

How can I help refugees in Vancouver?

1. **Make a donation:**

These agencies and other organizations are front-line organizations providing direct support to refugees on the ground in Syria, in neighbouring host countries, as well as throughout Europe. The organizations represent some of the key organizations providing supports including, food, water, shelter and medical facilities to refugees, as well as services and assistance to host countries providing assistance to refugees.



United Nations Refugee Agency (www.unhcr.org)

The UNHCR coordinates UN refugee responses, including support for host countries providing assistance for Syrian refugees.



International Organization for Migration (www.iom.int/)

The IOM is an intergovernmental organization which provides services and support to governments and migrants.



Amnesty International (www.amnesty.ca)

Amnesty International is a non-governmental organization with a focus on human rights.



Canadian Red Cross (www.redcross.ca)

Part of the international humanitarian organization Red Cross/Red Crescent, the Canadian Red Cross is helping to support the efforts of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent in Syria.



Doctors Without Borders (www.doctorswithoutborders.org/)

Doctors Without Borders, or Médecins Sans Frontières, operates medical facilities inside Syria and supports more than 100 clinics, health posts and field hospitals in the country.



Migrant Offshore Aid (www.moas.eu/)

MOA consists of humanitarians, security professionals, medical staff and maritime officers working to prevent further refugee crisis at sea.



Oxfam (www.oxfam.ca/)

Oxfam is an international confederation of 17 organizations working around the world to find solutions to poverty and support human rights.



UNICEF Canada (www.unicef.ca)

The United Nations Children's Fund is a child-focused humanitarian organization operating in 192 countries, including Syria.



World Food Programme (www.wfp.org/)

The World Food Programme is the food assistance branch of the United Nations.



World Vision Canada (www.worldvision.ca)

The non-profit charitable organization provides food, water and shelter to more than 500,000 Syrian refugees.

2. Support local refugee work through donations and/or volunteering:

The following local organizations have worked with refugees and refugee claimants for decades, providing a range of supports to assist refugees settling in Metro Vancouver. These organizations would benefit from donations to a specific program, volunteering (eg as settlement mentors, conversation circle leaders), as well as through capital donations (eg to the Welcome House).



Immigrant Services Society of BC (ISSofBC) (<http://issbc.org/>)



Inland Refugee Society (IRS) (www.inlandrefugeesociety.ca)



Kinbrace Refugee Support and Housing (www.kinbrace.ca)



MOSAIC (www.mosaicbc.com)



Mt Pleasant Family Centre (www.mpfamilycentre.ca)



Pacific Immigrant Resources Society (PIRS) (www.pirs.bc.ca)



Rainbow Refugee Canada - (www.rainbowrefugee.ca)



Settlement Orientation Services (SOS) (www.sosbc.ca)



SUCCESS (www.successbc.ca)



Vancouver Association for Survivors of Torture (VAST) (www.vast-vancouver.ca)

3. Refugee Sponsorship – Reach out to some of the more experienced sponsorship agreement holders for advice and/or offer your support to them:

The following represent some of the organizations who have signed sponsorship agreements with the Government of Canada to help support refugees from abroad when they resettle in Canada. Sponsorship agreement holders (SAHs) can sponsor refugees themselves or work with others in the community to sponsor refugees. You could reach out to some of the more experienced SAHs listed below for advice and/or to offer your support to them. For example, through fundraising for one of their initiatives, offering to help if you have a special skill to volunteer (eg trauma counselling, fluency in a refugee language such as Arabic or Kurdish)



Anglican Synod of The Diocese of New Westminster (vancouver.anglican.ca/pages/refugee-unit)



Canadian Lutheran World Relief (email: clwr@clwrbc.ca)



Canadian Unitarian Council (cuc.ca/refugee-sponsorship)



Mennonite Central Committee (mccbc.ca)



Presbyterian Church of Canada (presbyterian.ca/pwsd/refugee-sponsorship/)



Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Vancouver (refugeecrisis@rcav.org)



United Church of Canada (united-church.ca/humanrights/refugees/sponsor)



World Renew (formerly CRWRC) (worldrenew.net/refugeesponsorship)



World University Services of Canada (wusc.ca)

For more information on sponsorship see: www.cic.gc.ca/EnGlish/refugees/sponsor/index.asp

Refugees in Metro Vancouver: Where Can I Learn More?

4. Understanding the Big Picture – Refugees and Forced Migration

What is a refugee? How many refugees are there globally? What are some of the issues facing refugees abroad and in Canada?

