

LAMP LIFEBOAT LADDER

A public-private partnership for resettlement of refugee survivors of torture and sexual violence



“Every day I try to hide the mountain of pain inside me behind a small smile on my face, which might make some people recognize I am good. I hope someone will help me.” Ahmad A.

The Problem

Roughly 30% of refugees have suffered torture, including sexual torture, in their countries of origin. Many have suffered repeat violence in flight, on borders, and in camps or informal settlements. Healing from torture requires safety and stability, yet displacement is intrinsically unsafe and unstable. Harsh migration policies exacerbate abuse and ill-treatment and prevent recovery from torture. Thus, most victims of torture and sexual violence never have an opportunity to heal and rebuild their lives.

The Vision

Lamp Lifeboat Ladder is a public-private partnership that supports refugee victims of torture and sexual violence one by one as they rebuild their lives. The Canadian government has formally approved this partnership, thus authorizing Lamp Lifeboat Ladder to refer up to 90 victims of torture and sexual violence for resettlement to Canada, along with their family members (roughly 500 refugees). Reed Smith is the key implementing partner to the Canadian government, along with the Canadian Center for Victims of Torture, the World Refugee Council and several international medical organizations. Our goal is to make full use of the Canadian Government’s authorization of the resettlement of all 90 referrals by September 2022, and providing continued support in the years to come.

**BE A LAMP, OR A LIFEBOAT OR A LADDER.
HELP SOMEONE’S SOUL HEAL.** Rumi



HAKIM’S STORY

Hakim survived torture, and he is living in chronic pain and terror. He told us he feels forgotten, banished by the world.

AFINA AND HAYAT’S STORY

Afina and Hayat survived sexual torture in Syrian prisons and fled to a neighboring country. They had no path to citizenship or legal residency where they were, and they could not return to Syria. Following years of work the Lamp Lifeboat Ladder team were able to help Afina and Hayat relocate to Canada, where they are now rebuilding their lives with ongoing support.

AKEELAH’S STORY

Akeelah survived sexual violence in Sudan, and suffered daily exploitation in exile. She had no protection or legal status, and no access to justice for violations of her rights. Akeelah has now relocated to Canada where, with support from Lamp Lifeboat Ladder, she is able to focus on healing without constant fear and exploitation.

Help provide a safe path back to life for survivors of torture and sexual violence. **Visit lamplifeboatladder.org to donate today.**

- Sept 2019** Canadian Government signs Public Policies authorizing resettlement of 90 survivors
- Sept 2019** Reed Smith named implementing partner following 20 years of refugee work
- Dec 2019** Formation of the Survivor's Council.
- Jan 2020** Reed Smith begins developing 16 resettlement cases.
- Mar 2020** Global pandemic hits closing borders globally.
- Sept 2020** Lamp Lifeboat Ladder submits first two resettlement applications. Public Policies extended to Sept 2021.
- Dec 2020** First cases approved by Canadian Government, providing a new life for 4 adults and 7 children in Canada.
- Feb 2021** Dec 2020 - Feb 2021 Three more cases submitted.
- Mar 2021** First Lamp Lifeboat Ladder families board flights to Toronto.
- July 2021** 36 people relocated to Canada, with more applications underway
- Aug 2021** Public Policies currently set to expire in 2021 are extended another year to Sep 2022.

LampLifeboatLadder.org

THIS PROGRAM PROVIDES REFUGEE SURVIVORS OF TORTURE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE A PATHWAY TO RECOVERY AND PERMANENT SAFETY.

A personalized program that supports individuals one by one. Its goal is to help up to 90 families resettle in Canada.

Lamp Lifeboat Ladder will support each family in rebuilding their strength and their lives, and in their healing from torture. The resettlement of each family is guided by the personal experiences of other survivors, providing a tailored approach and optimal success. Our service marshals resources from various sectors in Canada—housing, health, education, employment, and community—to provide holistic healing.

The Opportunity

We must raise enough private funding to support each family in their rehabilitation and social integration in Canada. The number of families we can help is commensurate with the amount of money we can raise. Lamp Lifeboat Ladder will cover the cost of resettlement, housing, health care and essential needs for two years, for up to 90 families as they heal and rebuild their lives. Here are representative program costs.

“BEING A REFUGEE WITHOUT A COUNTRY IS A SECOND TORTURE.” **Hakim**

Lamp Lifeboat Ladder offers a new model of protection for survivors of torture and sexual violence. It rejects ideas of containment and exclusion of refugees and builds upon a vision of community and inclusion. By reimagining and expanding pathways for protection, Lamp Lifeboat Ladder allows each of us to play a role in supporting survivors who have lost their homeland and long to heal.

The story so far

42 people relocated to Canada

7 applications awaiting submission to assist

32 women & children

30 additional applications at various stages

\$1 million raised as of Sept 2021
1/3 of the money needed to support the relocation of 90 families

Cost of housing and support for 2 years

\$10,500 Single individual

>\$1 MILLION
30 families



To join us in building our new vision, please contact **Jayne Fleming** at **jfleming@reedsmith.com**