



Second Call: Refugees who need your help:

ORAT (Office for Refugees, Archdiocese of Toronto) requests the help of parish based and other experienced Resettlement Groups (RG) to help in the settlement of Yazidi refugees and other victims of Daesh (ISIS) from Iraq and Syria.

Yazidis and other victims of Daesh are among the most abandoned and persecuted survivors of muslim extremists.

If anyone needs our help, these people certainly do.

Two-Year Commitment: In addition to coming from a very different culture and lifestyle, these refugees have significant special needs (e.g., physical, emotional and psychological trauma etc.) and will likely come as a large family unit. They will require special attention and care. Due to the anticipated settlement challenges, this initiative requires experienced and established refugee committees, who are willing to commit to a two-year settlement support period. It is a unique settlement initiative, which, for the most part, requires emotionally strong volunteers who are willing to dedicate a lot of time.



Photo Credit: Internet

Financial support: These refugees will come under the Joint Assistance Sponsorship (JAS) program. As such, the newcomers will get their monthly support allowance directly from the government for two years. The RG will not be financially liable for the refugee's settlement.

While there is no need for the parish to undertake any fundraising, it may be important for the RG to assist the newcomers in managing their funds. The RG may also consider helping the newcomers with

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Full Sponsorship Cases

ORAT is also looking for RGs who are willing to undertake a full sponsorship for a number of African refugees, who are currently residing in camps in West Africa, and whose cases have already been submitted to Immigration Canada for processing. They are expected to arrive in Canada in roughly 2-3 years. We need RGs to make a commitment so that they have enough time to undertake the fundraising that is required for sponsorship, and to provide emotional support to the refugees as they wait for the immigration process to unfold.

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in-kind support. 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 under this program have begun to arrive in Canada in waves. Once the refugees arrive, they will be sheltered temporarily at the COSTI Reception Centre in

Toronto. Once ORAT receives their profile, we will present the profile to a participating RG. The RG will be asked to provide ORAT with a decision as quickly as possible (i.e., within 1 week) regarding whether they will accept the case. Time is of the essence since very soon after the refugee's arrival, the settlement agency (COSTI) starts to arrange for the final destination of the newcomer family (i.e., housing).

ORAT is ready to meet with interested groups and provide an information session to better prepare groups for any challenges they might encounter in settling refugees with high-needs.

ORAT looks forward to working with interested parishes and communities on this worthy cause. You may reach us by phone at 416-934-3400 x803 or by email: lmoro@archtoronto.org

Thank you for saving lives!

Information Sessions

Dear RG member,

The ORAT team appreciates your commitment and willingness to help resettle people in need. To ensure that you are well prepared and equipped for this work, we ask that every RG member attend the various Information Sessions that ORAT provides.

1. If you plan to resettle/sponsor a refugee, please register and attend:
 - a. How a Parish can Resettle Refugees (formerly entitled "Introduction to Resettlement in Parishes")
2. If you already have a case in process (i.e., file has been submitted to Immigration Canada), please register and attend the following sessions:
 - a. General Integration Training
 - b. Budget and Finance
 - c. Job Readiness Training
 - d. IRCC Processing Time
 - e. Pre-Arrival Training
 - f. RG Seminar (Various Topics)
3. If your refugee has arrived to Canada, please ensure that they register and attend the following sessions:
 - a. Welcome Orientation
 - b. Newcomer Meeting (Various Topics)

Newcomer Meeting

The monthly Newcomer Meeting is an informal gathering for newcomers who are in their first year of settlement, and who have been resettled/sponsored through ORAT.

In these interactive informal monthly meetings, newcomers learn about health issues, culture, politics, money matters, housing, gender roles etc., as well as best practices on how to deal with different integration needs in their sponsor parish communities. In addition, these meetings offer a great opportunity for newcomers to socialize and build peer support and professional networks, which may be helpful in finding employment opportunities. ORAT asks that every cosponsor and RG encourage their newcomer to attend this monthly informal gathering.

The next Newcomer Meeting will be held on Saturday, September 23, 2017 at the ORAT office, which is located at 1220 Yonge Street, Suite 203. Please ensure that your newcomer is registered for this meeting on Eventbrite using the link below:

<https://newsep23.eventbrite.ca>

Resettlement Principles

Have you sponsored a refugee before? Or perhaps you are interested in becoming involved in refugee sponsorship. The sponsorship environment is continually changing. Please review the Core Principles for Resettlement Groups in order to better understand how best to help. It will also provide you with do's and don'ts.

