

Newsletter

Winter Update



FCJ Refugee Centre
Walking with Uprooted People

Winter 2013

Issue # 6

RECENT DOCUMENTS

Claiming refugee protection under the new system. You can find the document at FCJ Refugee Centre website.

COMING SPRING EVENTS

- Forum Human Trafficking for Forced Labour.
- Refugee Rights Day on April 4th.
- Multicultural celebration in April (coming information at our website).
- FCJ Refugee Centre Annual Yard Sale (coming soon).

SERVICES

- Medical and mental health clinic on weekends.
- Improve your English in our ESL classes every Saturday.
- Youth Network : Join the group, learn and have fun. Meetings every Wednesday at 4:00 pm at 208 Oakwood Ave. Toronto.

NEW SERVICES: ANTI-TRAFFICKING WORKSHOPS

Workshops for legal sector professionals across the GTA

The Temporary Residence Permit (TRP) program is the only federal service available specifically to secure immigration status for victims / survivors of human trafficking in Canada.

Learn the ins and outs of the TRP application process, the advantages and disadvantages, the services covered and obstacles encountered.



stop human trafficking

Workshops for Mental Health Professionals and Support workers

Experiences of human trafficking not only have serious impacts on survivors' physical well being, but also integrally affect their psychological and emotional well being.

As a result, mental health support is an essential component of recovery and to regaining a sense of control.

Offering Mental Health Support to Victims/ Survivors of Human Trafficking

Human Trafficking for Forced Labour: April 23rd 2013

The forum will focus on persons trafficked internationally for the purposes of forced labour and the barriers to services and protection for these populations.

Venue: Toronto Harbour Light Ministries, 160 Jarvis St. (at Queen St.)

Date: April 23th 2013

Time: from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Detailed Agenda and speakers will follow

Registration

<http://www.eventbrite.com/event/5647445662/es2005/?rank=1#> or
<http://www.fcjrefugeecentre.org/?p=3289>

*This event is part of the National Victims of Crime Awareness Week 2013:
We All Have a Role.*

REFUGEE FORUM II

All the PP Presentations are available at FCJ Refugee Centre website:



Thanks to all our volunteers for your hard work .



FCJ Refugee Centre and Downtown Legal Services organized an action-packed day of highly informative workshops.

Hosted at The Salvation Army's Harbour Light Centre on Jarvis Street, the day consisted of 10 presentations and question and answer sessions on a variety of topics to do with the Conservative government's overhaul of the Canadian refugee system. Experts, front line workers and students in the field of refugee protection led each session.

The day considered both the "big picture" context of the reforms made, addressed in Kristen Marshall's powerful opening remarks on the changing and the increasingly difficult situation refugees face in Canada, to very practical presentations.

The well-received morning sessions were led by Jennifer Bernardo, Jackie Chu, Carolyn Padget, and Rachel Bernhardt – students from Downtown Legal Services. They concisely outlined the most significant changes concerning PRRAs and Humanitarian and Compassionate Grounds applications in a clear

and informative manner. The case study examples they provided proved very popular and drove home the need for practical knowledge of the changes that have been made.

Throughout the day it became apparent to participants, most of whom were highly dedicated front-line workers, just how significant the scope of recent changes have been. Even what might seem like superficial or technical changes on the new basis of claim (BOC) forms that replace the Personal Information Form (PIF), were seen to have major repercussions for refugee claimants and how their claims would be perceived and subsequently adjudicated. Given this desperate need for up to date information, the FCJ's Giovanni Rico led a comprehensive session on completing the relevant forms for a refugee claim, while Francisco Rico-Martinez led a session on the dynamics of the IOM's "voluntary" return program.

John Norquay, the Staff Immigration Lawyer at HALCO: HIV and AIDS Legal Clinic outlined the drastic cuts to refugee health care due to the government's 2012 changes to the In-

WORKSHOP BENEFITS

- Access to crucial training material
- Access to specialized information
- Tools to provide better services to people who have been trafficked

WHAT FCJ REFUGEE CENTRE PROVIDES

- The facilitator for each workshop
- Transportation for facilitator
- Resource Material including the presentation

TO SCHEDULE A WORKSHOP

Contact Carolina Teves:
cteves@fcjrefugeecentre.org
Phone: **416-469 -9754**
ext.226

Are you looking for support in issues related to immigration and settlement?

- ✓ Learn about issues related to immigration
- ✓ practical techniques to effectively meet clients' needs
- ✓ Apply an integrated model to assist newcomers
- ✓ Hands-on training in navigating immigration system and filling out forms

Immigration and Refugee Mentoring Initiative for Agencies

TOPICS

- ✓ New Refugee Procedures and timelines
- ✓ How to fill out the new refugee form: Bases of the Claim Form (BOC)
- ✓ Humanitarian and Compassionate application
- ✓ Categories of refugee Claimants
- Services for refugee claimants: Access to health care
- ✓ Human Trafficking and immigration possibilities for survivors
- ✓ Violence against women
- ✓ Non-status women
- ✓ sponsorship

terim Federal Health Program (IFHP), which until that time had remained relatively constant for over fifty years. He outlined what level of care is available to particular groups of claimants. Andrew Brouwer of the Refugee Law Office outlined the processes of Judicial Review and of the Refugee Appeal Division while stressing the need for quality legal representation.

From the presentations

it was seen to be crucial that front line workers have at least a general knowledge of these new processes, and the need for legal advice and assistance to those trying to navigate them. Fortunately, with around 200 participants in this workshop and the enthusiasm for such efforts to continue, the FCJ Refugee Centre, Downtown Legal Services, and their collaborators have made a strong contribution to these efforts.

MEDICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH CLINICS

Primary Care

The primary medical health services and counseling are available at FCJ Refugee Centre on Saturdays with exception of long weekends. If you have clients who need medical primary care and/ or counseling the doctors will be here at the office every Saturday from 10 am to 2:00 pm. If you want to book an appointment, please contact us: 416-469-9754 or info@fcjrefugeecentre.org.

REFUGEE UPDATE

ISSUE NO. 75 A JOINT PROJECT OF THE FCJ REFUGEE CENTRE AND THE CANADIAN COUNCIL FOR REFUGEES WINTER 2012
WILL THE NEW REFUGEE RULES LEAD TO MORE SANCTUARY CASES?
BY RICK GOLDMAN

Publications : Refugee Update issue #75

Some articles you can read:

- Will the new refugee rules lead to new sanctuary cases? By Rick Goldman.
- The sanctuary option. By Michael Creal
- Claiming refugee protection under the new system: categories and timelines. by FCJ Refugee Centre
- A gift to Canada: interview with Suda Rajasingam by Jacinta Goveas
- Sean Rehaag receives a refugee advocacy award
- Thank you, Canada by Ezat Mossallanejad
- The cruel return of gods by Richard Hull
- Congratulations to Sr. Helen



Volunteer sessions

We implemented a monthly orientation session for new volunteers.

Every month we provide an informative session for people who want to get involved at FCJ Refugee Centre. During the first 2 sessions this year we received an excellent team who already started to do volunteer work in different areas of our office. Some of the volunteer positions available are at the front desk, data entry, interpreters, etc.

The meetings are scheduled from 4:00 pm to 4:30 pm at 208 Oakwood Ave the last Thursday of every month.

ENGLISH CLASSES



Learning English

The English classes started this year on January 12th, 2013. ESL teachers implemented a conversational method that allows students to learn, improve and practice their English.

Reading, listening and grammar are some of the points that the instructors highlight in every class.

The class is every Saturday from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. (except long weekends)



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