



Update on Syrian crisis

We receive lots of applications from Syrian refugees asking for help, including many families with young children, who we are sponsoring and assisting. Many are professional people - doctors, engineers, teachers, university lecturers, whose lives have been literally torn apart. They need a safe place to restart their lives, and they are very concerned that their children are able to continue their education without interruption.

Two young African refugee women, Rehema and Irene, were caught up in the bombing of Damascus, and Sanctuary provided assistance to help them leave war-torn Syria, and cross the dangerous border into Turkey. They were captured by rebels and thankfully released, as they fled the country. We have sponsored them for an Australian Humanitarian Visa and hope that their case will succeed. We have been in touch with UNHCR Turkey to assist them.

“In today’s world it is very difficult to find a true life saver who stay with us when we are in need of them and we can completely count on. But Sanctuary is unique in this way. Thank you”.

(from Rehema and Irene, now safe in Turkey)

Fleeing from the Syrian regime

A story from a Syrian Architect and mother being sponsored by Sanctuary.

While in Damascus, the Syrian secret police raided our home looking for my husband and I. It was clear to us that we had to leave the Government controlled areas as quickly as possible.

We went to Sarmada in the opposition controlled area of Syria where the Government regime could not reach. We started to volunteer in a refugee camp helping children with basic reading and writing as well as psychosocial activities. One day armed Islamic extremists and militias arrived.

I was arrested and dragged to court in Bab Al Hawa border because I was not wearing Hajib (veil). They brought my husband handcuffed to their “court” and they informed him that I am unveiled and teaching the children un-useful and non-appropriate things and am keeping them away from fighting for God’s sake (Jihad) and they should kill me for that.

My family in the village came to the court and paid a lot of money while promising that I will end my activities helping children and I will pray to God for forgiveness.

That same day I was forced to leave to Turkey and leave my husband and little daughter, who were hiding in the village in opposition controlled Syria as they did not have passports. It took 3 months (with no communication) before my daughter and husband finally reached Turkey to join me.

This family have now received sponsorship from Sanctuary and we hope that their case will be successful.

*Name kept anonymous for security reasons



Providing education for poor children in Eastern DRC

Sanctuary has partnered with ROAR Congo Network (RCN) to help educate disadvantaged internally displaced refugee children in South Kivu province, Eastern DRC.

We plan to bring a smile to these children's faces, as Placide, director of RCN in London, visits the Congo for the coming month, to help bring aid (including donations from Sanctuary supporters) to assist children with their education.

We believe that all children should have an education, especially those who have been through so much suffering in war zones.

Placide recently visited the primary school for girls, and another school which is under construction. There is also an adult education centre which provides skills in sewing, carpentry and hairdressing, and can literally change the lives of

those living in poverty.

Please help if you can. For just \$50 (a tax-deductible donation) you can educate a child for one year including providing them with a school uniform. Please visit:

givenow.com.au/sanctuaryrefugeefoundation

Visa application process for refugees

Currently, it can take as long as a year before submitted applications for sponsored refugees are assessed by the Australian Government. Refugees need hope to continue in such extreme circumstances and so many times Sanctuary is the only hope they have to keep going. Refugees often hear about Sanctuary through others within the camps, and often our contact details are shared.

We provide direct assistance visa sponsorship, and interest-free travel loans once they are approved to come here by the Australian Government, as well as welcome and settlement support through our network of Sanctuary groups nationwide.

We have had good indications from Government that more places will be available to offshore sponsored refugee applicants towards the end of the year.

Sanctuary continues to sponsor and support refugees from different war-torn areas of the world, including Africa, the middle east and Burma. Many are suffering in squalid camps like Kakuma, in N.Kenya for years on end.

For information on Sanctuary's work, visit:
www.sanctuaryaustraliafoundation.org.au
Email: safoundation@westnet.com.au
To donate and support refugees visit:
www.givenow.com.au/sanctuaryrefugeefoundation