



**CLEO**

Community Legal Education Ontario  
Éducation juridique communautaire Ontario

# Understanding special immigration measures, eligibility criteria, and pathway options for Gazans

**Speakers:**

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Immigration and Refugee Lawyer, Debbie Rachlis Law

**Thursday, July 18, 2024**

12-1:30 pm



## What can you expect today?

90 minutes in total (presentation and Q+A)

This webinar may contain legal information, not legal advice.

The information is current as of today's date July 4, 2024

Recording and slides will be sent out afterward.

ASL Interpretation is available today. Subtitles (closed captioning) have also been enabled.



# Land Acknowledgement

CLEO's work takes place across the home and traditional territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Haudenosaunee, and the Wyandot peoples, on land that many of us know as Ontario.

As we provide legal information today, we acknowledge the ongoing impact of colonization and anti-Indigenous racism, built into our laws and legal systems, resulting in deep and harmful inequality for Indigenous Peoples of every generation.

We also recognize the incredible amount of work and leadership that Indigenous Peoples contributed to the Calls to Action in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission report calling for Equity for Indigenous Peoples in the Legal System.



# Special Immigration Measures and Pathway Options for Gazans



## **Extended Family Members in Gaza Program**

Special immigration measures to facilitate applications for temporary resident visas (“TRVs” or visitor visas) for Palestinians who are in Gaza or who normally live in Gaza.

# Program Overview

- Must be related to a **Canadian citizen or permanent resident** who lives or intends to live in Canada
- Canadian family members must make **promise of support for 1 year**
- Extended family members will be allowed to stay in Canada for up to three years
- Access to fee-exempt study permit or fee-exempt work open work permit in Canada
- Three months of health coverage through the Interim Federal Health Program (IFHP)
- Capped at **5000 applicants**

# Who Can Apply

Must have an eligible anchor relative

- Canadian citizen or permanent resident
- 18 years old +
- Residing in Canada or intending to reside in Canada
- Cannot be on social assistance (disability support is ok) -> no OW, yes ODSP
- Cannot be in default of any sponsorship undertaking, support payment obligations, or debt to government
- Not convicted of a serious criminal offence
- Not subject to removal order
- Willing to provide support for one year

# Who Can Apply II

## **Group 1 - Extended Family of Anchor**

- Spouse or common-law partner
- Child (of any age)
- Grandchild
- Parent
- Grandparent
- Sibling (half-siblings and adopted siblings included)

## **Group 2 - Family Members of Person in Group 1**

- Spouse or common-law partner of member of Group 1
- Dependent child (including dependent child of spouse or common-law partner) of member of Group 1
- Dependent child of a dependent child of member of Group 1

# Other Eligibility Requirements

- Must have a passport or travel document issued by the Palestinian Authority
- Group 1 family member must be in Gaza on the day the application is submitted
- Must meet all of the regular admissibility requirements except for financial admissibility requirements (misrepresentation, criminality, security)

# Flexibility Around Eligibility

- Applications for Group 2 family members where Group 1 family member has been killed, is missing, and similar circumstances
- Inclusion of some *de facto* dependents - people who do not meet IRCC's definition of a dependent family member but who are emotionally and/or economically dependent on the family
  - Unmarried children over 22 years old who live with the family and are emotionally/financially dependent (especially unmarried women)
  - Adults with disabilities who are not overage dependent children, such as an adult sibling with a disability who is cared for by the family
  - Elderly people who are cared for by the family
  - Minor children in relationship of guardianship or informal adoption

# Eligibility- Program Updates

- Applications from those who made it out of Gaza and whose family members submitted statutory declarations but have not yet received codes.
- Applications from people who normally live in Gaza, and would otherwise be eligible for the program, but were outside of Gaza when conflict began in October 2023 and could not return. These individuals must have left Gaza **no earlier than August 1, 2023.**
- Applications from **immediate family members** of Convention refugees/protected persons (**not refugee claimants**), international students, and those in Canada with valid work permits. Other family members can be considered on case-by-case basis. **Excludes those who obtained work and study permits under Special Measures.**

# Application Process

## Stage One

Anchor relative completes the statutory declaration form

## Stage Two

Anchor relative (or their representative) submits the statutory declaration and supporting documents through an IRCC webform.

## Stage Three

Once the anchor relative has received unique reference codes from IRCC, they submit TRV applications for each family member through IRCC's online portal.



