



## STEPS TO JUSTICE REFUGEE LAW

An OJEN workshop demonstrating a CLEO public legal information resource.





**1.** A "refugee claim" and a "humanitarian and compassionate application" (H&C) are the same thing.



2. Anyone can make a refugee claim.



**3.** I made a refugee claim to Australia 2 years ago, but they never got back to me, so I'm going to try and make one in Canada. They're nicer!



**4.** My husband is physically abusive to me and I live in a country where women don't have many rights. I think I can make an H&C application to Canada. I don't want my daughter to have the same life.



5. I came to Canada to escape violence, but when I got here I was told I am not eligible to even make a refugee claim.
I am terrified of being sent back to my home country, but I am out of options in Canada.



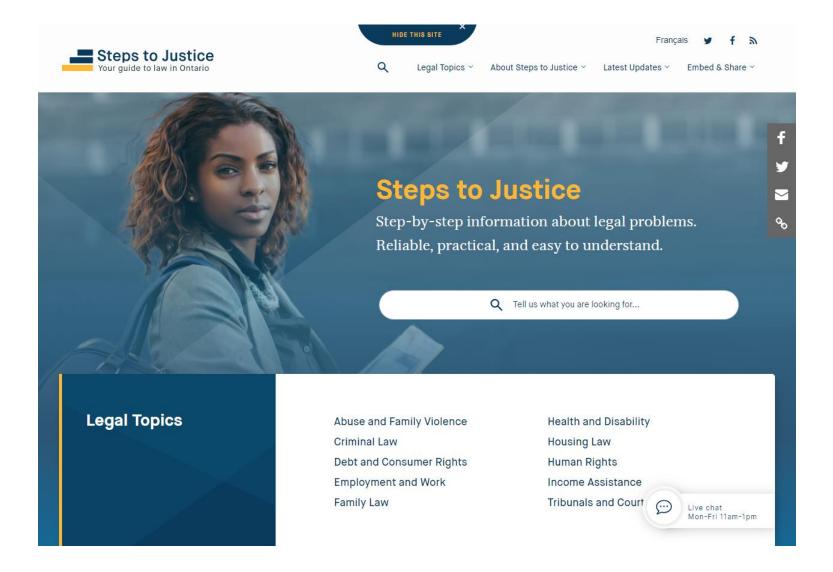
- What is a refugee?
- Steps and requirements for a refugee claim
- Refugee hearings
- Being detained
- Removal orders
- Benefits and services for claimants
- Permanent residency
- Judicial appeals and hearings



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Start on the Steps to Justice topic, "Making a refugee claim" with the question, "Can I make a refugee claim in Canada?"

## Some questions:

- What are the basic things you need to prove?
- What is the Safe Third Country Agreement and what happens if it applies to me?
- What are the exceptions to the STCA?
- What happens if the STCA does not apply?



- I. Navigate to the Steps to Justice website:
  - http://stepstojustice.ca
- 2. Read your scenario with your group.
- 3. Try to identify the main legal issues.
- 4. Imagine that you are the person in the scenario. Use the Steps to Justice website to answer the questions on your handout.
- 5. As you browse, try to find out more about how the law would affect the person in your scenario. What does it say? What are their options?
- 6. Record your answers on the handout.

If you get stuck, ask for help!

## Large Group Scenario

## **FOCUS AREAS:**

- 1) Getting help with refugee law
- 2) What happens at a refugee status hearing?
- 3) Best interests of children

I am a mother of two kids and I came to Canada to visit the country but I want to stay here because it's unsafe for me to go back. There is a war in my country. Famine is spreading and I want to give my children the best chance at a normal life. I want to find out if I can qualify as a refugee. I have heard that this involves a legal hearing of some sort but I don't know what to expect or where to look for help. What should I do? Do I need a lawyer?