



ORAT receives its 2017 Allocation

ORAT has recently received its 2017 allocation from the Ministry of Immigration. The quota indicates the total number of individual refugees that ORAT is able to submit cases for. Unfortunately the quota that was provided to us for 2017 is significantly lower than that of the previous year. We have outlined in this article what if any impacts the low quota will have upon parish resettlement groups and for cosponsors. It is important to remember that the reduction in the quota given to ORAT does not have any impact on cases that have already been submitted to Immigration Canada.

For Parish Resettlement Groups

Despite the limited quota, ORAT still has an urgent need for parish Resettlement Groups to assist with the resettlement of refugees that are currently in the immigration pipeline and who need to be matched with a host community.

If you belong to an active parish resettlement group, which has additional capacity to assist with another refugee case or is nearing the end of the resettlement period with their current refugee case, perhaps it is the right time to consider assisting with the resettlement of another refugee case.

If you belong to a parish that does not have a resettlement group, you may wish to consider forming a group and getting involved in the important work of helping refugees.

For small parishes that may not have enough capacity to undertake this work, perhaps you may consider collaborating with a neighboring parish and combining the energy and passion of volunteers to help refugees.

If your parish resettlement group has been inactive for some time perhaps it is time to re-engage the group and get involved again.

Interested parishes are encouraged to contact a member of the Outreach Team at 416 934 3400 x804 or at oratrefugeeoffice@archtoronto.org, who are available to guide you through the next steps and to answer whatever questions that you may have.

For Cosponsors (Family Reunification)

Due to the low quota, ORAT is unable at this time to receive or process any additional family reunification cases. We encourage those who wish to cosponsor a family or friend who is a refugee to investigate other options that may be available to them, including contacting other Sponsorship Agreement Holders to see if they can submit their case through them, or through Group of 5, or Community Sponsorship options. As well, cosponsors can check back with the ORAT office at the beginning of May to see if any additional spots have become available.

Other Sponsorship Agreement Holders: For a full list of Sponsorship Agreement Holders please visit the Ministry of Immigration website:
<http://www.cic.gc.ca/>

Group of 5 and Community Sponsorship: You may wish to submit your case through a Group of 5 (G5) sponsorship or Community Sponsor (CS). ORAT does not work on Group of 5 or Community Sponsor applications, however there is a lot of great information about how to move forward with these options. For further information please use the following link: <http://www.rstp.ca/en/refugee-sponsorship/groups-of-five/>

If you would like help with filling out these applications, there is a group of lawyers associated with Ryerson University that are assisting with the filling of forms, in order to access this resource please email: refugeessptoronto@gmail.com

Donations for the Mission Trip to Ghana

Dr. Martin Mark along with a team of volunteers will be travelling shortly on a mission trip to Ghana, and Ivory Coast Africa. They will be leaving for the mission trip at the end of March. As they have done in previous mission trips, the team brings along with them donated items that are used to help the local refugee community. If you or anyone you know can donate any of the following items it would be greatly appreciated and would be a great help to the local refugee community in: cell phones, laptops, and especially malaria pills (not expired), which can be used to save many lives. Please contact ORAT at oratrefugeeoffice@archtoronto.org if you have any items to donate for the trip.



Hosting a Resettlement Group (RG) Seminar

Are you a part of an RG and would like your group to host an upcoming RG Seminar? All you have to do is email Alexandra Whittle at: awhittle@archtoronto.org with your request in order to make the arrangements. If you would like to request a specific topic please also state that in your email.

We are trying to make the RG seminars as accessible as possible to everyone. So we will select from the RG's who wish to host a seminar, in order to ensure that we have sessions in various regions within the Archdiocese.

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://www.officeforrefugees.eventbrite.com>

Newcomer Meeting

Date: Tuesday, Mar 21st
Time: 6:30pm
Location: 1220 Yonge Street suite 203, ORAT

Integration Training

Date: Wednesday, Mar 22nd
Time: 1:30pm
Location: 1220 Yonge Street suite 203, ORAT

Resettlement Group (RG) Seminar

Date: Monday, Mar 27th
Time: 6:30pm
Location: St. Bernadette's parish in Ajax

Resources for learning English

There are a number of options for newcomers who wish to learn English. If you are interested, here are a few resources that are available:

World Education Services

<http://www.wes.org/ca/>

Toronto District School Board (TDSB)

<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/newcomers/students.aspx>

Learn Speak Live: English Classes

<http://www.learnspeaklive.ca/>

Dixie Bloor Neighbourhood Centre Language Classes for newcomers (LINC)

<http://www.dixiebloor.ca/linc2>

The Arab Community Centre of Toronto (ACCT)

<http://acctonline.ca/>

Get to know the staff



My name is Carolyn Garcia and I joined Office for Refugees for the Archdiocese of Toronto (ORAT) in September 2016 as an Outreach Assistant. Earlier that year, I graduated from the Graduate program in Social Work with an MSW from York University. Prior to working at ORAT, I worked in healthcare at an outpatient centre, supporting individuals recovering from physical disabilities and chronic illness.

After this experience, I decided to explore opportunities working with newcomers. Through my involvement with my parish and community centre in their various social justice efforts, I grew passionate about issues of social justice and equal opportunity

for newcomers. I was inspired by the great work they do in their local community and in countries abroad such as El Salvador, Guatemala and most recently Ecuador.

Upon hearing of the opportunity at ORAT, I was excited to gain exposure to refugee resettlement. I am very impressed with the incredible work that is done here at ORAT. Along with the outreach team, I look forward to serving resettlement groups looking to make a significant and valuable contribution to the lives of newcomers to the country.

Carolyn Garcia
ORAT Outreach Assistant

Become a volunteer for ORAT

Refugee resettlement work is not possible without our many dedicated volunteers who assist with administration, event coordination, interpretation, translation, outreach work, and information sessions. Volunteers at ORAT develop useful skills while contributing to our world in meaningful ways. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Alexandra at: awhittle@archtoronto.org

ORAT Webpage

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

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

Join us on Facebook

Interested to learn more about refugee resettlement and Project Hope?

Please visit our Facebook page to stay informed

[ORAT Facebook page](#)

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 Alexandra at: awhittle@archtoronto.org

The Office for Refugees is Supported by

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