



## AM I ELIGIBLE?

- **To come to Canada as a refugee, you must be referred by either UNHCR or a private sponsorship group.**
- **You may be classified, under a visa, as a convention refugee by the Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB) or a person in need of protection.**
- **Convention refugee: if you have a future-oriented, well-founded fear of persecution in your home country based on your sexual orientation or gender identity.**
- **Person in need of protection: if you are in danger of torture or cruel and unusual punishment because of your sexual orientation or gender identity if you return.**
- **To be eligible, it is your responsibility to prove that you are a member of either of these group.**



## HOW DO I MAKE A CLAIM?

- **You must make a claim to Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada.**
- **To make a claim as a refugee, you need to fill out an application package and undergo an interview with an IRCC official.**
- **If you are referred by the officer, you will then be scheduled for a hearing in front of the Refugee Protection Division.**
- **REMEMBER: Under the Immigration and Refugee Protections Act, you have a right to legal representation for your hearing through Legal Aid Manitoba if you can not afford representation. This is provided for by the Province of Manitoba.**

# **LGBTQ2\* REFUGEES**



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## **WHAT IF I AM REJECTED?**

- **You may appeal the decision to the Refugee Appeal Division if there is a question of law, of fact, or of mixed law and fact.**
- **The Refugee Appeal Division will decide whether to allow or reject your claim for refugee protection.**

## **WHO CAN ASSIST ME?**

- **While your claim is being considered, you are eligible to the rights guaranteed under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. These include certain rights to health care, including temporary coverage if you are ineligible under provincial and territorial health insurance.**



## WHO CAN ASSIST ME?

- There are programs specializing at supporting LGBTQ2\* refugees:
- Reaching Out Winnipeg is a program for those who face serious persecution based on sexual orientation or gender identity. Contact: [reachingoutwinnipeg@gmail.com](mailto:reachingoutwinnipeg@gmail.com)
- Rainbow Railroad assists LGBTQ2\* refugees throughout the process including services like legal aid, sponsorship matches and many other assistance programs. Contact: <https://www.rainbowrailroad.ca/gethelp>



## WHO CAN ASSIST ME?

- **Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP) provides government-assisted refugees immediate and essential support for basic needs. More information:**  
<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/refugees/help-within-canada/financial.html>
- **Immigration & Refugee Community Organization of Manitoba (IRCOM) provides after-school programs for youth, English courses, driving lessons, childcare services among many others. As well, IRCOM has apartments available for a period of up to three years for newcomers in which rent and amenities are taken care of. Contact:**  
**+1.204.943.8765 or email: [info@ircom.ca](mailto:info@ircom.ca)**



## WHO CAN ASSIST ME?

- **Manitoba Interfaith Immigration Council Inc.** provides both settlement services and In-Canada protection services. They seek out temporary housing, work, and otherwise educational and support services to newcomers to Canada. Contact: +1.204.940.1000
- **N.E.E.D.S. Manitoba (Newcomer Employment and Education Development Services)** is an agency that works with the Manitoba government to provide mentorship style programs especially concerned with education for youth and women immigrants and refugees. Contact: +1.204.940.1260