# Stage Two: Crisis Webform

- One webform for each family unit
- Webform must include the full names of the anchor and all family members in the family unit applying for the TRV
- Must attach:
  - Statutory declaration form
  - A copy of the anchor's government issued ID
  - Anchor's proof of status as a Canadian citizen or PR
  - Proof that the anchor lives or intends to live in Canada

The screenshot shows the Government of Canada website header with the logo and text in both English and French. Below the header is a navigation menu with a dropdown arrow. The main content area features a large exclamation mark icon and the heading "Crisis situation: Contact us urgently". A sub-heading reads: "If you've been affected by a crisis situation, choose an option below and complete the form with as much detail as you can provide." There are two main sections: one for crisis situations and one for non-affected individuals. The crisis section includes a red exclamation mark icon, a warning message, a dropdown menu for "What do you need to do? (required)", and a "Previous" button. The non-affected section has a heading "If you're not affected by a crisis". To the right, a section titled "Complete the crisis web form" provides a list of 8 steps for users to follow. At the bottom right, there is a button that says "Go to our crisis web form" with an external link icon.

Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada

MENU

Home > Departments and agencies > Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada > Contact IRCC > Client contact > Crisis

## Crisis situation: Contact us urgently

If you've been affected by a crisis situation, choose an option below and complete the form with as much detail as you can provide.

**!** This page is for certain crisis situations. **process your request.**

**\* What do you need to do? (required)**  
Please select an option

Previous

If you're not affected by a crisis

## Complete the crisis web form

Follow these steps to submit a crisis web form.

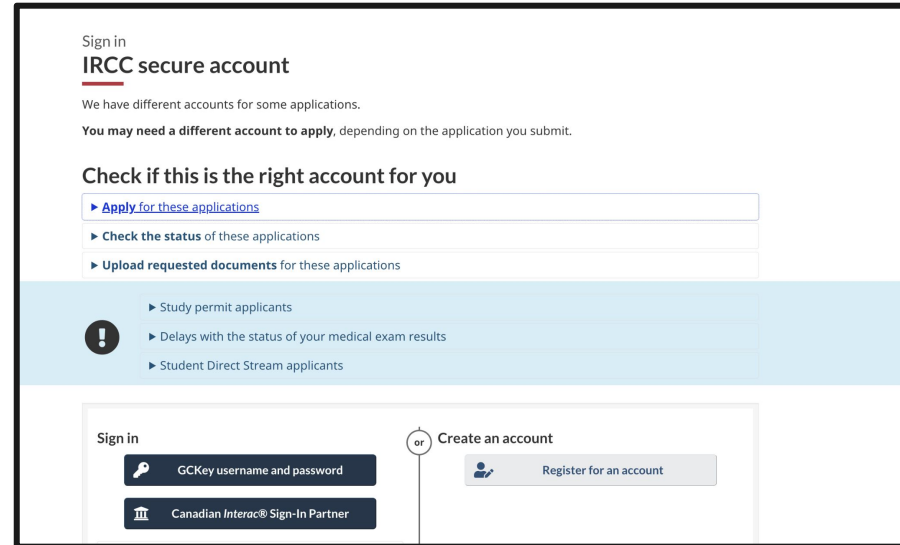
**!** If you're a representative and you're applying for more than 1 family unit, you must submit a separate crisis web form for each family unit.

1. When asked "What do you need to do?", select the option **Gaza special measures – Apply for a temporary resident visa for extended family members**.
2. Complete the required fields.
  - If a representative is applying on behalf of you and your family members, they should complete the web form using their information.
3. In the text box under "Tell us about your situation" list the full names of the anchor as well as every person in your family unit who is applying for a TRV under these measures.
4. Upload the required documents listed above.
  - If your documents are too large and go over the maximum file size allowed, you need to reduce the file size.
5. Review your web form to make sure everything is accurate.
6. Read the consent and disclaimer and check the box.
7. Submit the form.
8. If you're a representative and you're submitting a crisis web form for more than 1 family unit, start again at step 1 and complete a new crisis web form for the next family unit.

Go to our crisis web form

# Stage Three: TRV Application

- Once codes have been received from IRCC, applicants must submit TRV applications using the IRCC portal
- Include unique reference code and additional required documents for each applicant
- Documents not in English or French must be translated by a certified translator or an affidavit certifying translation must be provided



Sign in  
**IRCC secure account**

We have different accounts for some applications.  
**You may need a different account to apply**, depending on the application you submit.

