



Ukrainian Crisis Update

With over 5 million Ukrainian refugees hosted in Poland, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, and Moldova, many are asking what can be done to assist them. The following is an overview of current and potential options to assist.



Ukrainian Relief Fund: In addition to praying for the situation, the Archdiocese of Toronto has created the Ukrainian Relief Fund to help suffering Ukrainians. Funds raised will be directed to ORAT and CNEWA (Catholic Near East Welfare Association). This fund will provide humanitarian aid and refugee resettlement support to Ukrainians. Donations can be made online by clicking [here](#), or through parish donations, when the donation is designated to the Ukrainian Relief Fund.

Current Immigration Pathways:

- **Immigration Canada Pathways:** At present, the Ministry of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) has not established a refugee resettlement pathway for Ukrainians. Instead, they have created a number of programs to assist Ukrainian nationals, including an expedited travel visa process. Click [here](#) for further information on this program. For information on other IRCC programs, click [here](#).

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Thank You Event for Cardinal Collins

**A Dinner Honouring
Cardinal Thomas Collins
for His Commitment to Refugees**

Saturday, June 18, 2022
Mass at 4 p.m.
Good Shepherd Chaldean Cathedral
2 High Meadow Place, North York

Reception at 6 p.m. & Dinner at 7 p.m.
Toronto Grand Convention Centre
30 Baywood Road, Etobicoke

Tickets: \$75

For tickets and other information, please contact:
Eleanor D'Souza
oratrefugeeoffice@archtoronto.org

 Archdiocese
of Toronto



ORAT has been working closely with a number of Eastern Rite Catholic and Orthodox churches, whose communities have been greatly helped by Cardinal Collin’s support of refugee resettlement.

These communities wished to express their thanks to Cardinal Collins for his leadership in this area; a leadership that has helped to save over 5,000 refugees from terrible persecution and violence since 2009, giving them new hope and a new life in Canada.

A banquet has been organized to thank Cardinal Collins for his work. The banquet will take place at 6PM on June 18th at the Toronto Grand Convention Centre. Mass will be celebrated at 4PM on the same day at the Good Shepherd Chaldean Cathedral. Tickets for the banquet are \$75.00.

Consider attending this event to thank His Eminence and to show your continued support of this important work. Please contact Eleanor D’Souza at oratrefugeeoffice@archtoronto.org or by phone at (647) 494-5419 ext. 0 if you would like to purchase tickets for this event.

Ukrainian Crisis Update (cont'd)

• Ontario Pathways: Ontario's Minister responsible for Immigration, Monte McNaughton announced a 5-point action plan to welcome those fleeing the crisis. Among the programs is [Ontario's Immigrant Nominee Program](#). For further information, please visit our website at orat.ca and search for the March 15th post entitled "Provincial Nominee Program Now Prioritizing Ukrainian Applicants".

Hosting a Ukrainian Family: We have received a number of inquiries from those who expressed a desire to host a Ukrainian family travelling to Canada under the expedited visa process. We are currently working with the Canadian Ukrainian Congress to explore how to facilitate this work. We will provide further updates on this program as details emerge.

Refugee Resettlement: Once IRCC establishes a refugee pathway for Ukrainian nationals, ORAT is ready to launch a multi-pronged strategy to assist refugees, including:

1. Parishioner Sponsored Family Program (family linked cases): ORAT will launch a program to assist parishioners of Latin Rite, Ukrainian Catholic, and Ukrainian Orthodox parishes who wish to sponsor a family member that has fled Ukraine. These sponsorships are fully funded by the sponsoring family, who will also work to welcome and help integrate their sponsored family;
2. Parish Sponsorship of a Ukrainian family (sponsoring the stranger program): ORAT will conduct mission trips to neighbouring countries of Ukraine that are hosting refugees. We will select families to sponsor who have no family link in the west that are able to support them. These families will be matched with parishes and community groups throughout the Archdiocese who wish to sponsor a family. While limited funds are available to sponsor these families, fundraising efforts are encouraged from participating groups.



