

Frequently Asked Questions of Concern

1. Can we trust the screening process for refugees?

The refugees brought into Canada have been screened first by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and then by the Canadian government. Then applicants are screened by Canada Border Services Agency, CSIS and Interpol.

Experts have repeatedly stated that the refugees coming to Canada are most likely to be the ones who have been living in camps in countries like Lebanon for years already. (see <http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2015/11/18/syrian-refugees-will-face-three-levels-of-intense-screening.html>)

It is more difficult to enter Canada as a refugee than as a visitor. It is not likely that a person intending to commit a violent act would expose themselves to such detailed examinations. The Immigration and Refugee Protection Act excludes refugee claimants if they are found to be inadmissible on the basis of security, serious criminality, organized criminality or human rights violations. The Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) checks all refugee claimants on arrival in Canada. Since the screening was put in place in 2001, the number of claimants found to represent any kind of security concern has been statistically insignificant.

<http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2015/11/18/syrian-refugees-will-face-three-levels-of-intense-screening.html>

(for more information, also visit <http://www.macleans.ca/news/world/how-the-unhcrs-refugee-resettlement-process-actually-works> and <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/canada.asp> and watch this video: <http://globalnews.ca/news/2349421/heres-how-refugees-are-screened-before-arriving-in-canada>)

2. Why aren't you raising money to help people at home, instead of supporting refugees?

It is great to focus on local issues. We are happy that you care about the condition of local people in need. We do too! That's why most people involved in this initiative – and certainly every church – donates time and money locally as well.

You can sponsor children in an African nation, for example, and still deliver meals on wheels here in Scugog. And that is good news for everyone. Need doesn't have a border. Generosity doesn't have a limit.

But meanwhile, the world is in the worse refugee crisis since the Second World War. The UNHCR reports 60 million war refugees in the world. The Syrian crisis has produced 4 million refugees who have lost their homes and been forced to flee from

their countries. Two out of five Syrian refugees are children under the age of five years old.

(For more information, visit <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php>)

3. When will sponsored refugee families arrive in Port Perry?

That will depend on our fundraising efforts and our ability to meet our obligations to provide housing and support for the families for 12 months.

After we are all ready, then we get to choose which family we bring to the area. We will periodically receive a list of names and descriptions of families. We will carefully choose a family we feel we can best help and is a good fit.

(for more information on how the process works visit <http://www.cic.gc.ca/ENGLISH/helpcentre/questions-answers-by-topic.asp?t=11>)

4. Will it be a Muslim family?

It might be. Many are. There are also Christian families fleeing Syria for their lives – and probably many other faiths as well. We want to help the family with the most need. It is highly unlikely we will know their religion until they arrive and they choose to share that information.