**Check if this is the right account for you**


- ▶ [Apply for these applications](#)
- ▶ Check the status of these applications
- ▶ Upload requested documents for these applications


! Study permit applicants


- ▶ Delays with the status of your medical exam results
- ▶ Student Direct Stream applicants

Sign in

or Create an account

 GCKey username and password

 Canadian Interac® Sign-In Partner

 Register for an account

# Additional Required Documents

- The same completed **statutory declaration form** submitted with the web crisis form
- **Consent to disclose personal information form** for each applicant 18 years of age or older or if it is impossible to obtain a signed form, a screenshot or image of text message or email granting consent to share information for each applicant 18 years of age or older
- **Additional background information form** for each applicant between ages 14 to 79
- A copy of the **applicant's passport** or a letter of explanation if not available
- **Proof of relationship** to anchor or Group 1 family member or a letter of explanation if not available

# After Submission - What Was Promised

- IRCC will verify that information on TRV application matches information on webform submissions
- Application reviewed for completeness
- If application is approved, will be notified through portal
- IRCC will get in touch with instructions about exiting Gaza
- Biometrics (if required) will be collected outside of Gaza
- IRCC will cover cost of hotel stay for 2 nights

# After Submission - The Reality



Palestinians walk past the ruins of houses in Gaza City on March 20 [Dawoud Abu Alkas/Reuters]

By **Jillian Kestler-D'Amours**

5 Apr 2024



- Some people still waiting for codes
- No one has received instructions from IRCC about exiting Gaza
- No one has exited Gaza under this program
- The Rafah border crossing has been closed since May 2024 - no one is going in or out



Questions?

# Troubleshooting Applications

- Anchor relative submitted statutory declaration but has not received codes
  - Member of Parliament's office to follow up
  - Gaza Family Reunification Project group litigation - [gazafamilyreunificationproject@gmail.com](mailto:gazafamilyreunificationproject@gmail.com)
- Anchor relative submitted statutory declaration and received response saying statutory declaration was incomplete or missing information
  - Legal professional to review statutory declaration for completeness
  - Gaza Family Reunification Project group litigation - [gazafamilyreunificationproject@gmail.com](mailto:gazafamilyreunificationproject@gmail.com)

# Troubleshooting Applications II

- Applications submitted, family stuck in Gaza
  - Member of Parliament's office
  - Gaza Family Reunification Project group litigation - [gazafamilyreunificationproject@gmail.com](mailto:gazafamilyreunificationproject@gmail.com)
- Family outside of Gaza, applications submitted, no decision yet
  - If family applied from inside Gaza, make sure they have done their biometrics.
  - If family applied from inside Gaza, make sure IRCC knows that family is now outside Gaza using webform, update contact information.
  - Member of Parliament's office to request assistance making inquiries.

# Troubleshooting Applications III

- Applicants receive letter requesting more information (detailed work history, information about political activities, etc.) . This is a **red flag** for possible inadmissibility concerns. Get legal advice/representation from a representative with lots of experience in these types of cases.
- Application including overage dependents, *de facto* family members, ineligible family members. Get legal advice/representation from a representative with lots of experience in these types of cases.



# Other Options

# Normal Immigration Pathways

- Family sponsorships (spouses, dependent children, parents/grandparents)
- Refugee family reunification - overseas dependents of Convention refugees and persons in need of protection
- Student visas and work permits
- Express Entry/economic immigration

## **BUT**

- Cannot complete biometrics in Gaza
- Completing other requirements of immigration applications currently very difficult or impossible in Gaza (language testing, educational assessments, immigration medical examinations, police clearance certificates, renewing passports)
- No one is able to leave Gaza at this time

# Economic Mobility Pathways Pilot

Pilot program enabling skilled refugees and other displaced people to immigrate to Canada.

## 1. Regional Economic Mobility Pathways Pilot

- Must be eligible for one of the regional immigration programs (Atlantic Immigration Program, Provincial Nominee Programs for each province and territory, or the Rural and Northern Immigration Program)
- Applicant applies first to the province, territory, or Rural and Northern Immigration Program community of their choice
- Some exemptions from certain requirements under the Atlantic Immigration Program and Rural and Northern Immigration Program.

