



# The FCJ Refugee Centre Access To Education Program: Overview and Services

Presented by

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FCJ Refugee Centre



This presentation is  
possible thanks to  
the support of:



# LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The land we are standing on today is the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Huron-Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.

We also acknowledge that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 signed with the Mississaugas of the Credit, and the Williams Treaty signed with multiple Mississaugas and Chippewa bands.



## OVERVIEW

- Land Acknowledgement
- FCJ Refugee Centre
- Access To Education Program
- School Enrollment Supports
- Uprooted Series
- Current Advocacy Efforts
- Resources And Ways To Stay Connected





**FCJ Refugee Centre**

*Walking With Uprooted People*

## Who We Are

- We are a non-profit organization which serves refugees and others at risk due to their immigration status
- We welcome anyone asking for information, counsel and support regarding these issues.
- We address systemic issues that newly arrived refugee claimants and persons with precarious immigrations status face in Canada including lack of resources, marginalization, and discrimination.
- FCJ Refugee Centre is unique in its capacity to serve anyone who needs assistance. We have a particular penchant for serving populations who we term as “precarious migrants”.

[www.fcjrefugeecentre.org](http://www.fcjrefugeecentre.org)


# FCJ REFUGEE CENTRE



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PEOPLE



# Services and Resources



**SETTLEMENT & INTEGRATION**

- Shelter for women & children
- Refugee Housing Hub
- Women's services
- Food distribution
- English Classes
- Clinic
- Youth
- Access to Education

**IMMIGRATION SUPPORT**

- Refugee process
- Immigration orientation
- PRRA (risk assessment)
- Refugee appeal
- H&C (Humanitarian & Compassionate App.)
- Sponsorship
- Work permit
- Etc.

**ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

- Migrants Workers Mobile Clinic
- Direct services to trafficked persons
- Migrant Women's Counter Trafficking Alliance
- Youth Alliance Against HT

**PUBLIC EDUCATION & NETWORKING**

- Webinars & training sessions
- Borderless Voices podcast
- YouTube channel
- Resources
- Country research
- Newsletter & annual reports

**FCJ REFUGEE CENTRE**

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- 🐦 @RefugeeCentre
- 📺 FCJ Refugee Centre

# FCJ REFUGEE CENTRE YOUTH NETWORK

- The FCJ Youth Network has been operating for more than 10 years, and has supported over 400 youth since its inception.
- The group meets once a week, and together with staff, they pursue advocacy projects, outreach efforts, community building, and social networking.
- Many of the projects the youth network pursues, including the original idea of Access to Education, are borne from the challenges and barriers many of the youth have personally experienced.
- We often attend and present at conferences, host community gatherings, travel, have movie nights, dinner nights, attend marches and rallies in solidarity with each other.





- The members of the FCJ Youth Network continue to act as leaders in the community.
- The Youth Network drives our initiatives – especially regarding education access
- CCR Youth Consultation participation at the national level.
- Allowing a safe space for ideas to emerge – it was through this safe environment that access to education was addressed as a primary concern.





## ACCESS TO EDUCATION

Post-Secondary  
Education Access Advocacy  
Sanctuary Scholarship to York  
University  
Enrollment Support JK-Gr 12  
Uprooted Series:  
• Uprooted U  
• Uprooted Jr  
English & French  
Language Classes

## SETTLEMENT AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES

Immigration Support  
Housing  
Employment  
Mental Health  
Food Security  
Etc.

