

STEPS TO JUSTICE

REFUGEE LAW

An OJEN workshop demonstrating a CLEO
public legal information resource.



CLEO

Community Legal Education Ontario
Éducation juridique communautaire Ontario



True or false?

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



True or false?

2. Anyone can make a refugee claim.



True or false?

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!



True or false?

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.



True or false?

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.



Refugee Law in Ontario: *What is covered?*

- 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



Real Life Legal Problems

Demonstration Scenario

I have been living in Detroit for the past 4 years but I have been living in terrible conditions. I came for the American dream, but things didn't turn out as I had hoped. Can I make a refugee claim to Canada even though I live in the U.S.?



Steps to Justice



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Step-by-step information about legal problems.
Reliable, practical, and easy to understand.

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Live chat
Mon-Fri 11am-1pm



I have been living in Detroit for the past 4 years but I have been living in terrible conditions. I came for the American dream, but things didn't turn out as I had hoped. Can I make a refugee claim to Canada even though I live in the U.S.?

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?



**Using the
Steps to Justice
Website**



Group Work

1. 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?