

FORMING A REFUGEE SPONSORING GROUP

AURA's sponsorship program works closely with groups of refugee sponsors to assess, develop, monitor and support refugees during their sponsorship. Forming a refugee sponsoring group is a direct way you can make a difference.



AP Photo/Giannis Papanikos

All displaced people have gone through hardships most of us can never understand. Refugees are vulnerable people and those working with them need to be screened and trained in order to be effective sponsors.

Refugee sponsors are called to act for many different reasons, but they all share a common goal of helping those in need. Refugee sponsors are in a position to offer personalized local support that no one else would be able to provide. AURA is in a position to ensure that the entire sponsorship process goes as smoothly as possible.



1. Contact AURA to express interest in forming a group.



2. AURA will set up an initial consultation to discuss the refugee sponsorship.



3. Officially form your sponsoring group, designate a main contact and fill out the AURA Refugee Sponsor Form (Online).



4. Each member of the group must obtain a police check. The main contact of the group needs to collect and forward them in one package to AURA.



5. All members of the group must complete the AURA Refugee Sponsor Training.

ABOUT US

AURA is a Canadian charitable organization assisting in the sponsorship and resettlement of refugees. We represent the Anglican Diocese of Toronto and the Toronto Conference of the United Church of Canada as a Sponsorship Agreement Holder with Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Refugee sponsoring groups are responsible for introducing refugees to Canada. Sponsors develop a settlement plan that will budget expenses and develop a plan of action to set the newcomers on a path to self-efficiency. By using their Canadian experience refugee sponsors directly change lives every day!



Call (416) 588-1612

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Connect with AURA:



Types of Refugee Cases:

There are several types of refugee cases a sponsoring group can request through AURA.

Named or Sponsor-Referred

A Named case is of a refugee who is known already by the sponsoring group. The applicant(s) must qualify as a refugee under international and Canadian laws and a significant amount of time must be invested in developing the case for sponsorship. Typically a family member already in Canada will help with settlement tasks but the time between submission and arrival can be 12 months to several years.

Blended Visa Office Referred (BVOR)

BVOR cases are refugees that have been identified by Canadian Visa Officers overseas for resettlement to Canada and they cannot be referred by sponsors. The government also provides six months of Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP) income support for these cases. Typically these cases arrive within a few months of submission.

Joint Assistance Sponsorships (JAS)

JAS cases are joint undertakings by the sponsoring group and government to sponsor refugees requiring **special assistance**. Refugees sponsored under the JAS program are financial supported by the government and emotional supported by the sponsors for two years as their special needs likely result in a longer or more difficult period of integration.

Requesting a Refugee Case

1. The Refugee Sponsoring Group must be in good standing: regulations, training and finances.



2. Once these conditions have been approved by the AURA Executive Director, the Refugee Sponsoring Group can request a refugee case.



3. AURA and the Refugee Sponsoring Group will work closely to find the right match to ensure the best possible settlement.



4. Once the case is selected AURA and the Refugee Sponsoring Group will work together to finish the case submission.

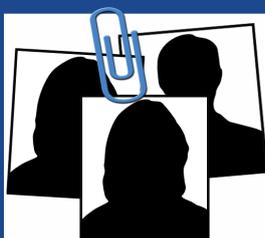
Refugee Cases Selection:

AURA has access to many refugee cases from high need places such as: Afghanistan, Iraq, the Eastern Horn of Africa and Syria. It is important for refugee sponsors to have a case that fits their situation in order to ensure a successful sponsorship. These examples of cases show the basic information AURA can present a refugee sponsor with so they can begin the process of deciding on a case.



Profile Number: VOR 114
Family Size: 1
Composition: 31 year old male
Case Summary: (currently in Ethiopia)
Languages: Amharic, Tigrinya, English
The PA is a single male of Tigrinya descent. He has a university degree in Economics and speaks English. The PA cannot return to Eritrea for fear of his safety on account of his religious beliefs.

Recommended Destination: He has a close friend and old neighbour in Toronto and would like to be resettled there.



Profile Number: VOR 243
Family Size: 3
Composition: 45 year old male, 34 year old female, 3 year old daughter
Case Summary: Languages: Chinese, Mandarin
The PA is a married man of Shan/Pa'O descent. He has experience working in farming. Due to ongoing security situations in his home country, the PA cannot return to Myanmar. He fears for his safety, and that of his wife, as he would be forcibly recruited to porter for the military, or detained for leaving the country. (currently in Malaysia)

Recommended Destination: NONE