, see if anyone at school as a family member who is a nurse and who might have a colleague who is a former refugee.
- If you would like to find a refugee from a particular country of origin, contact a relevant organization (e.g. contact the local Vietnamese association to ask if they can help find a former Vietnamese refugee).

Once you have a person identified, you need to make contact. It is usually easiest if whoever proposed the person can get their permission for you to reach out to them. When you contact them, explain clearly who you are, the project and its goals and what you are asking of them (i.e. to be photographed and interviewed). Offer to answer any questions they may have.

If they agree to participate, you will need to arrange a time and place to meet. It is great if possible to have a background for the photo that is relevant. For example, their workplace is a great background to highlight the person's professional contributions. Or if the person loved going to the library when they first arrived, that might be a way to highlight how the library helped them feel welcomed. You could ask the person to suggest a setting that is significant either to their contributions or to what makes them feel at home in the community. (Bear in mind that you may need to check with someone in charge that it is OK to take the photo in a public building like a library).

Share with the person the questions that you will be asking them.

## **6. The photo/interview session**

Plan the session carefully in advance and make sure you divide up the roles. You probably don't want to have more than 3 or 4 people going (you don't want to overwhelm the person!)

During the session you will:

- Go over the consent form, address any questions and have the person sign the consent. The person needs to choose if they will agree to have their full name used or only their first name.
- Do the interview, preferably recorded ([see notes re interviews](#)). The interview does not need to be long (about 10 minutes is fine). We are only in the end going to use a short extract, but the interviewee may need to talk a bit to get comfortable and say some interesting things. The key questions to ask are:
  - What are some of the ways in which you have contributed to our community and to Canada?
  - Thinking back to when you came to Canada as a refugee, what made you feel at home and welcome here?
  - What do you think we need to do to make refugees arriving now feel welcome?
- Take the photos with a smart phone or a camera if you have access to one. ([see notes re photos](#))
- Thank the person and tell them you will be following up with them.

## 7. Follow up

After the session you will need to pick out the best photos and review the interview recording (or notes) to pull out the relevant parts. You should aim to prepare a short text (100 words) based on the interview filling in the gaps in the following:

X has contributed by....

X was made to feel welcomed / at home ....

In order to make refugees feel welcome, X recommends...

If possible, use exact quotations from the person.

Send the text along with the top photos to the person and ask them to approve them.

Once you have approval, send the photos, text and consent to Jihane El Atifi at [jelatifi@ccrweb.ca](mailto:jelatifi@ccrweb.ca)

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## Other questions

**What if the person doesn't want to be named or photographed?** We are assuming that most former refugees will agree to their photo and at least their first name being published, since they are not now at risk. Photos of peoples' faces are the most effective way to pass our message about former refugees as our productive fellow citizens. However, in cases where someone is keen to participate but doesn't want to be named or photographed, we can use a fictitious name and there are creative ways of photographing people who want to be anonymous.

**What if the media approaches us about this project?** We are not ready to talk to the media at this point, but we will be interested once the project is further along. If you are approached by media, please tell them that we are not ready yet but tell them we will contact them later. Send their contact information to Jihane at [jelatifi@ccrweb.ca](mailto:jelatifi@ccrweb.ca) (and let Jihane know if your group would be willing to talk to the media once the project is ready).

**What should we do if we have expenses?** We hope that supporting organizations may be able to help with some minor expenses for the project. The CCR does have access to some funding to support this project, so if you foresee some expenses to make the project a success, please contact Jihane at [jelatifi@ccrweb.ca](mailto:jelatifi@ccrweb.ca).