# Economic Mobility Pathways Pilot II

## 2. Federal Economic Mobility Pathways Pilot

### Job Offer Stream

- Applicant must have valid job offer for full-time, non-seasonal job from a Canadian employer
- Must meet work experience requirements
- Training, education and experience must align with job offer
- Language requirements in English or French using approved language test
- Proof of settlement funds (loans ok)

### No Job Offer Stream - capped at 150 applications/year

- Work experience requirements
- Canadian secondary school credential or Educational Credential Assessment
- Minimum score of at least CLB/NCLC 7 in each of four language abilities
- Proof of settlement funds (no loans)

# Other Options?

## Temporary resident permits (“TRP”)

- A permit may be granted in exceptional circumstances to people who do not meet the normal requirements for a visitor visa or other temporary status in Canada
- Must demonstrate strong reasons to enter Canada
- Discretionary

## Refugee sponsorship

- Those registered with UNRWA are excluded from Group of 5 sponsorship
- No refugee determination by UNHCR or government of Egypt for Palestinians from Gaza
- Sponsorship agreement holder (SAH) may be able to sponsor
- Takes many years



# Special Measures for People in Canada

# Measures for Israeli Nationals, Palestinian Passport Holders and Family Members in Canada

- Special measures are in place for:
  - o Israeli citizens
  - o Palestinian passport holders in Canada, including those who have arrived in Canada through the Gaza extended family member program
  - o Family members of Canadian citizens and permanent residents who left Israel or the Palestinian Territories on or after October 7, 2023
- TRV valid for up to three years (so long as passport and biometrics are valid)
- Can apply to extend before TRV expires with updated passport/biometrics
- 90 days of healthcare coverage through the Interim Federal Health Program
- Can apply for fee exempt open work permit or student permit



# Options for Obtaining Permanent Residence in Canada

# Obtaining Permanent Status in Canada

- Program is intended to provide “temporary refuge”
- No specific program for obtaining permanent resident status in Canada
- We may see a program to allow people who came under the program to apply for permanent residence in Canada, as we saw with Ukrainians, but nothing has been announced
- There is no rush! Most people have status that is valid for three years.

# Normal Immigration Pathways

- Family sponsorships
  - Spouse/common-law partner
  - Dependent children
  - Parent/grandparent (subject to lottery, 2024 intake is from 2020 inventory)
- Express Entry (economic immigration programs)
  - Canadian Experience Class
  - Federal Skilled Worker program
  - Federal Skilled Trades program
- Provincial Nominee Programs (regional economic immigration programs)

# Refugee Claims

- Definitions of Convention refugee and person in need of protection are very narrow.
  - Simply being from Gaza/any country where there is serious conflict is likely not enough to meet the definition.
- Refugee claimants get access to a range of services, including healthcare through IFHP, social assistance, housing supports
- Most successful claimants are eligible to apply for permanent residence and can include overseas dependents on their applications.
- Cannot return to the Palestinian Territories in the future (at least until they are Canadian citizens)
- **Get legal advice** from an experienced refugee lawyer before submitting an application!
- Most refugee claimants in Ontario are represented by a lawyer on a certificate from Legal Aid Ontario subject to meeting financial eligibility requirements.

# Humanitarian and Compassionate Applications

- Application for permanent residence from within Canada for people who do not qualify for permanent residence through other avenues.
- Applicants can put forward any reason for why they should be allowed to stay in Canada
- Immigration officer must consider what is in the best interests of any child affected by the application
- Other common factors for consideration:
  - Hardship in country of origin
  - Applicant's ties to Canada
  - Establishment or settlement in Canada
- Important to get legal advice and representation from an experienced immigration representative!
- More information on H&C applications can be [found here](#).



# **Important Info and Tips about TRVs through the Extended Family Members in Gaza Program**

# Where to Find Information on the Program

[Updated Temporary Public Policy - Extended Family Members](#)

[Program Website - Crisis in Gaza: Special Measures for Extended Family Members](#)

[IRCC Portal](#)

[IRCC Contact Information - Gaza Crisis](#)

- Crisis web form
- Crisis phone line
- Instructions on updating contact information on your application

# Using a Representative

## Authorized Representative

- You may wish to hire a representative to assist you in your application
- It is very important that you only hire an authorized representative
- Will have to provide signed Use of a Representative form

## Family Member or Friend Acting as a Representative

- Family members, friends, and third parties can act as **unpaid representatives**
- Will have to provide signed Use of a Representative form

The applicant is responsible for all of the information provided in their application even if it was completed by your representative.

It is misrepresentation to provide misleading information about your representative (such as saying a paid representative is unpaid, or using an unauthorized paid representative).

