



Refugees who need your help:

ORAT (Office for Refugees, Archdiocese of Toronto) is reaching out to parish and other experienced Resettlement Groups (RG) to help in resettlement of Yazidi refugees and victims of Daesh (ISIS) from Iraq and Syria.

Two-Year Commitment: These newcomers (refugees) have significant needs (e.g., trauma, emotional, psychological, physical scars, logistical etc.) and will likely come as a large family unit. Due to the anticipated settlement challenges, this initiative requires experienced and established parish refugee committees, who are willing to commit to a two-year settlement support period. It is a unique settlement work that requires dedication of volunteer time mostly.

Financial support: The Yazidi initiative comes under the Joint Assistance Sponsorship (JAS) program as such, the newcomers will get their monthly allowance directly from the government for two years. The resettlement group would have zero financial liability. While there is



Picture from the Internet

no need for the parish to undertake any fundraising, it may be important for the resettlement group (RG) to assist the refugees (newcomers) in managing their funds. The Resettlement Group may help the newcomers with in-kind support and their volunteers may need funds to cover their own costs related to helping the newcomers (e.g., transportation, communication, hospitality or any additional extra assistance volunteers want to do).

Timing: The refugees are expected to arrive in Canada in different waves, starting this summer (2017) up to

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Alternative ways to help refugees

At ORAT we had the hope to get new spots for resettlement; however, until now we could not get any, so in this way we cannot start new sponsorships this year.

In the world refugee crisis we have, it is very important to try our best to help refugees. Therefore, we decided to have an info session to share information about other possible ways through which people can help refugees - without ORAT. People who would like to help refugees who have been determined as refugees by UNHCR or by the government of the country where they reside, are welcome to join us on July 27 to discuss different options on how to help these refugees. You can register for this session through this link: <https://howtohelprefugeeswithoutoratjul27.eventbrite.ca>

Who is a refugee according to Geneva Convention of 28 July 1951?

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the end of 2018. If your parish resettlement group is willing to participate in this program, once they went through on necessary trainings and preparations, then they would need to be on hold, ready to wait for the notice from Immigration Canada (IRCC); once the refugees arrived to COSTI Reception Centre in downtown Toronto, ORAT would get information about the family. ORAT would need very quickly a decision from the parish refugee committee if they're ready

to take the case. Time is of the essence, because soon after arrival, the settlement agency (COSTI) will start to arrange the final destination for the family. Thus for the Resettlement Group to be a part of it, it's essential to make a quick decision. According to Immigration Canada, within 2-3 months ORAT would receive these refugees.

ORAT is ready to meet with interested groups. Once the group decides to participate, we

will arrange to provide necessary training. The information sessions help to better prepare groups for any challenges they might encounter in resettling high-need refugees.

ORAT looks forward to working with interested parishes and communities on this worthy cause. Feel free to reach me anytime by phone; 416-934-3400 ext. 803 or email: lmoro@archtoronto.org

Thank you, for all that you do to save lives!

Core Principles for Resettlement Groups

ORAT is focused on helping the faithful, providing them with knowledge and guidance on the refugee resettlement process.

To uphold our mission and to best align with government guidelines, ORAT promotes the following resettlement and integration principles. These principles provide RGs with indispensable guidance, which will greatly assist them in successfully integrating their newcomers to the Canadian society.

1. Prudent Use of Donated Funds:

a. It is important for both RGs and newcomers to recognize that the funds used for the settlement of newcomers are donated monies, and, as such, should be used in as prudent a manner as possible.

b. The prudent use of donated monies balances the need to provide the material needs of the newcomer with the need to assist more refugees. Any savings gained are used to sponsor other refugee families.

c. Monies are to be used to address the basic needs of the newcomer (i.e., the necessities of life).

d. To stretch the funds, RGs are encouraged to follow the example of other RGs that have successfully leveraged their personal & community networks, and that have explored creative solutions that have identified no cost / low cost options for such things as accommodation, furniture, food, clothing, etc.