- **UNHCR: The UN Refugee Agency** (www.unhcr.org)
Provides the most up-to-date information and statistics about global refugee crises.
- **Centre for Refugee Studies, York University** (<http://crs.info.yorku.ca/>)
Research, events, programs relating to forced migration and refugees
- **Canadian Council for Refugees** (ccrweb.ca)
A national umbrella organization committed to the rights and protection of refugees and other vulnerable migrants in Canada

5. Research and Statistics on Government Assisted Refugees in Metro Vancouver

ISSofBC Reports and Publications provide up-to-date statistics and special reports on Government Assisted Refugees (GARs) resettled in British Columbia, including:

- **Quarterly Government Assisted Refugee Arrival Bulletin** (<http://issbc.org/prim-corp-nav/our-work-with-refugees/reports>)
- **Refugee Newcomers in Metro Vancouver: Changing Faces and Neighbourhoods 2010-2013** (<http://issbc.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/iss-2014-gar-metro-v4.7-web.pdf>)
- **Refugee Newcomers in Surrey: Approaches to building a more welcoming and inclusive community** ([http://issbc.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Refugee Newcomers in Surrey - March 2014 - final.pdf](http://issbc.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Refugee%20Newcomers%20in%20Surrey%20-%20March%202014%20-%20final.pdf))
- **We are Here Now – Art & stories by child refugees in Surrey** (<http://issbc.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/iss-2014-children-book-web-20141014.pdf>)

Not sure the information you have heard about refugees is correct? See our **Refugee Myths and Facts** page (<http://issbc.org/our-work-with-refugees/refugee-myths-and-facts/>)

6. Books about Refugees

Are you curious to learn more about refugees and the reasons they come to Canada and BC? Consider reading one of the books from your local library or here online (<http://issbc.org/our-work-with-refugees/reading-list-on-refugees/>).

7. Where can I learn more about Syria and refugees being resettled to BC?

- **#Welcome Refugees** (<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/welcome/>)
Information on the Government of Canada's response, including how the plan will work, key dates and figures, and information on how to get involved
- **Refugee Crisis** (<http://www.issbc.org/prim-corp-nav/our-work-with-refugees/refugee-crisis>)
ISSofBC's enhanced website provides up-to-date information on the Syrian refugee crisis, as well as Canada's response
- **Refugee Readiness Hub** (<http://www.issbc.org/prim-corp-nav/our-work-with-refugees/refugee-readiness-hub>)
ISSofBC's new Refugee Readiness Hub launched this week and will be updated on an ongoing basis with newsletters, fact sheets, training materials, links to resources and services, and much more
- **Refugeehealth.ca**
Primary care and mental health practitioners have access to updated information on Syrian refugees – including research and tools, as well as materials in Arabic for clients.

8. Other Ways to Get Involved

On November 10th, ISSofBC was joined by representatives from the Cities of Vancouver, Surrey and Coquitlam in a Call for Action event to help support the Syrian refugee resettlement to BC. British Columbians are invited to get involved through a variety of means, including volunteering, offering permanent accommodation, providing employment opportunities, or donating to ISSofBC's refugee sponsorship fund or New Welcome House capital campaign. See <http://www.issbc.org/prim-corp-nav/our-work-with-refugees/refugee-crisis/how-can-i-help-refugees>

- Want to provide support in another way? What about preparing a 'Welcome to Canada Family Basket'? See <http://www.issbc.org/prim-corp-nav/our-work-with-refugees/refugee-crisis/how-can-i-help-refugees> for a sample basket.
- **United Way of the Lower Mainland "United for Refugee" Fundraiser -**
<http://www.uwlm.ca/refugees/>

United Way of the Lower Mainland is one of three United Ways in North America invited to join in the Syrian refugee settlement efforts. This is because of their long history in supporting refugee families through local immigrant serving organizations. United Way supports community agencies offering programs directly focused on getting refugees settled, helping them learn a new language and finding work. They invest in these organization so they have the ability – the staff and the knowledge – to help when it's needed most.

- Canadian Red Cross
- Immigrant Services Society of BC
- MOSAIC
- Burnaby Multicultural Society
- DiverseCity
- Richmond Multicultural Concerns Society
- Pacific Immigrant Resources Society
- Affiliation of Multicultural Societies and Service Agencies of BC

- **Community Foundations of Canada (CFC) Welcome Fund for Syrian Refugees (Welcome Fund).** www.communityfoundations.ca

The Welcome Fund has been established to address the refugees' immediate needs for transitional housing, job training and skills development as identified by the Government.