## Resources:

[Find out more about hiring an authorized representative](#)

[How can I tell if my immigration or refugee legal representative is reliable?](#)

# Important Info for Applicants and Loved Ones

All information provided to IRCC must be complete and accurate. Canada is very strict about misrepresentation (being truthful or not providing all relevant information) even if it is done by mistake.

To avoid misrepresentation:

- Read all forms and instructions carefully
- The applicant **must review** the application before submitting it.
- Check the Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada website if you are not sure what a term means. Check the [application guide](#) on the website, and the [IRCC Glossary](#).
- Double-check all dates.
- Don't forget to disclose all visa refusals to any country.
- If you cannot provide exact dates or you have missing information (such as not knowing someone's exact birthdate or their address), make sure you explain this in a submission letter.
- Provide additional information or explanations in a submission letter. Sometimes immigration forms do not allow applicants to explain their situation fully.
- Do not hide information because you hope IRCC will not find out!
- If you don't know, get legal advice!

# Tips and Tricks for Immigration Applications

[Downloading and opening immigration forms](#)

[How to create an IRCC Portal account](#)

[Updating Your Application](#)

How to provide an update on your immigration application

- [General webform](#)
- [Gaza program](#)

You must update your application if your contact information changes, your family situation changes (marriage, divorce, birth of a child, death of an applicant).

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# Program Specific Information and Guidance

# Proof of Relationship

If the applicant is in **Group 1**, they must provide proof of their relationship to their Canadian anchor

If the applicant is in **Group 2**, they must provide proof of their relationship to their Group 1 family member

No specific document requirement.

Examples of accepted documents: birth certificates for anchor relative and Group 1 family member showing they have the same parents, marriage certificate establishing relationship between Group 1 and Group 2 relatives, birth certificates establishing relationship between Group 1 and Group 2 relatives,

Documents not in English or French must be translated

# Consent to Disclose Personal Information Form

All applicants 18 years of age or older must provide a completed Consent to Disclose Personal Information Form (IMM 0707). This form authorizes sharing of information with the governments of Israel and Egypt. It is required to be able to exist Gaza.

Information that will be shared: full name, date of birth, sex, passport and/or national ID details, mobile phone number, current location by district.

Canada is making no assurances about how the information will be used once it has been shared

Names and personal information of those approved to cross at Rafah border are often published online.

# Consent to Disclose Personal Information Form II

## Situation A - Application Form

Completed application form for applicants 18 and over that are able to complete to do so.

## Situation B - Consent Text or Email

Each applicant 18 and over who is not able to access the IRCC portal and would like to authorize someone to submit their application can copy and paste [text from IRCC website](#) into a text message or email, fill in the required information (and make no other changes to the text!), and send the completed message to their representative. Representative will upload a screenshot or image of the text or email.

## Situation C - Verbal Consent to Representative

If applicants cannot access the IRCC portal **OR** provide consent text or email, a representative can obtain verbal consent and fill out the form on their behalf.

# Additional Background Information Form

Must be completed by all applicants between 14 and 79 years of age

Requires **extensive, detailed** personal information:

- Details of all previous passports
- All international travel in last 10 years
- All past telephone numbers
- All previous email addresses
- Usernames and account links for all social media accounts
- Full and detailed employment history since age 16
- Description of any scars or injuries which have required medical attention and explain how you sustained the scars or injuries
- Additional family information for all dependents and in-law family members

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# Immigration Definitions

# Who is a Dependent Child

A dependent child is:

- Biological or legally adopted child of the applicant or their spouse or common-law partner
- Under 22 years old, and
- Is not married or in a common-law relationship

An overage dependent child is:

- Biological or legally adopted child of the applicant or their spouse or common-law partner
- 22 years old or older, and
- Is financially dependent on their parent(s) since before turning 22, and
- Is unable to support themselves financially due to a physical or mental condition

# Who is a Dependent Child II

A dependent child of a dependent child is:

- The biological or legally adopted child of an individual who meets the definition of a dependent child.

This means that that the child's parent must be under 22 years of age and not married or in a common-law relationship. This includes a parent who is under 22 years of age and who is divorced, widowed, their marriage has been annulled, or their common-law relationship has ended.



