

December 18, 2019

Ministers from six countries (Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, and Spain) declare their support for community sponsorship

At the first ever Global Refugee Forum, the Global Refugee Sponsorship Initiative (GRSI) hosted a spotlight session and a reception celebrating the growth of community refugee sponsorship around the world. The GRSI recognized 11 countries that have introduced pilot or full sponsorship programs, as well as representatives from all parts of the sponsorship system, including government Ministers and officials; private sector actors; civil society organizations; individual sponsors; and refugees.

One of the most exciting outcomes of the Global Refugee Forum is that **Brazil and Portugal announced that they would implement community sponsorship programs in 2020**, and Ireland and Spain announced that they would expand their existing pilots to full programs.

The GRSI also announced the launch of a States Network: a group of countries committed to sharing best practices and capacity building on refugee sponsorship. This network is co-chaired this year by the United Kingdom and Canada.

Ministers from several of the countries in the States Network—**Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, and Spain**—came together to mark the Global Refugee Forum by releasing a public statement indicating their support for community refugee sponsorship. You can read the full text of the statement [here](#).