

What is Refugee Rights Day?

Refugee Rights Day is celebrated each April 4th to bring attention to the advances made in the protection of refugee rights in Canada as a result of the Singh decision. Refugee Rights Day is also a time to learn about the threats to those rights.

Take action to protect refugee rights in Canada on April 4th:
www.ccrweb.ca/RRDay.htm



CANADIAN COUNCIL FOR REFUGEES
6839A Drolet #302, Montréal QC, H2S 2T1
tel. (514) 277-7223, fax (514) 277-1447
email: info@ccrweb.ca
website: www.ccrweb.ca

Refugee Rights Day April 4th



April 4, 1985: The Supreme Court of Canada says that everyone in Canada is entitled to justice when life, liberty or security of person is at stake.

The Singh decision is a milestone for refugee rights in Canada...



Canadian Council for Refugees
Conseil canadien pour les réfugiés

Why is the 1985 Singh decision important?

Because the Supreme Court recognized that:

- > The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms guarantees the basic rights of refugee claimants in Canada.
- > Refugee determination must respect the principles of fundamental justice.
- > Fundamental justice requires that, where credibility is an issue, refugee claimants must have an oral hearing.

Since the Singh decision...

- > An independent, specialized tribunal, the Immigration and Refugee Board, makes decisions on refugee claims following oral hearings.

Why an oral hearing is important...



When I was sending in the documents about my claim, in a language other than my mother tongue, I could not believe that I would get a fair decision. But when I got the chance to meet with the official, and talk with them face to face, and communicate in my own words what had happened to me, I knew that they could visualize and understand, and believe me.

*Kamau Ngugi,
recognized as a Convention refugee in Canada*

Take action this Refugee Rights Day!

But not all refugees are treated justly!



See www.ccrweb.ca for ideas to take action to protect refugee rights in Canada.



For refugees facing long delays in reuniting with family members

DEMAND that refugees in Canada be immediately reunited with family members who are overseas



For people who have been trafficked

DEMAND that the government change the law to protect the rights of trafficked persons in Canada



For refused refugee claimants given wrong decisions and without appeal.

DEMAND that the government implement the Refugee Appeal Division that is already in the law.



For those protecting refugees in Canada

DEMAND changes in Canadian law so no one acting on humanitarian motives is arrested for helping refugees