

CCI's response to the refugee crisis



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## The Catholic Centre for Immigrants (CCI Ottawa)

***Proudly serving immigrants and refugees for over 60 years from all faith groups***

***CCI Ottawa welcomes the Government's commitment of resettling 25,000 Syrian refugees to Canada. It is vital to respond quickly to this, the worst refugee crisis since the Second World War. We must remember that Syrians are forced to leave everything behind - their home, careers, families and friends.***

CCI is a leader in Government Sponsored Refugee Resettlement and we are ramping-up our services to respond to the arrival of approximately 800 Government Assisted Refugees to Ottawa. Government Assisted Refugees (GARs) are Convention Refugees selected from abroad by the Government of Canada for resettlement. CCI's Maison Sophia Reception House is a residential facility which provides temporary accommodations where Government Assisted Refugees can feel safe and welcome.

Private sponsorship of refugees helps thousands of refugees every year. During the past months we have been very busy counselling and advising families on how to sponsor families affected by the refugee crisis. To date hundreds of people have attended our workshops on Group of Five sponsorship to learn about sponsoring a family. These workshops give an overview of who is eligible to become a group of five sponsor, what are sponsors' financial obligations, what are the processing times, and who can be sponsored through group sponsorship.

CCI Ottawa's Pastoral and Sponsorship program has been working with many churches to complete the paper work and organize their parish to receive refugee families. Many groups - whether through Sponsorship Agreement Holders (SAH), Group of Five, or other programs, have already committed to bringing refugees to Canada.

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[Visit our website to learn how you can help refugees](#)



### **A fresh start for the Al Dakhil family**

Like so many Syrians, the Al Dakhil family fled their home town because of extreme violence and insecurity. Various bomb threats at their children's school, the looming danger of gunfire around their home and, finally, a gunshot injury to Mr. Dakhil's foot, drove them to take the final decision: escape from Syria to Lebanon.

[Read more](#)

[Watch a slide show](#)



## Forming a circle of friends for refugees

We invite everyone to get involved in welcoming Syrian refugees to our city. Refugees need both financial and emotional support. Volunteers can help newcomers feel at home in Canada and become active, productive and connected in their new community. Create a circle of friends for each refugee. Let's make Ottawa the most welcoming city in Canada!

*"Explore volunteer opportunities that help to break social isolation, such as the matching program....All kinds of needs can be met through friendship and mentorship...integration is a process; each individual has their own journey. Hopefully many Canadians will be there to help them along."*

Client Support Services Counsellor Paul Soublière suggests that Ottawans who are interested in befriending refugees can check out our [matching program](#) or programs from some of our partners, such as Citizen Advocacy - who support people with disabilities.

Make a  
DONATION

The donations will go



towards the needs of the Syrian refugees when they arrive.

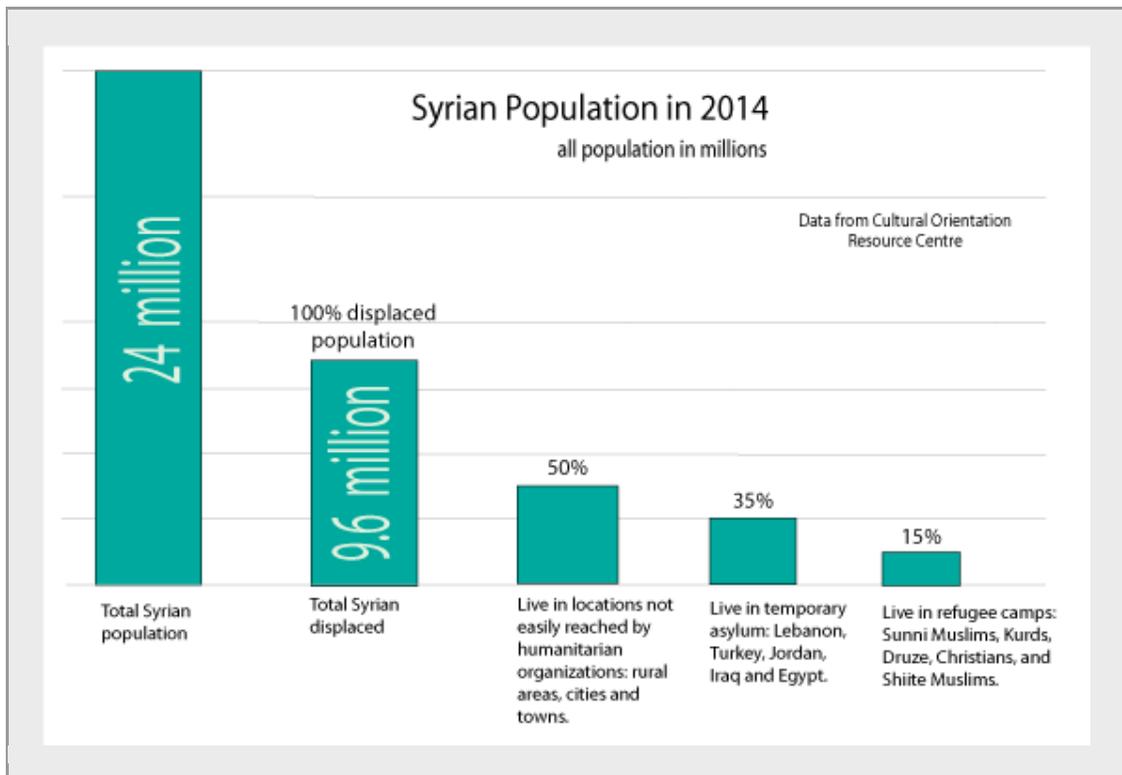
For more information on donating to CCI, email [Dora](mailto:Dora)

*“There are misconceptions, such as that they are asking for everything...but it’s not true. They come to us and they want to work. Not many people know that refugees want to be part of the economy.”*

Lucila Cabrera,  
Coordinator, Client Support Services

**Register** for a Group of Five Sponsorship Workshop

Next sessions:  
December 21, 2015  
January 7, 2016  
January 21, 2016





*“If one is forced to leave one’s own country, the best country to go to is Canada, with this Canadian tradition of welcoming people... Canadians have done this before and they were not disappointed.”*

Arjanit Balca, Employment Counsellor, and a former refugee himself, wants Ottawa private sponsors to know that they can find support for their role through programs at CCI and partner agencies.

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### **Catholic Centre for Immigrants**

**Our mailing address is:**  
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