## PEER-LED WORKSHOPS AND PRESENTATIONS

## YOUTH ALLIANCE AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

## NETWORKING AND CONFERENCES

OCASI  
CCR  
CCR-YAG  
Toronto Counter-Human  
Trafficking Network

## PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC EVENTS AND ADVOCACY

## SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Movie Nights  
Art Classes  
Violence Prevention Classes  
Field Trips  
Capacity Building Workshops  
Karaoke  
Game Nights  
Bowling  
Volunteering  
Mental Health Workshops  
Job Skills Workshops

## ALWAYS CONNECTED

Podcast Home is Here  
Bestie Book  
Instagram  
WhatsApp  
Seeds of Hope: Stories  
written by FCJ Youth & Allies







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# Education System FAQs

[www.fcjrefugeecentre.org](http://www.fcjrefugeecentre.org)



## EDUCATION SYSTEM IN CANADA

- Education in Canada is Provincially Administered
- Levels of Education in Ontario can be divided by - Preschool Daycare, Elementary, Secondary, and Post-Secondary
- The Ministry of Education is the ministry of the Government of Ontario responsible for government policy, funding, curriculum planning and direction in all levels of public education, including elementary and secondary schools
- Stephen Lecce is the Minister of Education for the Province of Ontario
- The Ministry of Colleges and Universities is the ministry of the Government of Ontario responsible for administration of laws relating to post-secondary education.
- Jill Dunlop is the Minister of Colleges and Universities for the Province of Ontario



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# FCJ Access To Education Program

[www.fcjrefugeecentre.org](http://www.fcjrefugeecentre.org)



## FCJ Access To Education Program

The Access To Education Program started as an emerging need identified by the members of the FCJ Youth Network (FCJYN). The in-house Access To Education Program came about in 2014 entitled ‘Uprooted Series’ followed by the launching of ‘Uprooted U’ and ‘Uprooted Jr.’ in 2015 as official annual components of the series. The Access To Education Program has now grown exponentially to meet the developing needs of the communities we work with.



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# School Enrollment Support

[www.fcjrefugeecentre.org](http://www.fcjrefugeecentre.org)

## Pathways To Formal Education

- Elementary: JK - Grade 8
- Secondary: Grade 9 - Grade 12
- EdVance: Age 18-20
- Adult School: Age 21+
- Post Secondary: College, University, Apprenticeship
- ESL Referrals: Salvation Army, TPL, YMCA





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# Uprooted Series

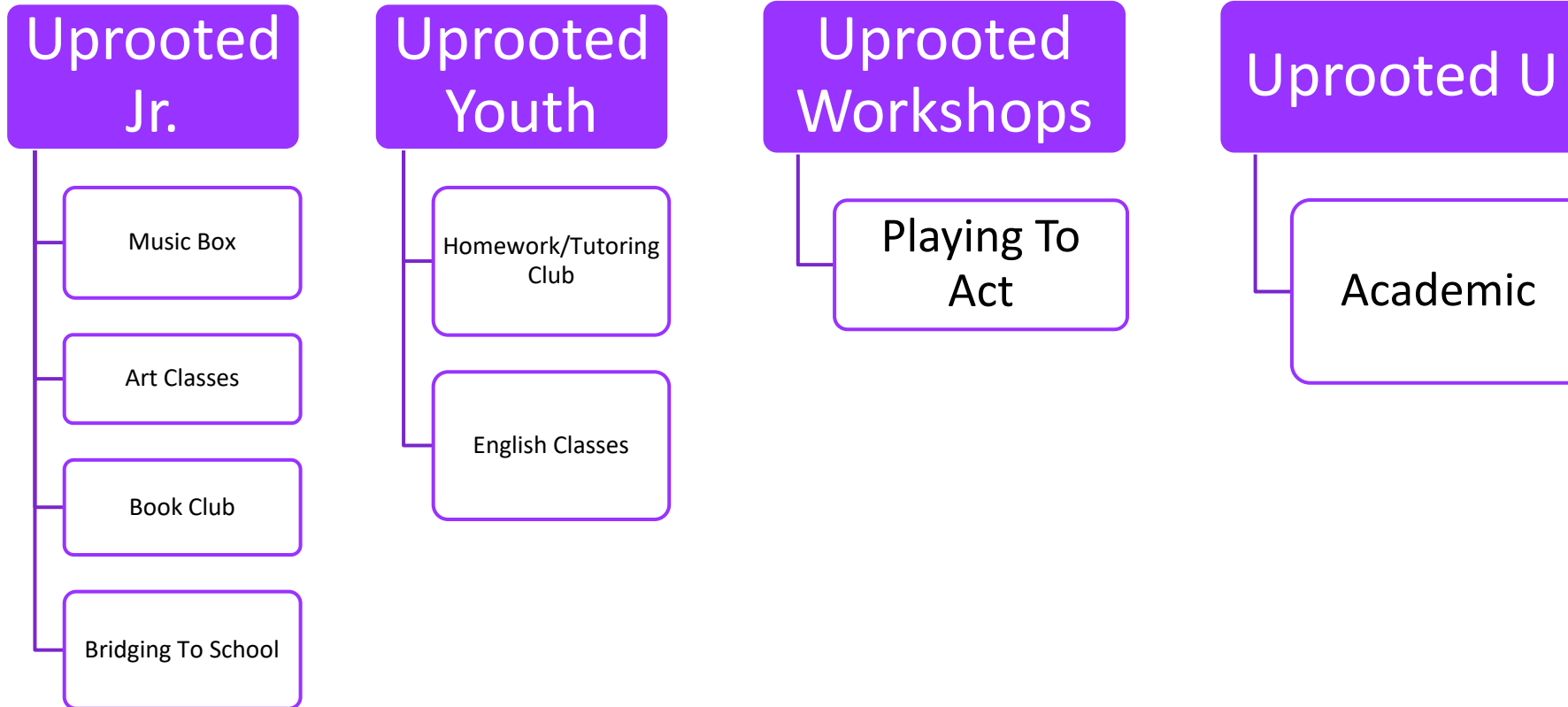
[www.fcjrefugeecentre.org](http://www.fcjrefugeecentre.org)

