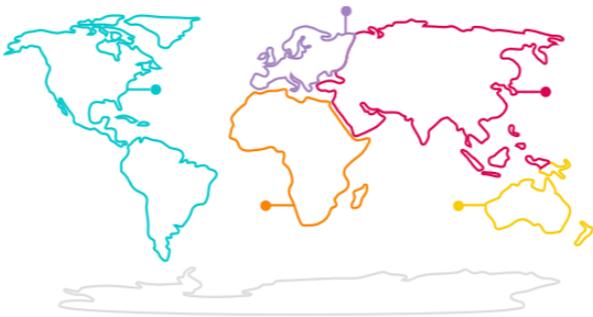


GLOBAL REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP INITIATIVE AT A GLANCE

GRSI Product Launch

The Global Refugee Sponsorship Initiative (GRSI) is excited to announce the launch of our updated Guidebook (available in [English](#) and [French](#)), a new Monitoring and Evaluation Toolkit (available in [English](#) and [French](#)), an updated pamphlet (available in [English](#) and [French](#)), and an updated website in [English](#) and [French](#)!

For more details on our new products, please read our [press release](#).



At Clinton Global Initiative, Welcome.US Announces Commitment to Engage 50,000 More Americans in Sponsoring Refugees Over Next Three Years

On September 22, 2022, Nazanin Ash, the CEO of Welcome.US announced that the organization will support 50,000 Americans to sponsor refugees over the next three years. Welcome.US will expand the organization's "Be a Welcomer" campaign by raising awareness and encouraging more Americans to sponsor refugees. Funding from several non-profit and faith organizations will allow Welcome.US to expand their "Be a Welcomer" campaign, allowing more Americans to sponsor refugees.

In the announcement, Ash affirmed: "when our entire society gets involved in this work — companies, nonprofits, faith groups, veterans and diaspora groups, college campuses, friends and neighbors — we can truly become the nation of welcome that we've long imagined ourselves to be".

Welcome.US will use Welcome Connect, a new technology platform, to connect potential sponsors and beneficiaries, and provide training, resources, and stories. Welcome.US could support up to 100,000 refugees in the United States.

Are you a policymaker or civil society leader designing a refugee sponsorship program?

[Download the GRSI's Policy Design Workbook](#)

Australian Minister marks first refugee arrivals under the Community Refugee Integration and Settlement Pilot

In August 2022, Australia welcomed the first three refugee families through the Community Refugee Integration and Settlement Pilot (CRISP) in Victoria and New South Wales. The Syrian families are the first to arrive through CRISP, which will resettle up to 1,500 refugees until the end of June 2025. CRISP is a pilot program for the community sponsorship of refugees in Australia.

The Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs, Andrew Giles, said of the newly launched pilot: "there has been great interest from community groups to directly help those in need, and this pilot creates a great opportunity for those communities to welcome refugees into Australia and directly support their settlement journey."

Palmerston North woman extends welcome to new refugees

The Government of New Zealand's Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment recently extended the community sponsorship of refugees pilot program it runs with HOST International Aotearoa. The recently extended program will resettle 150 refugees in New Zealand over the next three years with 21 groups and businesses sponsoring. Sponsoring groups can nominate refugees to resettle or they can be matched with a refugee family by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Lorna Johnson, a city councillor from Palmerston North, is eager to participate in New Zealand's refugee sponsorship program. Johnson says that when she heard the program was extended, she thought Palmerston North would be a good place to have a community refugee sponsorship group. A simple post on Facebook started the conversation. Johnson says "all I did was just put it on my personal Facebook to say, look, I'm really wanting to do this, is anybody keen to do it with me?". The Palmerston North group is looking forward to welcoming a family their community, and in the meantime are busy preparing financial, social, and health supports for the newcomers.

Birgit Grafarend-Watungwa, the HOST national programme manager, notes that the programme has been popular in New Zealand, with support from municipalities and smaller regions across the country, and with groups varying from businesses to refugee-led groups to faith-based organizations.

Check out the [Global Refugee Sponsorship Initiative on Twitter!](#)

Follow [@theGRSI](#) on Twitter for more updates on [#communitysponsorship](#)

Vancouver pianist helps raise funds for Eritrean refugee family

The Whistler Community Church hosted a benefit concert in August in support of an

Eritrean refugee family. The church's sponsorship group says they are preparing for the family's arrival. Ticket sales for the concert are by a suggested donation of \$20 and funds raised will support the Eritrean Refugee Fund.



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The benefit concert featured Clinton Giovanni Denoni, a classical pianist from Vancouver who studied at the Cleveland Institute of Music and now performs across British Columbia. Denoni aspires to make classical piano more accessible to wider audiences. His performance at the Whistler Community Church features a video shot in Tofino.

[Do you have feedback on our newsletter?](#)

[Please take our survey!](#)

What is the GRSI?

The Global Refugee Sponsorship Initiative is a partnership of six organizations – the Government of Canada, UNHCR, the Open Society Foundations, The Giustra Foundation, The Shapiro Foundation, and the University of Ottawa. It aims to help other countries set up their own community-based refugee sponsorship programs, strengthening local communities and improving the narrative on refugees in the process.

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