

# Refugee Sponsorship



*I was a stranger and you welcomed me.*

Matthew 25:35b



Presbyterian World Service  
& Development

---

## Who is a refugee?

No one is a refugee by choice.

International law defines refugees as people who have fled their own country and sought safety in another country. They are unable or unwilling to return to their countries because of a well-founded fear of persecution based on their race, religion, nationality, political opinion or because they belong to a particular social group.

---

## What is sponsorship?

Sponsorship is a legal commitment to ensure that sponsored refugees have the necessary support to integrate into life in Canada. Sponsors must provide basic financial support, including things like food and lodging, and care for the sponsored refugee. This normally happens over a 12-month period or until the sponsored refugee becomes self-reliant.

The PCC maintains a sponsorship agreement with the Government of Canada. This agreement, administered by PWS&D, enables Presbyterian groups to sponsor refugees to Canada. PWS&D staff people are available to assist sponsorship groups as they move through the sponsorship process—from application to arrival to settlement.

---


---

# Types of Sponsorship

## **Sponsorship of named refugees**

- In named sponsorship, sponsorship groups are responsible for all material and financial support for the refugees, as well as providing orientation, settlement, and emotional support during the sponsorship period, usually the refugees' first year in Canada.
- Each year, the PCC is allocated a certain number of spaces by the Canadian government to help facilitate this type of sponsorship.
- Sponsoring groups may choose to identify the refugees they wish to sponsor or may request to be matched with refugees through Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC)

## **Blended Visa-Office Referred Sponsorship (BVOR)**

- This type of sponsorship is called "blended" because it is a cost sharing arrangement between IRCC and private sponsors.
  - For the 12-month sponsorship period, IRCC provides six months of income support and the sponsors provide income support for the other six months. Sponsors are responsible for providing start-up costs and all of the settlement support.
  - These refugees, identified by referral agencies as being in urgent need, are already approved for resettlement and are travel ready. This means that they can arrive in Canada between 2-4 months after the application is approved, which is much faster than most other sponsorships.
- 

# Global Refugee Situation

- There are more than 35.3 million refugees in the world. This number include 5.9 million Palestinian refugees, but doesn't include those who have been forcibly displaced yet remain in their country of origin. This is almost twice as many refugees as there were in 2014.
- Over 50% of refugees originate from just three countries— Syria, Ukraine and Afghanistan.
- High income countries host just 24% of the world's refugees. The remaining 76% are hosted by poor, low and middle-income countries, such as Turkey, Pakistan and Uganda.



[WeRespond.ca/get-involved/refugee-sponsorship](https://www.werespond.ca/get-involved/refugee-sponsorship)



50 Wynford Dr., Toronto, ON M3C 1J7  
1-800-619-7301 ext. 251  
[sponsorship@presbyterian.ca](mailto:sponsorship@presbyterian.ca)