

# GLOBAL REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP INITIATIVE

## GRSI AT A GLANCE

### Our First Edition

*A word from Minister Hussen*



Welcome to the GRSI Digest. This new monthly newsletter is designed to keep you abreast of developments in community refugee sponsorship around the world.

We hope it will also be a channel for us to learn from you. More and more countries are exploring ways to design and implement their own private refugee sponsorship programs. We are keen to hear how government, business and civil society leaders – together with ordinary citizens - are taking up this extraordinary challenge.

Since GRSI was launched one year ago, Canada has been working closely with our partners – UNHCR, the Open Society Foundations, the Radcliffe Foundation and the University of Ottawa - to boost global refugee resettlement capacity.

Canada is uniquely placed to lead this effort. Through the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program (PSRP), Canadians have welcomed over 300,000 refugees in the past four decades.

I have no doubt that private sponsorship, which has been so positive in Canada, can succeed in other countries, and help bring more vulnerable people to safety.

- The Honourable Ahmed D. Hussen, MP,  
Minister of Immigration, Refugees and  
Citizenship

### Community Sponsorship Around the World

- GRSI's trip to the United Kingdom
- UK pledges one million pounds to boost community groups wishing to sponsor Syrian refugees
- New Zealand announces creation of Community Organisation Refugee Sponsorship category
- Interfaith groups in the UK are applying to become community refugee sponsors



*GRSI leaders discuss private sector involvement in refugee protection at the 2017 Concordia Summit in New York City.*

# The GRSI Guidebook

## *Building blocks of community sponsorship*

GRSI marked its first anniversary with the launch of a comprehensive online training manual. The GRSI Guidebook was created to help governments, policymakers, civil society organizations, private sector actors and citizens learn how to sponsor refugees and welcome them into their communities.

The Guidebook is modeled on Canada's Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program (PSRP), which has allowed Canadians from all walks of life to offer protection and support to tens of thousands of refugees since 1979.

The manual covers topics such as how to become a sponsor, how to prepare for a refugee family's arrival in a new country, and how to meet their everyday needs once they get there. The Guidebook features interviews with community sponsors from different parts of Canada. They reveal some of the complex – and rewarding – challenges they've faced when helping newcomers resettle from abroad. It also contains links to dozens of articles, studies and reports that shed light on all aspects of community sponsorship.

The publication of the GRSI Guidebook was officially announced by Minister Hussen at the 2017 Concordia summit on September 18. Parallel announcements were made by IRCC representatives at the Metropolis Conference in The Hague and an ICMC seminar in Brussels. Designed for an international audience, the Guidebook is available on GRSI's website in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese.

*“The GRSI Guidebook will serve as a practical tool to actors from the public, private, and community sectors advocating for or designing community sponsorship programs in their own countries.”*

*– Frank Giustra, The Radcliffe Foundation*



*GRSI leaders speak to Manchester residents during the UK community sponsorship roadshows in July 2017.*

## Suggested Reading

Refugees Encounter a Foreign Word: Welcome (30 Jun 2016)

They took in one Refugee Family. But Families Don't Have Borders (22 Oct 2016)

Wonder and Worry, as a Syrian Child Transforms (17 Dec 2016)

Canadians Adopted Refugee Families for a Year: Then Came 'Month 13.' (25 Mar 2017)

The Chosen (25 Aug 2017)

## What is GRSI?

**GRSI is a partnership of five organizations: the Government of Canada, UNHCR, the Open Society Foundations, the Radcliffe Foundation and the University of Ottawa.**

**GRSI aims to help other countries set up their own community sponsored refugee programs. The ultimate goal is to boost resettlement capacity worldwide. Through this process it also strives to strengthen local communities and improve the international political narrative on refugees and other newcomers.**

[SUBSCRIBE](#) [GRSI ONLINE](#) [CONTACT US](#)