

## Did you know... ?

### **There is no waiting line for refugees.**

International law guarantees to people fleeing persecution the right to go to another country and seek asylum – that is why we have a refugee determination system.

### **International law recognizes that refugees often don't have the required documents to enter a foreign country.**

The *UN Convention relating to the Status of Refugees* prohibits governments from penalizing refugees who enter or remain on their territory without the proper documents.

### **The cost of healthcare for refugees is a fraction of that of other Canadians.**

Even before cuts to the Interim Federal Health program in 2012, the per capita cost of healthcare for refugees and refugee claimants was just 10% of that of other Canadians.

**Be Proud to Protect Refugees.  
Share the facts.  
Help change the conversation.**

## What you can do

Whether you are on your own or working as a group, get involved and change the conversation about refugees in Canada:

**Adopt** 'Proud to Protect Refugees' as a slogan

**Talk** to others about why you are proud to protect refugees, and why they should be too

**Invite** groups in your area to show why they are 'Proud to Protect Refugees'

**Order and share\*** buttons, bookmarks, posters and other Proud to Protect Refugees materials

**Participate** in cross-country events like the *Week of Action (15-21 November 2014)* and the *Walk with refugees (15-21 June 2015)*

**Share facts and stories** about refugees and their contributions

**Bust myths and misconceptions** about refugees

*\*To order Proud to Protect Refugees campaign materials online:*

[ccrweb.ca/en/resource-order-form](http://ccrweb.ca/en/resource-order-form)

***For more facts and figures:***  
[ccrweb.ca/en/myths-facts](http://ccrweb.ca/en/myths-facts)

***For information:***  
[ccrweb.ca/en/proud-to-protect-refugees](http://ccrweb.ca/en/proud-to-protect-refugees)



## Getting to the heart of protecting refugees

Refugees are fellow human beings who have been forced to flee their homes because of human rights abuses.

Since their own country can't or won't protect their basic rights, other countries must.

Canada has a legal obligation to protect refugees who reach this country, under the UN Refugee Convention and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

We also have a moral obligation to resettle some of the many refugees around the world who are in need of protection.

Because I was protected 23 years ago when I came as a refugee with my family and I was welcomed.

Why are YOU proud to protect refugees?

Because they are my neighbours, my friends and my family.

It's my moral obligation.

Why are YOU proud to protect refugees?

Since the end of the Second World War, over three-quarters of a million refugees have made a new home in Canada. They and their children and grandchildren have enriched this country in countless ways. All Canadians can be proud of the best parts of our tradition of welcoming refugees.

In some quarters, refugees are despised and rejected, but we are proud to protect refugees.

Let's keep our hearts and doors open!

## Why should we be Proud to Protect Refugees?

### Top Reasons:

1. **Defending human rights** by protecting the world's most vulnerable citizens is an essential **Canadian value**
2. **Everyone deserves** to be treated fairly with **respect and dignity**
3. **Refugees** who have been welcomed in our communities **enrich our lives**
4. **Many Canadians** are alive today because they or their parents **found refuge here**
5. **As a leader** in the world community, Canada must **honour our international obligations** towards refugees that we have signed and ratified.

