

Operation #NotForgotten

CANADIAN PRIVATE SPONSORSHIP



Frequently Asked Questions

What is Operation #NotForgotten?

Operation #NotForgotten is a private campaign to provide safe resettlement for eligible refugees who have been detained in Papua New Guinea and on Nauru Island since 2013.

Which Organizations are part of Operation #NotForgotten?

Canada Caring Society of Whistler, B.C. and MOSAIC of Vancouver, B.C. are the Organizations that started this project in Canada. MOSAIC holds an agreement with the Canadian Government to sponsor and resettle refugees to Canada. The project has benefitted from generous support by Australian volunteers (who complete application forms) and donations to the project by the Refugee Council of Australia (RCOA). The project also works in close cooperation with UNHCR and other community partners such as Ads-Up.

How do I register for the project?

Here is a link to the online registration form: (do not register again if you have already done so)

<https://www.mosaicbc.org/services/settlement/refugees/onf/>

If I registered for the project, does that mean that my application has been accepted by the Canadian Government?

No, it does not.

Registering for the project only means that the project is able to add your name to the database of people considered for private refugee sponsorship under the Operation #NotForgotten project.

It does not mean that your application to come to Canada has been accepted by the Government of Canada.



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If I registered with the project, am I guaranteed that I will be privately sponsored to Canada?

No, you are not guaranteed.

We are not able to guarantee that an application to sponsor you will be submitted to the Canadian Government by MOSAIC. You will still need to meet the eligibility criteria for private sponsorship to Canada. The project also depends on donations and the availability of sponsorship spots that are allocated by the Canadian Government each year.

Who is eligible to be privately sponsored to Canada?

To be privately sponsored to Canada, you must meet the definition of Convention Refugee Abroad Class or Country of Asylum Class (Humanitarian-Protected Persons Abroad), have no other durable solution and pass medical, security and criminality checks.

Convention Refugees Abroad Class

The word “Convention” refers to the United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees.

- You are a Convention Refugee Abroad if you:
 - are afraid of persecution because of your race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or political opinion; and
 - are outside Canada;
 - are outside your country of nationality and unable or, because of your fear, unwilling to obtain the protection of your country; or
 - if you have no country of nationality, are outside your country of former habitual residence (home country) and unable or, because of your fear, unwilling to return to that country.

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Country of Asylum Class (Humanitarian-Protected Persons Abroad)

The Country of Asylum Class is Canada's response to the resettlement needs of people in refugee-like situations who do not qualify as Convention Refugees.

- You are a member of the Country of Asylum Class if you:
 - are seriously and personally affected by civil or armed conflict or a massive violation of human rights in your country of nationality or habitual residence (home country); and
 - are outside Canada;
 - are outside your country of nationality and unable or, because of your fear, unwilling to obtain the protection of your country; or
 - if you have no country of nationality, are outside your country of former habitual residence (home country) and unable or, because of your fear, unwilling to return to that country.

Durable solutions

When considering an application for resettlement in Canada, a Migration Officer must be satisfied that there is no reasonable prospect, within a reasonable period of time, for the refugee applicant to obtain another durable solution.

There are three types of durable solutions:

1. Voluntary repatriation

Voluntary repatriation occurs when refugees voluntarily return to their country of nationality or habitual residence. For voluntary repatriation to be possible, the situation in the country of origin must have changed in a lasting and meaningful way that enables the refugees to return safely.

2. Local integration

Local integration is a long-lasting solution to a refugee's situation. It is more than the granting of safe conditions of asylum. Local integration allows refugees to participate broadly in the host society.

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3. Resettlement in a country other than Canada

An offer of resettlement to country (other than Canada) examples: USA, France Finland, etc.

Admissibility Assessment

Medical, security and criminality checks

You must do a medical exam by a doctor chosen by the IRCC office overseas. IRCC will also perform background and security checks for all applicants who wish to immigrate to Canada. This includes checks into any past criminal behaviour, violations, infractions, etc. We will not contact organizations or individuals if it puts you or your family in danger.

When will you submit my application?

I applied several months ago. Why has my application not been submitted to the Canadian Government for sponsorship?

The database does not work on a first come, first serve basis. With the very large number of current registrations, we need to set priorities. Currently we are prioritizing cases of people that are still located offshore in PNG and Nauru. We are not able to guarantee a time frame for submission of applications.

We are further limited by the sponsorship spots made available by the Canadian government and how much funds we have available. This depends entirely on fundraising.

As spots are limited and under its agreement with the Canadian Government MOSAIC is obligated to pre-screen all applications to determine whether a sponsorship application may meet sponsorship eligibility and admissibility criteria.

MOSAIC will not submit applications where eligibility and/or admissibility are in question.