# Newcomer Services

Overview of Support Across Various Organizations

with Mustafa Khan, MLSC Staff Lawyer  
on July 18, 2024



# Language Training

- Many organizations offer language training to help newcomers learn English for integrating and employment
- **Organizations:**
  - Settlement.org
  - Ottawa Community Immigrant Services Organization (OCISO)
  - YMCA Newcomer Services
  - Canadian Arab Women's Association (CAWA)

# Employment Support

- Services to assist newcomers in finding jobs, including job search workshops, resume writing, and interview preparation.
- **Organizations:**
  - Settlement.org
  - Ottawa Community Immigrant Services Organization (OCISO)
  - Multicultural Council of Windsor and Essex County (The MCC)
  - Centre for Immigrant and Community Services (CICS)
  - YMCA Newcomer Services

# Housing Assistance

- Help with finding affordable housing and navigating the rental market.
  - **Organizations:**
    - Arab Community Centre of Toronto (ACCT)
    - Canadian Arab Women's Association (CAWA)
    - Ottawa Community Immigrant Services Organization (OCISO)
    - Centre for Immigrant and Community Services (CICS)
-

# Healthcare Support

- Assistance with accessing healthcare services and understanding the healthcare system in Canada.
- Organizations:
  - Arab Community Centre of Toronto (ACCT)
  - Canadian Arab Women's Association (CAWA)
  - Ottawa Community Immigrant Services Organization (OCISO)
  - Multicultural Council of Windsor and Essex County (The MCC)
  - Centre for Immigrant and Community Services (CICS)
  - Justice for Children and Youth (JFCY)

# Mental Health Support

- Assistance with accessing Mental Health Support
- Organizations:
  - Free Palestine Mental Health Support
  - Arab Community Centre of Toronto (ACCT)
  - Canadian Arab Women's Association (CAWA)
  - Ottawa Community Immigrant Services Organization (OCISO)
  - Multicultural Council of Windsor and Essex County (The MCC)
  - Justice for Children and Youth (JFCY)

# Legal Rights and Advocacy

- Information and support regarding legal rights, including tenant rights and immigration services.
- **Organizations:**
  - Canadian Muslim Lawyers Association (CMLA)
  - Muslim Legal Support Centre (MLSC)
  - Legal Aid Clinics



# Community and Social Integration

- Programs to foster a sense of community and belonging through cultural events, social activities, and volunteer opportunities.
- **Organizations:**
  - Arab Community Centre of Toronto (ACCT)
  - Ottawa Community Immigrant Services Organization (OCISO)
  - Centre for Immigrant and Community Services (CICS)
  - YMCA Newcomer Services
  - Muslim Welfare Centre

# Youth and Family Services

- Support specifically targeted at youth and families, including counseling, after-school programs, and family workshops.
- Organizations:
  - Ottawa Community Immigrant Services Organization (OCISO)
  - YMCA Newcomer Services
  - Muslim Resource Centre for Social Support and Integration (MRCSSI)

# Youth Services

- Support specifically targeted at youth accessing school and other services
  - **Organizations:**
    - Justice for Children and Youth
    - Sanctuary Students Solidarity and Support Collective (S4)
-

# Youth Services: Justice for Children and Youth

- 30 minutes free summary legal advice over the phone
- School issues: right to attend, suspensions & expulsions, special education
- Criminal, Healthcare, Discrimination
- JFCY does not provide services for civil lawsuits; and generally not on family law matters [general@jfcy.clcj.ca](mailto:general@jfcy.clcj.ca)

— • GTA: 416-920-1633

# Youth Services: Sanctuary Students Solidarity and Support Collective (S4)

- “Sanctuary Students” people for whom immigration status is a barrier to accessing their secondary and post-secondary education
  - support Sanctuary Students with navigating various levels of education in Ontario
  - [s4collectiveto@gmail.com](mailto:s4collectiveto@gmail.com)
-

# Specialized Support for Women

- Programs aimed at supporting women through education, employment services, and advocacy.
  - **Organizations:**
    - Canadian Arab Women's Association (CAWA)
    - Centre for Immigrant and Community Services (CICS)
    - YMCA Newcomer Services
-

# Essential Information for Newcomers

Housing, Employment, and Immigration





# Housing Responsibilities and Standard Lease

- Responsibility: Housing arrangements by the Anchor
- Standard Lease: Ontario's standard lease (link: [Guide to Ontario's Standard Lease](#))
- Note: Tenants must have a valid lease to be protected

# Tenant Rights and Lease Exceptions

- **Rights:** Tenants have strong rights with a valid lease
- **Exceptions:** Sharing kitchen/bathroom with landlord excludes Residential Tenancies Act protection