## UPROOTED PROGRAMS

- The necessity for programs such as these demonstrate a failing on the part of our government
- These programs were launched at FCJ in 2014, while the Uprooted U & Jr program started in 2015.
- These are programs dedicated to those students in precarious situations
- Our current Uprooted Series Programming includes:
  - Uprooted Jr.: MusicBox and Bridging To School - for Children;
  - Uprooted Youth: Virtual English Classes - for Youth aged 13-30
- Through the Uprooted U program, the York- Bridging Program was born
- This Program allowed young people living in precarious positions to realize their dreams.



# UPROOTED SERIES





## UPROOTED SERIES

- UPROOTED JR. [AGES 6-12]
- UPROOTED YOUTH [AGES 13-30]
- UPROOTED WORKSHOPS [AGES 18+]
- UPROOTED U [AGES 18+]



## THE REALITIES OF TODAY

- The criminalization of migrants is pervasive in many networks
- Some schools and other public institutions remain unfamiliar with how to support non-status students and families
- Anti-immigrant political rhetoric criminalizes migrant populations
- The consequences of this rhetoric and these policies are often unseen by the general public - further marginalizing an already vulnerable population
- Education policies outline that all children under the age of 18 have the right to go to public schools in Ontario - however we see that this is not upheld.



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# Current Advocacy Efforts

[www.fcjrefugeecentre.org](http://www.fcjrefugeecentre.org)



## FCJ - UPROOTED EDUCATION: 2016 ONTARIO REPORT

- The Uprooted Education 2016 Ontario Report was the result of a project undertaken by members of the FCJ Youth Network to explore how the unique trajectories and social locations of migrant youth with precarious immigration status intersect with Access T.O.; particularly its involvement in, Ontario High Schools.
- The report attempts to detail these experiences through five salient themes (Getting In, Equitable Participation, Anti-discrimination, Support, Moving On), and offers insight into promising practices and possibilities to ignite change.

