

CANADA ANNOUNCES NEW INITIATIVE TO SUPPORT LGBTQ2 REFUGEES

Canada is introducing the Rainbow Refugee Assistance Partnership, which will support more Canadians in privately sponsoring LGBTQ2 refugees who are fleeing violence and persecution.

Starting in 2020, the new initiative builds on the success of the Rainbow Refugee Assistance Pilot, by increasing the number of privately sponsored refugees from 15 to 50 per year. This unique partnership is in addition to the existing refugee programs, which continue to provide protection to LGBTQ2 and other vulnerable people from around the world.

The Rainbow Refugee Assistance Partnership, established in cooperation with the Rainbow Refugee Society, will encourage more Canadians to

support LGBTQ2 refugees and will help strengthen collaboration between LGBTQ2 organizations and the refugee settlement community in Canada.

Canada recognizes the specific vulnerabilities that LGBTQ2 refugees face and will continue to work closely with the community to help them make Canada their home.

"LGBTQ2 refugees have faced unimaginable circumstances just for being who they are. Canada will protect them and help keep them safe. The LGBTQ2 community has been steadfast in their mission in raising awareness of the unique needs of LGBTQ2 refugees among Canadians and helping these most vulnerable people feel safe at long last."

— The Honourable Ahmed

Hussen, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship

"LGBTQ2 populations around the world face ongoing challenges due to discrimination and criminalization based on their sexual orientation, gender expression and identity. Our Government has demonstrated a leadership role through commitments, such as this initiative, to advance human rights and to safeguard vulnerable people. We will continue to stand up for LGBTQ2 rights both at home and abroad."

— Randy Boissonnault, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister on LGBTQ2 issues



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