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

To help refugees in the best way possible, ORAT makes use of the following resettlement principles. These principles provide RGs with indispensable guidance, which will greatly assist them in successfully integrating their newcomers to Canadian society.

1. Newcomer Savings: In order to assist the newcomer beyond the sponsorship period and provided that the newcomer receives monies from employment or eligible government programs during the settlement period, the RG may consider encouraging the newcomer to set aside some funds as savings. By the end of the sponsorship period, savings should not exceed the value of 3 months of the expenses.

2. Budget Equal to Official Liability: Under most circumstances the budget should equal the official liability as outlined by the Ministry of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). However, there may be circumstances that require the budget to be either above or below the official liability. If the budget exceeds the official liability, the RG is to obtain approval from the ORAT Outreach Team.

3. In-Kind Donations: RGs are encouraged to solicit in-kind donations. The budget (i.e., donated monies) is to be adjusted downward accordingly. The value of in-kind donations should not exceed the maximum amounts outlined in IRCC's In-Kind Donation table.

Family Size	Shelter	Clothing	Furniture	Start-Up Costs (Child needs)	Food Staples	School Start-up Costs
1	\$ 6,900	\$ 500	\$ 1,500	\$ 325	\$ 175	\$150 per child between the age of 4-21
2	\$ 8,300	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 350	\$ 250	
3	\$ 9,000	\$ 1,375	\$ 2,500	\$ 375	\$ 325	
4	\$ 9,600	\$ 1,750	\$ 3,000	\$ 400	\$ 400	
5	\$ 10,800	\$ 2,125	\$ 3,500	\$ 425	\$ 475	
6	\$ 10,800	\$ 2,500	\$ 4,000	\$ 450	\$ 550	
For each additional member, add	\$ 900	\$ 375	\$ 500	\$ 25	\$ 75	

4. RG Budget Oversight

a. Monthly Budget Review: The RG is to work with the newcomer to obtain an accounting of both expenses and income for each month, and to make an evaluation of these. The RG is then asked to review the newcomer's budget and to make adjustments, as required, to the donated monies required. The request for donated funds should be based on meeting the needs of the newcomer (i.e., providing the necessities of life), recognizing that any savings of donated funds can be used to help other refugee families.

b. Excess Funds: If there are any unused funds (i.e., donated monies) that remain at the end of the settlement period, they are to be used for the resettlement of other newcomers.

Leon's Gift Certificates

This is a reminder to all Resettlement Groups that gift certificates from Leon's Furniture are available for refugee/newcomer families that have either been fully sponsored by an RG or who have been sponsored through the Project Hope initiative. Each certificate is worth \$500 and is intended to defray the costs of acquiring furniture for the newcomer family. Your Resettlement Group can request a certificate from the Outreach team once you have received the Pre-NAT (Notice of Arrival Transmission) indicating that your refugee family will soon be arriving to Canada. Please contact the Outreach team by email at oratoutreach@archtoronto.org to request your gift certificate.



ORAT would like to extend a special thank you to Leon's Furniture Ltd. for their generosity and their concern for refugees. Their kindness is a great assistance to refugees and is deeply appreciated.

Upcoming Sessions

Please note that you are required to register in order to reserve 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/>

Newcomer Meeting

Date: Sat, Sep 23rd

Time: 10:30 AM

Location: 1220 Yonge Street, Suite 203, ORAT

RG Seminar on Culture shock and how to assist newcomers

Date: Mon, Sep 25th

Time: 1:00 PM

Location: 1220 Yonge Street, Suite 203, ORAT

Introduction to Resettlement in Parishes

Date: Sat, Sep 30th

Time: 10:00 PM

Location: 1220 Yonge Street, Suite 203, ORAT

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 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/>

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](#)

Changes to the Citizenship Act that come into effect in Fall 2017

If you have helped a refugee in the past, you may want to consider assisting them in the last step of their integration to Canada; becoming a Canadian citizen.

The Canadian Government recently passed changes to the Citizenship Act, which includes a reduction in the residency requirements for applicants (i.e., physically present in Canada for 3 of the past 5 years) and broader exemptions from language requirements (i.e., 18-54 year olds are required to demonstrate that they have an adequate knowledge of English or French. The changes to the Act come into full effect in the fall of 2017

To view a copy of Bill C-6 [click here](#)



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