



## SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH OF TORONTO

A MISSION OF COMMUNITY. A VISION OF UNITY.

September 27, 2017

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.  
Prime Minister of Canada  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau:

On behalf of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto, I am writing to you today regarding the refugee program in Canada.

Currently, our congregation is sponsoring two families from Syria who are now living happily in Toronto. We are also in the process of sponsoring three men from the Central African Republic currently living in a refugee camp in Ghana. Sisters, staff and volunteers have gained valuable insights into the lives of refugees through this challenging yet rewarding sponsorship experience.

We call on your government to accept at least 20,000 UNHCR-recommended refugees into Canada each year. As women religious working to improve the lives of those who are less fortunate, we feel it's critical that the world's most vulnerable people are welcomed and accepted into this country.

We also strongly encourage the government to prioritize approved claimants and assign their files expeditiously to private sponsorship groups who are ready and waiting to sponsor. Research shows that outcomes are better for refugees, and for communities, when refugees have the assistance of sponsorship groups or other community supports. Indeed, according to a 2007 *Citizenship and Immigration Canada* report, "sponsors have been successful in meeting the immediate needs of refugees and are providing support to refugees over the course of the sponsorship, and even sometimes beyond the one-year period."

Thank you for your continued attention to this matter. We believe most Canadians who are aware of this file would support our recommendations.

Yours truly,

Sr. Pat Boucher, CSJ  
Assistant Congregational Leader  
Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto

CC -The Honourable Ahmed D. Hussen, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship  
- Ms. Yasmin Ratansi, MP, Don Valley East