

Seven Keys to Protecting and Welcoming Refugees and Newcomers: A vision for Canada

Traditionally a leader in welcoming refugees and other newcomers, Canada can and must renew its efforts to protect their rights. This means acting in seven key areas:

Making status in Canada secure

This means:

- Making pathways to permanent residence open to all, including:
 - migrant workers
 - \circ persons who have been trafficked
- Permanent residence for sponsored spouses is unconditional
- Access to Canadian citizenship





A broad, inclusive and effective refugee resettlement program

This means:

- The government resettles a significant number of refugees to Canada
 - particularly the most vulnerable
 - from around the globe
 - without discrimination
- The private sponsorship of refugees is quick and simple, and respects the principles of additionality and naming

Access to protection

This means:

- Opportunities for refugees to reach Canada
- A fair refugee determination system, without discrimination
- Effective protection for trafficked persons without permanent status
- Adequate support for refugee claimants and trafficked persons
- Adequate protection in the immigration system for women in situations of violence





Speedy family reunification

This means:

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- Express entry family reunification
 - where children are reunited with their parents in 6 months or less
- The definition of family member is broad and inclusive
 - reinstating the previous age of dependants
 - eliminating the 'excluded family member' rule
 - Government makes family reunification a top priority

Rights and dignity for all

This means:

- Access to essential healthcare
- Access to Canada's social safety net
- Protection from exploitation for migrant workers
- Immigration detention is reduced to a minimum
 - respect for non-citizens' fundamental right to liberty





Accountable immigration enforcement

This means:

 An independent and effective complaints and monitoring mechanism oversees Canada's border agency (CBSA)

Welcoming communities

This means:

- By words and actions, governments and civil society show they are proud to protect refugees
- Governments and civil society honour and celebrate the contributions of newcomers



For more information: ccrweb.ca/en/refugees-newcomers-vision-Canada

Conseil canadien pour les réfugiés Canadian Council for Refugees

ccrweb.ca January 2015