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How does the process with Operation #NotForgotten work?

Prior to submission of your application to the Canadian government, you will be assigned a volunteer that will work with you to complete the necessary forms and documents (this may have been different in the past).

When the application is completed, it will undergo final review at MOSAIC for completeness, eligibility and admissibility concerns.

What happens when MOSAIC submits my application to Immigration Canada?

MOSAIC will send you an email letting you know that your application has been submitted to IRCC (Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada).

When they have reviewed and accepted MOSAIC's application to sponsor you, you will get an email. This email will inform you that an application on your behalf has been accepted and that the application has been forwarded to the High Commission of Canada in Australia. It will also give you your file number and information on the sponsorship process going forward.

How long after my application has been accepted by Canada Immigration do I get to come to Canada?

Due to the current disruption to normal operations, there may be delays in the processing of applications, regardless of type/category. We are currently unable to provide specific information on processing times due to the quickly evolving nature of the Covid-19 situation. We will contact you once regular processing has begun and your case is ready for next steps.

When normal operations resume, IRCC will determine priorities based on the refugee's immediate needs along with other factors including, but not limited to, the capacity of the International Organization for

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Migration (IOM) to facilitate travel, the availability of flights and the capacity of Service Provider Organizations (SPO) or sponsors in Canada to receive new arrivals

The acceptance of MOSAIC's application, does not guarantee that you get to come to Canada, is only the first step in a potentially long process.

Further information on the steps of the process and processing times can be found here: <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/refugees/help-outside-canada/private-sponsorship-program/how-we-process-applications.html>

What should I expect during the Interview with the Visa Officer?

They will notify you of the invitation to the interview by email or by phone.

The interview is an important part of the refugee sponsorship application process. The purpose of the interview is to establish whether the applicant is eligible and admissible for resettlement to Canada under the Private Sponsorship of Refugees (PSR) Program. During this stage of the application process, the Canadian government will determine whether resettlement to Canada is the best solution for your situation as part of its eligibility assessment. The Canadian government will consider whether you have another solution available.

For information on preparing for an interview with a Visa Officer please [click here](#).

Please be aware that a decision from the Visa Office could take **more than 1 year**.

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Admissibility Checks

If the Canadian government determines you are eligible for the program, the Canadian authorities will then conduct the following test for you and each member of your family (that is currently with you) to determine whether you are admissible to Canada:

- Medical screening
- Security screening
- Criminality screening

There may be a number of reasons for determining that someone is not admissible to Canada such as the individual posing a threat to national security, having a history of serious or organized crime, having committed violations of international or human rights, being a danger to public health or engaging in misrepresentation. Only when you pass all three admissibility checks will you be able to be privately sponsored to Canada.

How can I check the Status of my application?

You can check your application status at the Canadian Immigration website using the G number you are given: <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/application/check-status.html?s=5>

What are the responsibilities of my sponsorship group in Canada?

Private Sponsorship to Canada means that a group of sponsors have signed an application to bring you to Canada. These individuals have nominated to assist you during your first 12 months in Canada and are committed to ensuring you feel at home. Your sponsors are responsible for helping you find permanent



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accommodation, set up a bank account, sign up for healthcare, enroll in English classes, find employment and more.

[Click here](#) to read more about your rights as a Privately Sponsored refugee.

What can I expect in Canada?

When you are sponsored to Canada as a refugee or asylum seeker by a sponsoring group, you may have many questions about what awaits you in Canada, what type of people your sponsors are, how much help they can provide you, whether your children will be happy in Canada, what kind of work you will be able to get, and many, many more questions. The best way to find answers to these questions is to talk to your sponsors before you arrive in Canada. Don't be afraid to ask them any questions you have – they are here to help you get adjusted and settled in your new life in Canada. They will be happy to answer any questions you have!

You can also find general information about life in Canada on the website of the Government of Canada ([click here](#)) and on websites of the province and city that you are moving to.

How can I bring my family to Canada?

Eligible family members include:

- a spouse or common-law partner
- dependent children of the resettled refugee or his/her spouse or common-law partner
- dependent children of dependent children

Generally, dependent children must be under the age of 22 and unmarried or require constant attention as the result of a medical condition. The age of dependent children is locked in at the date of the original family member's application for permanent residence. Therefore, someone who has turned 22 since the original application was made, and who meets all other requirements, will still

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qualify as a dependent child under the One Year Window (OYW) provision. [Click here](#) to read more about the One Year Window provision.

If I still have more questions. Who can I ask?

You may ask your sponsor group for any questions you may have about life in Canada. MOSAIC is also happy to answer any further questions you may have about the application process.

Please contact MOSAIC via email at: onf@mosaicbc.org