# FCJ - UPROOTED EDUCATION: 2016 ONTARIO REPORT

<b>REPORT CARD</b>	
<p><b>GETTING IN</b> <i>How Ontario Secondary School Boards, the Ministry of Education and other relevant actors (including principals, vice principals, secretaries, and other school staff) facilitate or impede newcomer youth, particularly those with precarious immigration status, from getting into high school in Ontario.</i></p>	<b>F</b>
<p><b>EQUITABLE PARTICIPATION</b> <i>To what extent precarious immigration status youth feel included once in school, and valued as equal participants with diverse lived experiences; and how these experiences impact their participation in school.</i></p>	<b>C-</b>
<p><b>ANTI-DISCRIMINATION</b> <i>How effective are current anti-discrimination policies in making precarious immigration status youth feel safe and included in schools. To what extent is immigration status recognized as a contributing factor to the complex relationship of power, privilege and oppression of students; are there appropriate and safe mechanisms for complaint.</i></p>	<b>D</b>
<p><b>SUPPORT</b> <i>What level of support exists for newcomer students in Ontario schools? Is this support effective and responsive to the nuanced needs of precarious immigration status students? Are links being made to community agencies to fill gaps and meet emerging challenges?</i></p>	<b>C+</b>
<p><b>MOVING ON</b> <i>How effective are school-based actors (teachers, guidance counselors, administrators, etc) in offering advice and support for the transition out of high school. Does this advice recognize the limited possibilities for youth with certain statuses? Is any advocacy being done to open more doors?</i></p>	<b>D-</b>

# UPCOMING EVENTS & WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED

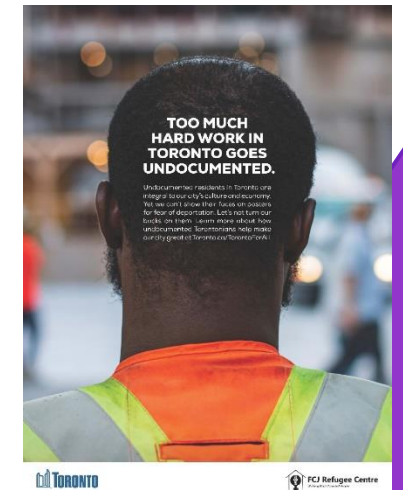
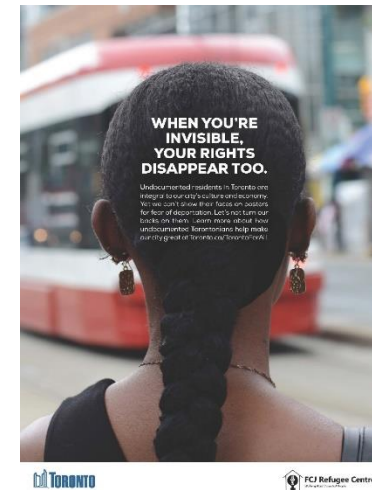
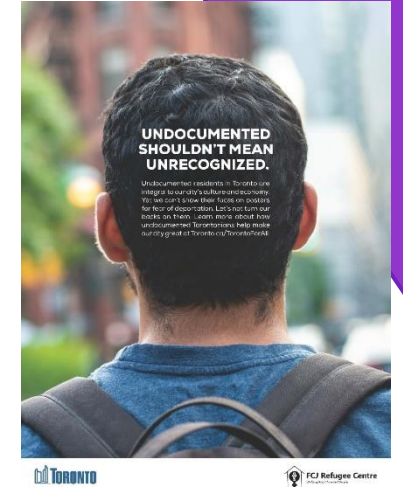
- [FCJ Refugee Centre Website](#)
- [Art Show & Benefit Fundraising Night](#)
- [FCJ Winter 2024 Newsletter](#)
- [FCJ Youth Network Bestie Book](#)
- [FCJ Volunteering Opportunities](#)
- [FCJ Placement Students](#)



## WHO IS ACCOUNTABLE?

- When vulnerable populations are marginalized, it often falls to local, grass roots efforts to support and advocate for equitable access and equal rights.
- Using your privilege as power.
- Importance of allies & networks
- Advocacy - the needle is moving; but it takes collective action and tireless advocacy

## Toronto For All Campaign







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# QUESTIONS?

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## Connect with us:

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 FCJ Refugee Centre

# Thank you

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