2. Speedy Integration

a. The RGs and newcomers are to work toward integration to Canadian life as quickly as possible. This includes both financial independence as well as cultural integration (i.e., language, customs...). As such, helping the newcomer to find employment quickly should be a key priority for the RG. If required by the newcomer, English language skill development may be another important priority.

b. A newcomer cannot be forced to accept a job. However, the sponsor is permitted to adjust financial support downward if a newcomer refuses to accept a reasonable job offer.

Question and Answer

Q: Who is a refugee according to Geneva Convention of 28 July 1951?

A: Is a person who is outside the country of his nationality and is unable to return to his country due to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, or unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or the country of his former habitual residence.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is the agency mandated to protect and support refugees at the request of a government. UNHCR is also responsible for determining if people who fled their countries meet this definition. In the process of refugee determination, UNCHR issues a **time-limited Asylum Seeker Certificate**. This certificate however does not mean that the person has been determined as

refugee yet. The determination process can be long and complex followed by a number of thorough interviews. After UNHCR is satisfied with the refugee claim, refugees then can be recognized as “**Convention Refugees**”. In countries where UNHCR doesn’t exist or operate, local authorities might conduct this process and issue the Refugee status.

Upcoming Sessions

Please note that you are required to register to book your seat for any session you wish to attend. You may register for the following sessions by clicking on the attached link:

<http://officeforrefugees.eventbrite.com>

How to help refugees without ORAT- Office for Refugees, Archdiocese of Toronto

Date: Thurs, Jul 27th

Time: 6:00 pm

Location: 1277 St Clair Ave W, Toronto. St. Nicholas of Bari Catholic Church - Parish Hall

General Integration Training

Date: Thurs, Jul 27th

Time: 1:00pm

Location: 1148 Finch Ave, Pickering, St. Isaac Jogues Church

Introduction to Resettlement in Parishes

Date: Tues, Aug 1st

Time: 1:00pm

Location: 1220 Yonge Street, Suite 203, ORAT

New Resettlement Educator For ORAT

For the past three years, Alexandra Whittle worked as the Resettlement Educator at ORAT Office, conducting Information sessions for people interested in sponsoring family members or friends, as well as RG members. End of April 2017, Alexandra left ORAT. We wish Alexandra all the best in her career, and thank her for the work she has done.

Hazem Algebraeel, the former Marketing and Administrative Coordinator at ORAT, is now the new Resettlement Educator. Hazem began his work with ORAT in February of 2016. His past experience working with refugees, and his rich knowledge of resettlement will be utilized to educate people and RG members who are willing to sponsor refugees.

Get to know the new staff at ORAT



My name is Simolen Tala-Jumbam and I recently (June 2017) became the Administrative Co-Ordinator at ORAT. I moved to Canada

from Cameroon in West/Central Africa in 2003 for further studies. I graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Biology from York University in 2007, and graduated with a Master of Arts degree in Mental Health Counseling from Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio (USA) in 2012.

I have a passion for work on efforts or projects that have an international focus, hence a part of what prompted me to seek an opportunity to work with ORAT. I had the opportunity to be part of a team (as an intern) that worked on a Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) project organised by a Canadian based NGO in collaboration with a Community Health Centre in Kenya. Right before I joined ORAT, I was

working at the Office of Spiritual Affairs (Archdiocese of Toronto) which also had an international focus as part of my work required constant communication with dioceses within Canada and abroad.

I am looking forward to my time and growth at ORAT while providing the great staff with administrative support. So far, it is a great learning experience.

You can reach me by email at stalajumbam@archtoronto.org or by phone at

416 934 3400 ext. 804.

Simolen Tala-Jumbam

Administrative Co-Ordinator

ORAT

Join us on Facebook

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

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/>

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



ORAT

Office for Refugees
Archdiocese of Toronto

1220 Yonge Street, Suite 203

Toronto, ON M4T 1W1

t: 416.934.3400 x 804

e: oratrefugeeoffice@archtoronto.org

www.archtoronto.org/refugee

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