# Deposits and Extra Charges

- **Deposits:**
  - First and last month's rent upfront; last month's rent as deposit
  - Key deposit refundable and should not exceed replacement cost
- **Extra Charges:**
  - Rent usually excludes utilities, parking, and storage; these should be listed in the lease

# Employment - Job Offer Scams



# Recognizing Job Offer Scams

- **Red Flags:**
    - Did not apply for the job
    - High salary with vague requirements
    - Suspicious email addresses and no contact number
    - Requests for money or personal information upfront
  - **Action:**
    - Verify by calling company head office
    - Do not click links or download attachments from suspicious emails
-



# Reporting Scams and Writing Resumes

- Reporting: Report scams to [Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre](#) and [Better Business Bureau](#)
- How to write a Canadian resume ([link](#))

# Immigration Scams

Awareness and Prevention



# General Tips & Authentic Communication

- **General Tips:**
    - Only immigration officers can issue visas
    - Fees paid to “Receiver General for Canada”
    - Contact MLSC or legal clinics for visa and immigration help
  - **Authentic Communication:**
    - IRCC will not ask for deposits into personal accounts or use free email services
    - Verify representatives through MLSC or legal clinics
-

# Fake Websites and Emails

- Websites: Ensure URLs match and are secure (look for “https://”)
- Emails: Scams include private/free email services, standard greetings, unexpected emails, and image-based messages



# Recognizing Official IRCC Emails

- Official IRCC Emails:

- End with @cic.gc.ca, @canada.ca,  
@international.gc.ca

- Usually from “do not reply”  
accounts with reply instructions

- IRCC encourages use of IRCC Web  
— form for correspondence tracking



# Telephone Scams

- Telephone Scams:
  - Scammers may ask for personal/financial info (date of birth, SIN, credit card number, bank account information)
  - IRCC agents will identify themselves
  - Ask for name and number of Agent and call IRCC Call Centre at 1-888-242-2100 to verify
- Resource: Fraud prevention tips ([fraud-prevention-tip-sheet-eng.pdf](#))

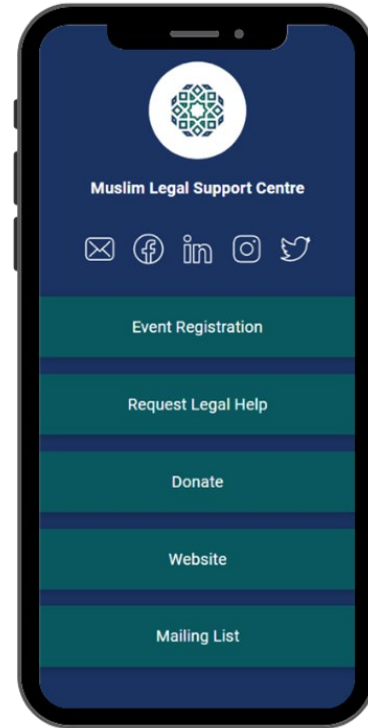


Questions?

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# Stay Connected

- **Email:**  
[info@muslimlegalcentre.ca](mailto:info@muslimlegalcentre.ca)
- **Links:**  
[www.linktr.ee/muslimlegalsc](http://www.linktr.ee/muslimlegalsc)  
or scan the QR code to the right



SCAN ME



# Upcoming Event

## Event Registration Link:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/951029794717?aff=oddtcreator>

### ALTERNATIVE IMMIGRATION PATHWAYS

*ECONOMIC MOBILITY PATHWAY*



AUGUST 22ND, 2024



6:00PM - 7:30PM

Many are not aware of the Economic Mobility Pathway Pilot Program and how it can benefit skilled refugees and those displaced looking to work permanently in Canada. Join us for an informative virtual workshop that will guide you through the pathway, the eligibility criteria, and application process.



**YAMEENA ANSARI**

IMMIGRATION  
LAWYER



**KELLY O'CONNOR**

IMMIGRATION  
LAWYER



Ministère de la Justice  
Canada

Department of Justice  
Canada



Muslim Legal  
Support Centre



**Thank you for attending!**



# Steps to Justice Legal Information

## Immigration

- Sponsoring Family Members
- Temporary Resident Permits - applying from outside of Canada



# Legal Resources

- [Muslim Legal Support Centre](#) - The MLSC is a non-profit organization that provides legal services and programs for Muslims living in Ontario.
- [Debbie Rachlis Law](#) - Immigration and Refugee private practice lawyer.
- [Arab Canadian Lawyers' Association](#): Support with Anti-Palestine and Anti-Arab racism, including job consequences for Palestine support activities. [Employee Rights Guide](#).
- [Legal Centre for Palestine](#) - Provides consultation and defence for Palestinians and those in solidarity who advocate for Palestinian human rights. See this [reporting tool](#) (online form) where people can document and triage incidents of anti-Palestinian racism in Canada including harassment, censorship, and punishment.



