



## Refugee Sponsorship Application Process

In preparation for the 2019 refugee sponsorship period, the Office for Refugees, Archdiocese of Toronto (“ORAT”) will be holding a number of information sessions in the coming weeks, entitled “Introduction to Resettlement”. Attendance at one of these sessions marks the first step for those who wish to sponsor a refugee through this office.

All attendees will have an equal opportunity of sponsoring through ORAT regardless of the session date. Attendees will be asked to submit the completed document, entitled “Sponsorship Steps at ORAT”. Completed documents will be reviewed by ORAT on a first come first served basis.

We do not expect to receive our 2019 allocation from Immigration Canada until March 2019. As such, we will not be in a position to confirm whether that we are able to move forward with a particular refugee sponsorship application until that time. We ask that attendees be patient.

Registration for these Information Sessions will be available on our Eventbrite page at <http://orat.eventbrite.com>. In light of the great demand that exists to sponsor refugees, and our desire to be as fair as possible, we will not be announcing the date or time that registration will open on Eventbrite. We advise those who are interested in sponsoring a refugee through our office to check our Eventbrite page often.

Please note that seats for these sessions are limited.

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## Parish Appeal: ORAT Needs Your Help!

Catholic parishes play an integral role in the Archdiocese of Toronto’s efforts to assist refugees. Through the work of the Office for Refugees, we have been able to save the lives of thousands of victims of war and persecution. While these efforts are particularly focussed on addressing the plight of Christians, we assist all who suffer as refugees, regardless of race, creed or colour. But we cannot do this without your help and the help of many more parishes.

At present, roughly 69 parishes across the Archdiocese are actively working with ORAT to resettle refugees to Canada.

**The work is great but the labourers are few:** We currently have 26 refugee families who have been identified through our selection missions that need the help of parish communities to assist them with



their resettlement to Canada. If you are interested in assisting one of these families, please contact our Outreach team at [oratoutreach@archtoronto.org](mailto:oratoutreach@archtoronto.org) and they will be able to assist you with forming a refugee committee if needed, or provide you with profiles of the refugees to choose from.

With these cases, some or all of the monies that are needed to support the refugee(s) during their first year to Canada are available through the Project Hope

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# Parish Appeal: ORAT Needs Your Help!

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Fund. However, we would be grateful if sponsoring parishes would consider fundraising a portion of the amount required to support the refugee.

**Partnering with another parish:** For parishes who find themselves unable to provide the required support to the refugee family they may consider teaming up with another parish to share the responsibility of fundraising and logistical support. By working together, it may make it possible to assist a refugee family find a new life in Canada.

**Moral Sponsorship:** We also have need of parishes to provide a Moral Sponsorship for family linked cases, where a Canadian family has chosen to sponsor a refugee overseas. The parish refugee committee is only needed when the cosponsor is unable to fulfill

their non-financial support of the refugee. This sponsorship type does not require any financial support from the parish but does require volunteer to assist when required.

I am deeply grateful for all the work that parish communities have done over the years. Together we can do great things.

In Christ,

Deacon Rudy Ovcjak

*“So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all men, but especially to those who are of the household of faith”  
(Gal 6:10)*

## Moral Sponsorship for Refugee Sponsorship Applications

Those who are interested in sponsoring a refugee through ORAT, and who have:

- Attended a recently held “Introduction to Resettlement” information session;
- Have submitted their completed “Sponsorship Steps at ORAT” document to our office; and
- Who have been notified by ORAT that their sponsorship application has been conditionally approved...

... will be instructed to secure the Moral Sponsorship of a Catholic parish, or an Orthodox Church that has a working relationship with ORAT. This is required so that in the rare event that the cosponsor is unable to fulfill their non-financial responsibilities to the refugee, there is a parish community that is available to provide the necessary support.

What is a moral sponsorship? It is important for a parish to recognize that there is no financial obligation associated with a Moral Sponsorship. Full funding of each case is deposited with the Archdiocese by the cosponsor prior to the sponsorship application being submitted to Immigration Canada. By providing a Moral Sponsorship, a parish commits to assisting the cosponsor with the logistical elements of resettlement (e.g. setting up a bank account, arranging for a family doctor & dentist, securing accommodations...) in the unlikely event that he or she is unable to do so.

Once a pastor agrees to be a Moral Sponsor, the

cosponsor will arrange to have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by all parties, including the pastor of the church that has agreed to be a Moral Sponsor. The case will not be submitted to Immigration Canada until the MOU is signed by all parties.

Which parishes can provide a Moral Sponsorship?

Only those parishes that have, or are planning to form a Constituent Group (Parish Refugee Committee) are able to provide a Moral Sponsorship.

Please note that it is not ORAT’s policy to direct potential cosponsors to a particular parish. Once the case is conditionally approved by ORAT, we direct each potential cosponsor to meet with a pastor of a parish near their residence and ask if they would be willing to provide Moral Sponsorship for their refugee sponsorship application.

If you are a pastor or are a member of a parish community and have any questions about Moral Sponsorship, please do not hesitate to contact our office at (416) 934-3400 x804 and ask to speak with someone from our Outreach team.

We rely greatly on the support of pastors and parish communities who are willing and able to undertake a Moral Sponsorship. We cannot do this work without the help of many parish communities. Your help is truly appreciated! Please consider providing a Moral Sponsorship today.

