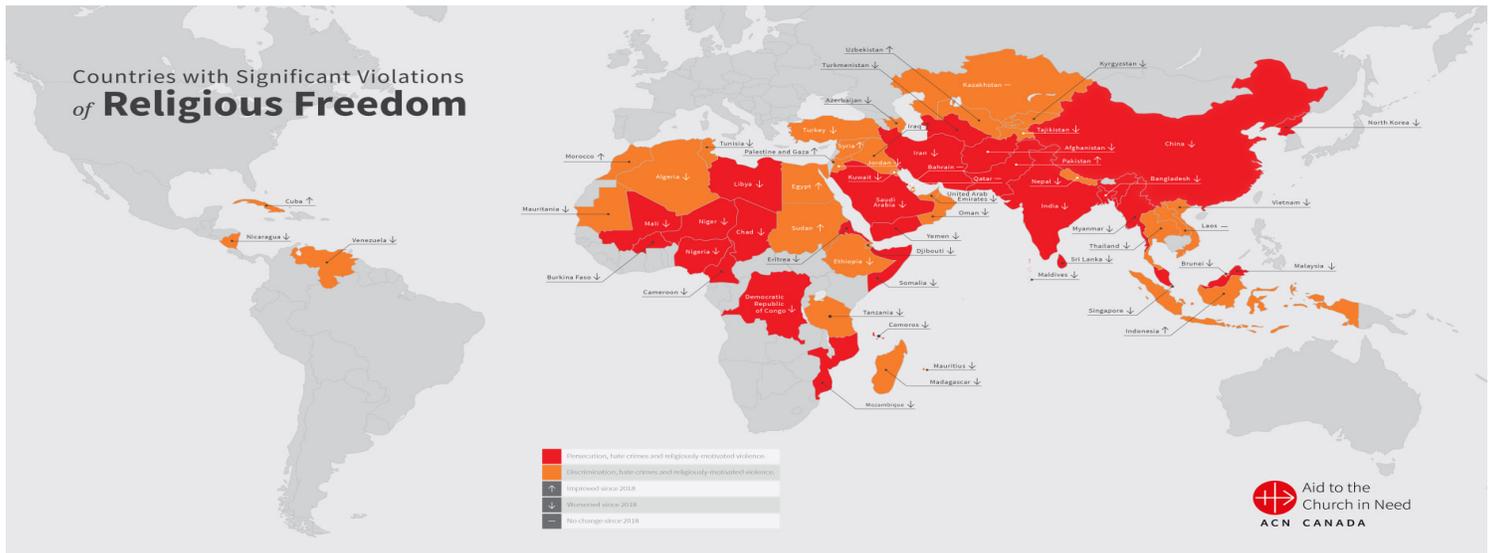




Report Finds Most of the World’s Population Lives in Countries Where Religious Freedom is Violated

In its 15th Report on Religious Freedom in the World, Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) warns of severe threats to this fundamental right worldwide. The report, produced by international Catholic pontifical charity Aid to the Church in Need (ACN), notes that religious freedom is violated severely in one out of every three countries.

According to this report - officially presented in Rome and in other major cities around the world. This fundamental right was not respected in 62 (31.6%) of the world’s 196 countries between 2018 and 2020. Marcela Szymanski discusses report findings and sheds light on what concrete things are being done to defend religious freedom around the world. Click [here](#) to watch the full video.



Canada to Welcome More Yazidi Refugees

Minister Mendicino announced a new policy to help more Yazidis and other survivors of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant reunite with their families in Canada. The Yazidis and other groups who survived abuse, torture and even genocide at the hands of ISIL are among the most vulnerable refugees in the world.

Please click [here](#) for the full article.

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Financial Liabilities for 2021

The table below outlines the cost of sponsoring refugees through ORAT. These monies are required to assist the refugee during their first 12 months of arrival to Canada. It is important to note that the Ministry of Immigration, Refugee, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) requires that refugees be provided with financial support based

on the year of their arrival and not on the year that the case is submitted to IRCC. Since IRCC does not provide sponsors with any future visibility to financial support required, we have estimated the sponsorship cost for cases submitted in 2021, and which have an expected arrival date in 2023.

Family Size	Estimated Amount	
	Assumes that cases submitted in 2021 will be expected to arrive in 2023)	
1	\$18,300	<p>Dependent Adults: Immigration Canada (“IRCC”) defines dependent adults as unmarried children age 16 or older and less than 22 years of age. For the purposes of IRCC forms, dependent adults are considered as part of the family unit, and are to be included in the one set of forms for the family. However, IRCC treats dependent adults differently from a financial perspective, requiring additional monies to be provided for every dependent adult in the family. For example: The finances required for a family of 4 (father, mother, one child age 12, and one child age 17) are to be calculated as a family of 3 + 1 (\$29,600+\$18,300=\$47,900) and not as a family of 4 (\$31,800). Please take this into consideration when calculating the total cost of sponsorship.</p>
2	\$27,500	
3	\$29,600	
4	\$31,800	
5	\$34,000	
6	\$35,500	
7 or more, for each additional member, add	\$1,500	<p>Seniors: If you are sponsoring seniors (age 60 or older) you will be asked to deposit additional funds, in accordance with RAP policy.</p> <p>Note: If, at the time of arrival, financial liabilities are higher than the estimated figures, cosponsors will be required to deposit additional funds.</p>

A Success Story: The Dia Desso Family

By: Catherine Von Zuben

The Dia Desso family, parents and four daughters, arrived through the ORAT program in February 2016. Good Shepherd parish in Thornhill sponsored them, and the parishioners welcomed them warmly.

