



Join the [Proud to Protect Refugees campaign](#) to change the conversation about refugees in Canada. This toolkit is for you to talk about issues affecting refugees and to raise awareness among faith-based groups, congregations, social justice committees and others. It provides information, activity ideas and resources on refugee protection, current challenges facing refugees in Canada. We will update these documents as we receive further suggestions.

With these suggestions, we encourage you to think about how Canada, as a nation has historically welcomed refugees, no longer carries on with that proud distinction. How can Canada once again adopt traditions of welcoming refugees? What can you do to make a difference? Browse the toolkit, plan activities in small groups, in worship services and others that can help to change the conversation about refugees with those around you.

Toolkit contents:

- a) **Facts about refugees** - <http://ccrweb.ca/en/refugee-facts>
- b) **Common myths and facts** – <http://ccrweb.ca/en/myths-facts>
- c) **Key dates for action**
- d) **Tips for reaching out (Activity Ideas)**
- e) **Materials to order/print**
 - Posters, buttons, stickers. Order online at: <http://ccrweb.ca/en/resource-order-form>
 - Pamphlet and other printable materials available online at: <http://ccrweb.ca/en/proud-to-protect-refugees>
- f) **What you can do**
- g) **Useful resources and information**

- a) **Facts about refugees** - <http://ccrweb.ca/en/refugee-facts>
- b) **Common myths and facts** – <http://ccrweb.ca/en/myths-facts>
- c) **Key dates for action**
 - 10 – 17 November 2013 - Proud to Protect Refugees Week of Action
 - 10 December 2013 - Human Rights Day
 - 18 December 2013 - International Migrants Day
 - 19 January 2014 - 100th World Day of Migrants and Refugees (Catholic)
 - 4 April 2014 - Refugee Rights Day
 - 27 - 28 April 2014 - Yom Hashoah: Holocaust Memorial Day
 - 16-22 June 2014 - Solidarity Walk for Refugees
 - 20 June 2014 - World Refugee Day

d) Activity ideas

1. Focus on refugees or an issue facing refugees in Canada as a part of your worship service or other theological reflections.

Ideas from Christian traditions:

Canadian Lutheran World Relief: Worship Resources on refugees http://www.clwr.org/Get-Involved/Worship_Resources.htm#clwrsunday

Church World Service: Refugee Sunday resources
<http://www.mnchurches.org/refugeeservices/get-involved/church-and-group-opportunities/refugee-sunday>

International Association for Refugees: Refugees in the bible
<http://iafr.org/downloads/handouts/Refugees%20in%20the%20Bible.pdf>

Mennonite Central Committee: A workshop resource on refugees
<http://immigration.mcc.org/system/files/And%20you%20invited%20me%20in.pdf>

Presbyterian World Service & Development: Making Connections: Refugee Resource 2010-2012
<http://presbyterian.ca/pwsd/?wpdmdl=112>

World Renew: Refugee Sunday resources
<http://www.worldrenew.net/resources-all>

Ideas from Muslim traditions:

Islamic Relief Worldwide, UNHCR: Islam and refugees - <http://www.unhcr.org/50ab90399.html>

The Protection of forced migrants in Islamic law - <http://www.unhcr.org/476652cb2.html>

The Right to Asylum between Islamic Shari'ah and International Refugee Law -
<http://www.refworld.org/pdfid/4a549f9f2.pdf>

30 Days of Faith: How refugees observe faith in exile

UNHCR (UN Refugee Agency) photo gallery -
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/unhcr/sets/72157634593052938/>

For more on this project: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/08/04/ramadan-photos-refugees-30-days-of-faith-unhcr_n_3690519.html

2. Invite (former) refugees to share their views, speak about their experience in Canada.
Alternately, you can invite someone who works with refugees to share their experiences.

