

# AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT **REFUGEE FAMILY REUNIFICATION**

 Église catholique à Montréal  
Catholic Church of Montreal

 **JRS**  
JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE

SERVICE JÉSUITE DES RÉFUGIÉS  
CANADA

**TAKE ACTION**



# About the Refugee Family Reunification Project

Canada's immigration program is meant to allow people to reunite with immediate family members within a reasonable length of time. However, for refugee families, there are usually long and cruel delays, many obstacles, few resources to support applicants, and dire implications for family members involved.

The government claims that family reunification is a priority, but its choices mean that families remain separated for years. Children are often affected.



The Refugee Family Reunification Project, which launched in January 2024, is designed to address the gaps related to family reunification for refugees, particularly in two areas:

- Providing practical support (tools and training) to support NGOs and others assisting people navigating the process
- Advocating for faster reunification and better processes



The initiative is coordinated by a small group of people with experience in different areas of refugee support work :

- Janet Dench served for 25 years as Executive Director of the Canadian Council for Refugees (CCR), before stepping down in 2022. She brings her extensive experience in the practical aspects of family reunification, as well as advocacy campaigns.
- Laurel Borisenko worked for many years for the UNHCR, in the field and at the headquarters in Geneva. Before that she was Executive Director of Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers, and Vice-President of the Canadian Council for Refugees.
- Julie Mathews served as the Executive Director of CLEO (Community Legal Education Ontario) for more than 20 years, and brings her extensive experience in public legal education and legal aid to this project.
- Rehab El Mezeini is a project management expert with a special focus in the fields of forced migration, human rights, systems' capacity building and social innovation working in the MENA, APAC and North American regions. Rehab's over 20 years of working experience mirror her solid commitment to social justice and human rights for ALL.

The national core group, based in Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver Island, is supported by a variety of experts and organizations, with participants from small and large centres across the country.

Interested in getting involved? Want to keep informed? [Read more!](#)

[Contact form](#)



## PRESENTATION OF COLLABORATORS



The Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) accompanies, serves and defends the cause of displaced persons and refugees, whatever their beliefs, so that they can define their own future.



The Catholic church in Montreal is to be witness to God's Love, to journey toward Jesus Christ, to become ever more fully the Temple of the Holy Spirit, the Body of Christ and sons and daughters of the Father, serving individuals, families and all of humanity.



# Parents separated from their children



In Canada, refugees are separated from their children and spouses for years at a time. In our communities, in our parishes, we may have some of our brothers and sisters who are experiencing this tragedy. And it's something that could easily be resolved. Learn more through this campaign.



# Watch and share our video



Being separated from your child is an unbearable situation that most of us don't have to live through. However, many refugees living in Canada have to bear this burden for many years.

Watch [this video](#) to understand the real issues of family separation for refugee families.

A campaign supported by Jeffrey S. Burwell, SJ, Jesuit Provincial, and Archbishop of Montreal Christian Lépine. To take part in the campaign, get all the resources on the following pages.



# How to share our message on social media



Use any of the following hashtags

#familyreunification #RefugeeFamilyReunification #4allfamilies, #cdnrfg #cdnimm  
#cdnpoli #FamilySeparation #IntegrationChallenges

#FamilySponsorship #refugees #refugeerights  
#refugeecrisis #MigrationPolicy

## Proposed post for Facebook

Campaign  
Video

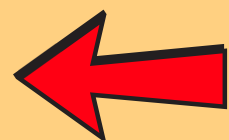


Children and spouses living overseas now wait over 4 years to reunite with a family member who has been accepted as a refugee in Canada. The processing times are getting longer and longer. The reason is that the target set by the government through the immigration levels is much lower than the number of refugees applying. The government could issue Temporary Resident Permits to allow family members of refugees to come to Canada so that the family can be reunited while they wait for their permanent residence applications to be processed.

**#familyreunification #4allfamilies  
#FamilySeparation**



Access graphic and video resources  
for [this campaign here](#)



## Proposed post for Instagram



Children and spouses living overseas now wait over 4 years to reunite with a family member who has been accepted as a refugee in Canada. The processing times are getting longer and longer. The reason is that the target set by the government through the immigration levels is much lower than the number of refugees applying. The government could issue Temporary Resident Permits to allow family members of refugees to come to Canada so that the family can be reunited while they wait for their permanent residence applications to be processed.

**#familyreunification #4allfamilies**  
**#FamilySeparation**  
**@jrs\_canada @diocesemontreal**

1



### Parents separated from their children



2



In Canada, refugees are separated from their children and spouses **for numerous years.**

3



This is something that could easily be solved.

4



Find out how through the campaign on **family reunification**



5



TAKE ACTION





## Proposed post for BlueSky



Families belong  
together. Children  
need to be with their  
parents.

**#familyreunification**  
**#4allfamilies**

@jrscanada.bsky.social



## Proposed post for X



Families belong  
together.  
Children need to be  
with their parents.

**#familyreunification**  
**#4allfamilies**  
**@diocesemontreal**



## Proposed post for LinkedIn



Children and spouses living overseas now wait over 4 years to reunite with a family member who has been accepted as a refugee in Canada. The processing times are getting longer because the target set by the government through the immigration levels is much lower than the number of refugees applying. The government could issue Temporary Resident Permits to allow family members of refugees to come to Canada to be reunited while they wait for their permanent residence applications to be processed.

**#familyreunification #4allfamilies  
#FamilySeparation #IntegrationChallenges  
#cdnrfg**

THANK  
.. YOU  
😊



## Follow us on social media



Jesuit Refugee Service Canada



[Facebook](#)



[Instagram](#)



[YouTube](#)



[LinkedIn](#)



[BlueSky](#)



[Website](#)



Catholic church of Montreal



[Facebook](#)



[Instagram](#)



[YouTube](#)



[LinkedIn](#)



[X](#)



[Website](#)