## Peace Message for a New Life



In September, 2018, ORAT received a very generous donation of a painting entitled "Peace Message for a New Life". The donor and painter is Mr. Zuhair Al-Rammahi. Mr. Zuhair is a talented Iraqi painter, who was sponsored through ORAT.

The following is a transcript of an interview with Mr. Zuhair.

*Q. What is the message behind the painting?*

A. Four years ago, when I left my country and traveled to Turkey, I saw many refugees of various nationalities living in refugee camps, where living conditions were extremely harsh. At the same time, I saw many urban refugees who were facing an unknown future for themselves and their children after forcibly having to flee from their houses, families, friends and jobs. I was among those who were suffering in Turkey.

As soon as I heard about ORAT, that it is a humanitarian organization providing services for refugees, I rushed to apply for their program.

When our application for resettlement was approved by ORAT, a light of hope was born in our lives, promising a better future for my daughter, who was left without friends or schooling to secure her future.

When I received the letter of approval from Immigration Canada through ORAT, the idea of creating this painting came to my mind. I considered the approval for resettlement as a peace message sent to me from Canada, the peaceful country that advocates for peace and humanity.

*Q. Why did you donate the painting to ORAT?*

A. I painted this painting especially for ORAT to express my gratitude for all the humanitarian non-for-profit services they provided to me and to many refugees and asylum seekers from all over the world without discriminating based on race or religion. ORAT's motive is purely humanitarian, to satisfy God and to draw a smile on the faces of people, who as a result of war, had forgotten what joy and happiness mean.

Thanks to ORAT for all they've done for my family. I'm grateful to them for accepting my humble gift. It is nothing compared to all the humanitarian services they are providing.

God bless you for the good work. I pray for you and am deeply grateful for bringing me to this wonderful country.

Zuhair Qaooyym Mashi Al-Rammahi, the painter.



*Zuhair next to the painting that was on display at Kitchener Museum*

## Resources for Newcomers

### Helping Newcomers Work

The Helping Newcomers Work website is designed to help private sponsors and volunteers facilitate the process of searching for jobs for refugee newcomers. The site focuses exclusively on training and employment for refugee newcomers, and it features some job postings as well. It is a key resource to have, to help with where to begin in the job search process, what you need to know, what to consider, and what upcoming programs are available. Click

on the link below to get more information <https://helpingnewcomerswork.ca/>



### Windmill Microlending

Windmill Microlending is a registered charity serving newcomers since 2005. They offer microloans to help skilled immigrants and refugees continue their careers in Canada.

#### Who Windmill Microlending Helps?

Windmill supports immigrants and refugees who come to Canada with education, skills and experience but struggle to resume their careers here. Our clients may be under-employed in “survival jobs” because they cannot afford the cost of Canadian credentials or accreditation. They are likely unable to access mainstream credit in Canada because they have low income and/or no Canadian credit history.



#### How Windmill Microlending Helps?

Windmill provides microloans of up to \$10,000 to internationally trained immigrants so they can obtain the Canadian licensing or training required to work in their field. The loan can pay for professional exams, training, assessments, professional association fees, books and materials, living allowance and other expenses related to obtaining the required credentials or training.

For more information go to <https://windmillmicrolending.org/>

## Christians in the Middle East 2018 Benefit Dinner

Please join Cardinal Collins and Bishop Soro for an evening of friendship, education and fundraising in support of Christians in the Middle East. Ticket for this event are available at a cost of \$75 per seat or \$540 for a table of 8. Monies raised from this event go to help dioceses, religious orders and other Catholic groups deliver pastoral care and essential needs to Christians in places like Iraq, Syria, Egypt, Lebanon and Jordan.

If you are not able to attend this event, please consider assisting this suffering community with your prayers.



# ORAT Budget Workbook

Following the major changes to the financial and non-financial requirements of the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program, the Office for Refugees, Archdiocese of Toronto (ORAT) has developed a financial tool to help those who are involved in the refugee sponsorship program. This budget Workbook is an MS Excel based workbook. Its main purpose is to assist Constituent Groups (CG) and Cosponsors with calculating and managing the finances of their sponsored refugees/newcomers. Based on the family size and composition, the tool will precisely calculate the required level of financial support, taking into account important factors like:

- In-kind donations;
- Personal assets of the refugee;
- Net employment income; and
- Other special allowances.

This workbook has been designed to provide a base budget that can be amended. It also enables the user to track all newcomer expenses and income.

The budget Workbook has been made available for Constituent Group (CG) members, Cosponsors and for newcomers. To secure a copy of the Budget Workbook please visit our website at <https://www.archtoronto.org/refugee/Pages/default.aspx>

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## Your input is welcome

If you would like to contribute an article to ORAT's newsletter, have any feedback on past articles, or have suggestions for future articles, please email us at: [orateducator@archtoronto.org](mailto:orateducator@archtoronto.org)

## Join us on Facebook

Become a member of the ORAT Facebook Page to get the latest news and updates on resettlement issues. Please visit our [Facebook page](#)

## ORAT Website

Please visit ORAT's website to find details about our mandate, goals, and policies, as well as to obtain immigration forms and info session materials.

<https://www.archtoronto.org/refugee/>



**ORAT**

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**Archdiocese of Toronto**

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