Resettlement is very difficult for families and also for those responsible for caring for them. My twin sister, Carol and I continue to be very involved with the family whom we have grown to know and love dearly.

Baby brother, Sidney, will enter school in the Fall while two of his sisters continue with their studies at Seneca, with the other two attending St. Joseph’s Morrow Park.

Presently all are studying on-line, each with their own computer, and are looking forward to returning to their schools.

In such unpredictable times with COVID everywhere, the family continue to be very well and cautious. Edgar, the father, has been employed permanently and the 3 eldest girls hold part-time jobs, very much appreciating all that Canada offers to them. This family love to celebrate and will do so when they purchase their first home hopefully in the near future – a dream come true.



Names from right to left:
Arianne, Sidney (baby boy) Cecile (mother)
Dolores (graduate)

Update from IRCC: COVID Testing for Refugees Prior to Travel to Canada

Q - Are all refugees being informed of this hotel stay before travelling to avoid confusion upon arrival?

A - Yes, IOM will share information with refugees on the new requirements via the calls with refugees for Canadian Orientation Abroad (COA), and at the point of departure. IRCC has provided IOM with key messages to share with refugees so they know what to expect. The key messages shared can be found at the end of this document.

Q - How will newcomers be given food? Will they be asked to prepare their own food?

A - Resettlement service providers will arrange for the delivery of culturally-appropriate food meeting unique dietary concerns on a regular cycle.

Q - For refugees that self-book despite strong warnings against this, will their hotel stay costs also be covered by IRCC?

A - No, refugees (or sponsors) who book travel themselves are responsible for managing all pre and-post arrival requirements including making their own hotel reservations for the mandatory 3 night stay as well as covering the costs themselves. For additional information on approved hotels and how to book them, can be found at the following website – [COVID-19 mandatory hotel stopover: Booking and list of government-authorized hotels](#)

Sponsors / refugees are encouraged to use the IOM for travel bookings as there are measures in place to ensure proper procedures are followed by arranging for transit to the hotel and covering the costs of the hotel stay.

Q - Will it be the newcomers that must connect with their sponsors, or will the Service Provider Organization contact the sponsors with information about which hotel the newcomers are staying in and the phone number?

A - Arrangements for the 3-day hotel stay will be made by IOM and by the Port of Entry Service Provider and communicated to the refugee/family.

Sponsors will not be able to visit the refugee newcomers during the 3-day period or while they are in a quarantine facility, if needed. The hotel rooms will have WiFi and phones, so sponsors will be able to contact the refugee newcomers via phone, email or video chat. Sponsors should share their contact information with refugees before they travel.

If the refugee is already in the community where they will stay, sponsors will pick the refugees up from the hotel. In these instances the service provider who organized the hotel stay will contact the sponsor to arrange the time to pick up the refugee once they have received a negative COVID test and they are cleared to leave the hotel.

Key Messages Shared with IOM Regarding Travel Restrictions

New travel restrictions are in effect as of February 22, 2021. International passenger arrivals will be limited to four Canadian airports: Montreal-Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport, Toronto - Pearson International Airport, Calgary International Airport, and Vancouver International Airport.

All air travellers arriving in Canada will be required to take a COVID-19 molecular test at the airport on arrival. The cost for the tests at arrival are covered by the Public Health Agency of Canada. These new measures are in addition to the requirement to provide proof of a negative result from a COVID-19 molecular test taken no more than 72 hours before the aircraft's initial scheduled departure time.

Travellers are also required to stay in a Government of Canada-approved hotel for three nights while they await the results of the COVID-19 test they took on arrival. For resettled refugees, a Government-funded resettlement service provider will coordinate the hotel bookings and transportation to the hotel. There will be no cost for arriving resettled refugees for the three-day stay.

Volunteer Opportunities at ORAT

Refugee resettlement work is not possible without the help of many dedicated volunteers who assist ORAT with various internal tasks, including administration, reception, event coordination, interpretation, translation, information sessions and case management.

Volunteers at ORAT develop useful skills while contributing to our world in a meaningful way. We currently have a number of volunteering opportunities available at ORAT. If you are interested in becoming part of our volunteer team, please contact Hazem at: orateducator@archtoronto.org



Education Updates

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, ORAT has moved all of its information sessions to an on-line webinar platform. Until further notice, the office will not be holding any in person information sessions.

A webinar is an on-line virtual event. It is an educational or instructive session that includes

audio and visual communication between a speaker and attendees.

The initial registration will continue to be done through ORAT's Eventbrite. Registered attendees will receive a confirmation link 48 hours before the webinar begins.

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

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](#)

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:

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