Passages to Canada Speakers' Bureau (national) – <http://passagestocanada.com/invite-a-speaker/>

Mennonite New Life Centre (Toronto) Newcomer Speakers' Bureau –
<http://mnlct.org/engagement/activities/> or contact Adriana Salazar, at 416-699-4527 ext. 229 –
asalazar@mnlct.org

Canadian Council for Refugees member organizations – <http://ccrweb.ca/en/links>

3. Show a film and host a discussion on issues affecting refugees and refugee claimants in Canada

Seeking Refuge – Terre d’asile (2009): <http://www.informationfilms.com/en/productions/seeking-refuge.php>

Everybody’s Children (2008): http://www.nfb.ca/film/everybodys_children

Last Chance (2012): <http://www.nfb.ca/film/last-chance>

Raising Our Voices (2010): <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cfriSVVoyII>

For additional suggestions and shorter films, check the Canadian Council for Refugees YouTube Channel at: <http://youtube.com/ccrwebvideos>

4. Host a discussion or reading group meeting on issues affecting refugees in Canada. Check your local library or online for some of these titles:

Grouev, Ivaylo. Bullets on the Water: Refugee stories, McGill-Queen’s University Press, 2000. Available online from amazon.com: <http://www.amazon.ca/Bullets-Water-Refugee-Ivaylo-Grouev/dp/0773521178>

Leddy, Mary Jo. The Other Face of God: When the Stranger Calls Us Home: <http://www.amazon.ca/Other-Face-God-Mary-Leddy/dp/1570759103>

Mahon, Anne. The Lucky Ones: African refugees’ stories of inspiring courage, Great Plains Publications, 2013. It has a reader’s guide too: <http://www.greatplains.mb.ca/wp/wp-content/uploads/Readers-Guide-FINAL.pdf>

Saunders, Doug. The Myth of the Muslim Tide. 2012. <http://muslimtide.com/>

Showler, Peter. Refugee Sandwich, McGill-Queen’s University Press, 2006. Available online from amazon.com: <http://www.amazon.ca/Refugee-Sandwich-Stories-Exile-Asylum/dp/0773530967>

e) Materials to order/print

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f) What you can do?

- Use the Affirmation for Faith Leaders from the UNHCR (unhcr.org/51b6de419.html) within your group to affirm your pledge to ‘welcome the stranger’
- With others from your group, discuss ways to make a difference for refugees in your community and change the conversation about refugees in Canada. What can you do within your faith community? What can do in your town or city? For example: set up a table after a regular service to talk to others about refugees in Canada and why refugee sponsorship is an important tradition to

continue. Check the Proud to Protect Refugees website for ideas: <http://ccrweb.ca/en/proud-to-protect-refugees>

- Visit your Member of Parliament to talk about why refugee protection in Canada is important. Some current issues:
 - What Canada can do for refugees fleeing Syria <http://ccrweb.ca/en/syrian-crisis-backgrounder>
 - Refugee sponsorship as a Canadian tradition <http://ccrweb.ca/en/changes-private-sponsorship-refugees>
- Organize an event to welcome refugees to your community
- Reach out to other churches and communities to sponsor refugees. Contact your denomination's national office or contact the Refugee Sponsorship Training Program to find out the best way to get involved: <http://rstp.ca>
- Use social media to help change the conversation about refugees <http://ccrweb.ca/en/proud-to-protect-refugees-action>

g) Useful Links

- Welcoming the Stranger: Affirmations for Faith Leaders from the UNHCR (UN Refugee Agency) - unhcr.org/51b6de419.html More information on the "Faith and Protection" session of the UNHCR Annual Consultations with NGOs is also available at unhcr.org/pages/501a39ce6.html
- Canadian Sanctuary Network - <http://sanctuarycanada.ca/?welcome>
- Anglican Church of Canada, PWRDF Sanctuary guide - http://pwrdf.org/uploads/20/res_sanctuary.pdf
- Proud to Protect Refugees – <http://ccrweb.ca/en/proud-to-protect-refugees>
- Canadian Council for Refugees – <http://ccrweb.ca>
- Amnesty International Canada - <http://www.amnesty.ca/our-work/issues/refugees-and-migrants/refugee-protection-in-canada>
- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Canada (UNHCR – UN Refugee Agency) – <http://unhcr.ca>

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