

Resolution by the Catholic Bishops of Canada on Refugees

WHEREAS our world today is witnessing an unprecedented crisis in which there are more refugees and displaced persons than at the end of World War II;

WHEREAS many of these refugee families have no reasonable hope of returning to their homes;

WHEREAS the Catholic Church in Canada possesses incredible untapped potential to welcome and resettle many of these refugees;

WHEREAS the CCCB President has issued a challenging Open Letter to Catholics on the Refugee Crisis;

WHEREAS the CCCB Commission for Justice and Peace is currently preparing a pastoral letter on this dire situation;

WHEREAS Pope Francis has recently called on every parish, religious community, and shrine in Europe to welcome a refugee family (cf. Angelus, 6 September 2015):

The Bishops of Canada call on

- *Every Catholic parish and religious community in Canada that has the resources to sponsor a refugee family to seriously consider doing so, either alone or working in collaboration with others;*
- *All Catholics to support refugees abroad, through agencies such as Development and Peace (a member of the Caritas Internationalis network), CNEWA, Aid to the Church in Need, or Jesuit Refugee Service;*
- *All Catholics to fast and pray for a peaceful resolution to the conflicts that have created so many refugees and displaced persons;*
- *The Government of Canada to expand, accelerate, and facilitate the private sponsorship of refugees during this time of urgent need.*

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