# Legal Resources

- [Palestine Legal Referral Services](#): Launched in collaboration with Labour 4 Palestine and the Canadian Labour Lawyer Association. It connects Palestinians and people expressing views in support of Palestine who experience repercussions in the workplace with experienced legal counsel. The initial consultation is free, and they'll contact you in 24 hours. They can also provide advice in areas of professional discipline, housing, defamation, and academic investigations.
- [Refugee Law Office](#) Legal Aid Ontario's Refugee Law Office helps clients prepare claims for refugee status at refugee determination hearings before the Immigration and Refugee Board. You must qualify for Legal Aid. [LAO financial eligibility guidelines](#).



# Legal Resources

- Canadian Bar Association Immigration Law Section's [Pro Bono Initiative for Israel-Gaza](#) - An initiative to provide services, without charge, to individuals in relation to selected temporary public policies of IRCC. These services may include legal consultations and advice. The CBA and lawyers offering pro bono services cannot guarantee that you will have a pathway temporary or to permanent residence, based on your country of citizenship or your personal circumstances. Also, for Sudan and Ukraine.
- [Canadian Muslim Lawyers' Association's Referral Directory](#)
- Report an incident of Islamophobia to the [National Council of Canadian Muslims](#)



## Community and Legal Resources

[Find your community legal clinic](#) – 1-800-668-8258

**Legal Aid Ontario** [How do I apply for Legal Aid?](#) Call Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

1. [416-979-1446](#) (Greater Toronto Area)
2. [1-800-668-8258](#) (toll-free)

[Justice Net](#) is a not-for-profit service helping people in need of legal expertise, whose income is too high to access legal aid and too low to afford standard legal fees.



# Community Supports + Resources

- [Gaza Family Reunification Project](#) updates and information on immigration measures for Gazans [Guide to applying for a Temporary Resident Visa/Permit](#)
- [Justice for Children and Youth CASA Program](#): Supports young people brought to Canada as children, living in Ontario with precarious or no immigration status. JFCY lawyers provide free and confidential legal services; help with immigration pathways, connections to supports and resources, and access for education and healthcare services.
- The [FCJ Access To Education Program](#) offers newcomers and precarious migrants formal and informal education support with enrollment and integration at the Elementary, Secondary, and Post-Secondary levels.



## Community Supports and Resources

- [Free Palestine Mental Health Support](#) Mental Health Professionals around the world who want to help in some small way by offering therapy services for FREE and quickly to Palestinians anywhere in the world who have been affected by the conflict and anyone at all affected by vicarious trauma associated with this genocide.
- [Home Essentials Newcomer Support \(HENS\)](#): a dedicated volunteer-based organization that helps newcomer families settle into their new homes in Thorncliffe Park, Flemingdon Park, and the Scarborough area by providing essential household goods.
- [Settlement.org](#): Should I get help with my immigration application from an immigration consultant or lawyer? ALSO other settlement information.



## Government Resources

### Federal Government

[Special measures to apply for a temporary resident visa \(TRV\) are in place for Palestinians.](#)

[Find your Member of Parliament:](#) request support or information from your Federal representative.



## Campaigns for Change

- [International Centre of Justice for Palestinians](#)
- [Bystanders No More](#)
- [Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East](#)
- **ALSO:** [17<sup>th</sup> Toronto Palestine Film Festival 2024](#)



# Indigenous Education and Resources

## Calls to action: Truth and Reconciliation

- [Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action](#)
- [Income Security: A roadmap for change \(October 2017\)](#)
- [Settlers Take Action](#)

## Support

- [Survivors Secretariat – recovery, reclamation and revitalization](#)

## Education

- [Indigenous Canada - Free Course](#)
- [Whose Land?](#)

Learn about where you are situated, information for land acknowledgements and learn about the treaties and agreements signed across Canada (Turtle Island).



**CLEO**

Community Legal Education Ontario  
Éducation juridique communautaire Ontario

# Thank you for joining us!

Subscribe to [CLEO Connect](#) for updates on new legal information and upcoming webinars.

Steps to Justice – [Steps to Justice](#)

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