# NEWCOMERS TO CANADA: CATEGORIES OF CLASSIFICATION

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### **REFUGEES**

A refugee is a person who is outside his or her home country and who has a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion.\*

### **Referral Process**

Referral to Canada for resettlement by UNHCR or by another referral organization

Filling out an application and completing security and health checks

Pay the cost of travel to Canada or get a loan through the Government of Canada

A refugee is different from an immigrant as immigrants choose to settle in another country permanently, while refugees are forced to flee their home country

Receive coverage for most health services under the Interim Federal Health Program (IFHP)

Individuals who receive refugee status before arriving to Canada are considered permanent residents upon arrival in Canada The processing time depends on the country of origin of the applicant and whether the individual will receive private or government sponsorship

### PSR

Privately sponsored refugees (PSRs) are received by their sponsors, who are scattered across the

Sponsorship Options

BVOR

Blended Visa Office-Referred (BVOR) program is a joint sponsorship program between the Government of Canada and private sponsors which is available to UNHCR referred refugees

**GAR** 

Government-assisted refugees (GARs) are assigned to one of many designated communities based on a pre-approved regional quota of refugee allocation and the match between a refugee's needs and community resources

GARs can
access Resettlement
Assistance Program
(RAP) to get help with
resettlement

## **Other Programs**

One Year Window (OYW)

Program

supports family reunification by permitting resettled refugees to apply within one year of their arrival in Canada for the resettlement of family members who currently reside abroad Joint Assistance Sponsorship

enables sponsoring rganizations to partner with IRCC in the resettlement of refugees who are already in Canada, and have rare and

complex needs

More info can be found on AAISA's Toolkit



# Refugee Claimant

A risk of unusual treatment or punishment if an individual returns to their home country

Refugee claimants are asylum-seekers who are already in Canada and have made a claim for protection to the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (IRB) and are awaiting a

determination from the

Fear of persecution

A risk to individual's life

\*Branch, L. (2020, July 14). Consolidated federal laws of Canada, Immigration and Refugee Protection 9.5/FullText html