



Saanich Peninsula Refugee Initiative Group

UPDATE #25

July 1, 2020

It is the obligation of every person born in a safer room to open the door when someone in danger knocks.
Dina Nayeri

JUDICIAL REVIEW

Two months ago in UPDATE #24, we told you the sad news that **Safaa's application to come to Canada was not approved** because it did not meet all the conditions laid down by the Canadian government. Since then we have been working with Safaa in Lebanon to explore the possibility of reversing that decision.

Without touching the funds held in the St. John's United Church Refugee Sponsorship Fund, we have **consulted an immigration lawyer** experienced in denial cases who will provide us with his opinion on the chances of success through a judicial review. The SPRIG Steering Committee is wholeheartedly committed to doing as much as we can to ensure that Safaa's application has received procedural fairness.

The situation in Lebanon is becoming more difficult. The politics are volatile. Tension is compounded because thousands of Syrian refugees have fled there. The Covid 19 pandemic continues.

PRAY FOR SAFAA AND THE CHILDREN

Safaa is an amazingly strong, clear-headed woman. She courageously focuses on her children with the goal that **"they can have a better life, go to school and be secure"**. The girls turn 15, 14 and 9 this summer. Her baby boy is now 6 years old. They dream of living in a better world.

YOUR FEEDBACK

The funds held in trust by St. John's United Church can only be used for the settlement of refugees after they arrive in Canada. This money will remain untouched until Safaa arrives here as originally planned, or it will be used to sponsor other refugees.

Thank you very much to those of you who sent us comments after the last UPDATE. Your input is valued.

WORLD REFUGEE DAY - JUNE 20TH

World Refugee Day is an opportunity for all of us to recognize the difficulties refugees face, and the profound courage they demonstrate in searching for a new beginning. It is a moment to celebrate the incredible contributions that refugees have made to Canada.

— Joint statement on June 20th by the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and the Minister of International Development

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