

Information on Private Sponsorship Programs

This document provides basic information on private sponsorship programs available to refugees based on publicly available information given by Governments. UNHCR is available to help interested refugees through the process as much as possible. However each country has its own guidelines and procedures and refugees should consult Governments directly for more details.

Australia	
Who Can Be Sponsored	Further Information
<p>Whether people in Australia are able to sponsor a relative who is outside of Australia depends on the sponsor's immigration status and the type of visa being applied for. Other requirements also apply.</p> <p>Australia's Special Humanitarian Program (SHP) SHP category visas are for people who are subject to substantial discrimination amounting to gross violation of their human rights in their home country. A person may be eligible if they are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Outside Australia – persons in Indonesia are only eligible for the SHP if they registered with UNHCR prior to 1 July 2014 ▪ Subject to substantial discrimination amounting to a gross violation of their human rights ▪ Proposed for entry by an Australia citizen, an Australian permanent resident, an eligible New Zealand citizen, or an organisation operating in Australia. <p>A proposer (sponsor) might be able to propose family members for entry to Australia through the SHP provided they hold a <u>permanent</u> humanitarian visa (includes Permanent Protection visas), and did not arrive in Australia as an Illegal Maritime Arrival (IMA) on or after 13 August 2012. A person who holds a temporary visa is not eligible to sponsor family members under the SHP.</p> <p>Note on sponsors who arrived in Australia as an Illegal Maritime Arrival (IMA)— Anyone who arrived in Australia as an IMA <u>on or after 13 August 2012</u> is not able to propose family members for resettlement in Australia under the SHP. There are no exceptions. A permanent visa holder who arrived as an IMA <u>prior to 13 August 2012</u> is eligible to propose family under the SHP, but the applications will receive lowest priority. Decision makers will consider whether there are compelling reasons for giving special consideration to granting a visa by taking into account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The degree of persecution or discrimination to which the applicant is subject in their country ▪ The extent of the applicant's connection with Australia ▪ Whether there is any suitable country, other than Australia, that can provide resettlement ▪ The capacity of the Australian community to provide for the resettlement of the applicant. <p>Australia's Family Stream Migration There are four main visa categories in the family stream of Australia's Migration Program: 'partner' (such as a spouse), 'child', 'parent' and 'other family' (carer, remaining relative and aged dependent relative).</p> <p>Applications are prioritised depending on the category of the family stream visa being sought. Priority is given in the following order:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Partner visa or Child visa ▪ Orphan relative visa 	<p>Visit the Australian Government's Department of Home Affairs website: www.homeaffairs.gov.au</p> <p>For more information about the SHP, including family sponsorship, visit: https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/trav/refu/off</p> <p>For further information on proposing immediate family members, visit: https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/trav/refu/off/proposing-an-immediate-family-member-split-family</p> <p>For more information about Australia's family stream migration, fees and how to apply, visit: https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/trav/brin</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Contributory parent visa ▪ Parent (non-contributory) visa and 'other family' visa <p>Note on sponsors who arrived in Australia as an Illegal Maritime Arrival (IMA)— If you are being sponsored by a permanent visa holder who entered Australia as an IMA, your application will be given the lowest processing priority and will not be processed for several years. Carefully consider whether to apply. If you decide to lodge a family visa application but then change your mind, there will be no refund of the visa fee. [Note: The lowest processing priority does not apply if your sponsor is an Australian citizen.]</p> <p>Compelling and compassionate circumstances If you are applying for a partner or a child visa, your application might be prioritised where you can demonstrate compelling and compassionate circumstances. You will need to make a request for priority processing with the visa office where your application is being processed and provide evidence to support your claims. There is no guarantee that your application will be given a higher priority as other applications might have equally or more compelling and compassionate circumstances.</p>	
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Canada

Who Can Be Sponsored	Further Information
<p>Family Sponsorship – Canadian citizens and permanent residents can apply to sponsor their dependent family members, provided the sponsor is at least 18 years of age. Dependent family members include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spouses or common-law partners (including same sex) ▪ Dependent unmarried children under 22 years of age, and the dependent children of dependent children ▪ Parents and grandparents ▪ Brothers, sisters, nephews, nieces or grandchildren who are orphans, under the age of 18, and unmarried <p>Resettled Refugee Sponsorship – A refugee who has been resettled in Canada can apply within one year of arrival to sponsor his/her dependent family members who were claimed by the sponsor on his/her original Canadian application.</p> <p>Group Sponsorship – An organization or a group of five or more Canadian citizens or permanent residents can jointly sponsor an individual who has been recognized as a refugee by UNHCR.</p>	<p>Visit the Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada website at: www.cic.gc.ca</p>

New Zealand

Who Can Be Sponsored	Further Information
<p>A New Zealand citizen or resident who was granted a residence class visa as a mandated refugee and is living in New Zealand can sponsor the following family members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spouse or partner ▪ Dependent child ▪ Parents where the sponsor is a dependent child 	<p>Visit New Zealand's website at: https://www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas</p>

United States of America

Who Can Be Sponsored	Further Information
<p>The ability of persons in the US to sponsor their relatives depends on their current immigration status.</p> <p>A <u>US citizen</u> can sponsor his/her:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spouse or fiancé(e) ▪ Unmarried child under age 21 and his/her children ▪ Married child and his/her spouse and unmarried children under age 21 	<p>Visit the USCIS website at: https://www.uscis.gov/</p>

- Parent
- Sibling and his/her spouse and unmarried children under age 21

A US permanent resident can sponsor his/her:

- Spouse
- Unmarried child and his/her children

A resettled refugee can sponsor his/her:

- Spouse
- Unmarried child under age 21

Further Information on Other Countries

- Denmark: https://www.nyidanmark.dk/en-us/...to.../familyreunification/family_reunification.htm
- Estonia: <https://estonia.ee/>
- Finland: <http://www.migri.fi/frontpage>
- Iceland: <https://utl.is/index.php/en/family-reunification>
- Italy: <https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/>
- Latvia: <https://www.latvia-immigration.com/>
- Lithuania: <http://www.migration.lt/en/migration-services/immigration-to-lithuania>
- Netherlands: <https://ind.nl/en/family>
- Norway: www.udi.no/en/
- Sweden: <https://www.migrationsverket>