Please let us know if you would be interested in participating in the "Hosting a Ukrainian Family" program and/or in the "Parish Sponsorship of a Ukrainian Family" program. Kindly send your response by email to oratrefugeeoffice@archtoronto.org using the subject line "Help Ukraine". Further information on these programs will be provided as details emerge.

IRCC Announces a Further Delay for 2022 Submissions

The Ministry of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) has just announced to Sponsorship Agreement Holders (SAHs), of which ORAT is one, that they will not be able to submit any refugee sponsorship applications to IRCC until the beginning of May. It was also announced that submissions at that time may be significantly restricted.

For those that have begun the refugee sponsorship process with ORAT in late 2021 or in 2022, we ask that you continue to exercise patience, and that you monitor our website for further updates. Unfortunately, until IRCC begins processing 2022 cases, our office will not be able to provide any further information on these cases.

A Newcomer's Story

He was only 13 years old when the civil war in his home of Darfur, Sudan began in 2003. For the next twelve years, Saif would witness extreme and inhumane violence against his family and his people. There were always efforts to escape this life and find a place to settle. A place to be with family, to have an education and be free to work. A place of peace.

As a young man of 25, his life was more directly threatened by militia forced recruitment. He had to flee. With the help of his father and a family friend he was able to find passage to Jordan in 2015.

In Jordan, Saif was a refugee. Free from the civil war in his country but an outsider. Not free to settle, to work and begin a new life. In time, he was introduced to a Catholic Refugee organization where he found community among other refugees from many countries. It was here that he was able to learn English, study social work and volunteer to help other refugees.

Through the refugee centre he was given an opportunity to be sponsored to Canada through the Office for Refugees, Archdiocese of Toronto (ORAT). With his application submitted in 2019 he knew it would take some time but there was hope. A few months later Saif received shocking news. He was diagnosed with cancer. With all he had been through this was a real blow. What caused the cancer? How would he receive treatment? How would he pay for it? Would his sponsors still want him?

Of course, the sponsors still wanted to help him resettle in Canada. The refugee centre helped him connect with the treatment he needed. A doctor was able to secure medication at a low cost. The need to get to Canada was even more pressing.

The Covid pandemic created processing delays and added anxiety. The sponsorship group stayed in touch with Saif and kept current on his health situation. By Fall of 2021 Saif arrived in Toronto, Canada.

Even with the challenges of the pandemic Saif felt that the parish community and sponsorship group welcomed him warmly and supported him in many ways. Saif's arrival in Canada was also a burst of good news for the community. To finally get a chance to welcome this young man who has endured so much. Community members showed their support in many ways.

One person donated a used computer to help him with his studies and job search. They helped Saif get his ID and documents in Canada. There were many health appointments - first with a community health centre, then a local oncologist and finally Princess Margaret Cancer Centre where Saif received wonderful treatment and care. He worried so much about his health and how he could pay for medicine which would cost thousands of dollars. After many tests Saif was provided with a new treatment and support to pay for all his medication. He has now been able to rest a little easier.

Saif feels that he has started a new chapter in his life. There are still many challenges ahead of him adapting to the new culture and his first Canadian winter. He says "I am in a place where I am not a refugee, I am not separated from the society. Here I am an equal with rights and duties. I look forward to all the things I can accomplish".



CCS Job Connect - A Job Search Resource for Newcomers, Employers and Sponsors

Attention sponsors, if you are anticipating a landing or are in the process of helping a newcomer settle into Canadian society, the need for newcomer specific job search resources may have already become apparent to you.

Catholic Crosscultural Services (CCS) have launched their newcomer job portal called CCS Job Connect in 2021.

We encourage you to invite newcomers that you are supporting to submit a job seeker application directly on the website when they are ready to take that step in their settlement journey.

While this service is still in its early stages, CCS expects this network of job seekers and employee job listings to grow and to expand across Canada.

Simultaneously, if you are or know of an employer who is open to training and hiring newcomers, please also invite them to submit an Employer

Registration on the CCS Job Connect website. Newcomers and employers can register for CCS Job Connect at the link below:

<https://ccsjobconnect.ca/>

For more info, contact Sanga Achakzai at:

Email: sachakzai@ccscan.ca

Phone: 416 757 7010 EXT: 2227



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



The Office for Refugees is Supported by

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