



**HANVOICE**

**Media Kit**

**2021**





UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL OCT 26, 2021

## HanVoice announces first-ever initiative to privately sponsor North Korean refugees in Canada

TORONTO, Oct. 26, 2021 - HanVoice, a Canadian human rights organization, announced today the historic launch of a private sponsorship pilot for North Korean refugees. This pilot program allows Canadians to privately sponsor and resettle North Korean refugees: for North Koreans who have undergone an arduous 5,000-kilometre journey to escape the harsh brutalities of an authoritarian regime, this program presents an opportunity to start life anew.

In partnership with Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), HanVoice will facilitate the process of bringing five North Korean refugee families to Canada within two years. The pilot will focus on the most vulnerable North Koreans, refugee women and their children, who currently make up 80% of refugees and are at significant risk of sexual and gender-based violence.

“North Koreans who have managed to flee their country have very few options of settling safely without risk of detention or repatriation. Canada is now a safe pathway”, says Sean Chung, Executive Director at HanVoice.

“In fact, Canada is the only country to resettle North Korean refugees using a private sponsorship model, a ‘made-in-Canada’ community-led approach that has been copied around the world. Canadians have rallied together to open up this historic pathway to bring North Koreans to Canada. We hope this can be the spark that opens new doors around the world for North Korean refugees.”

Canada is the first country to accept North Korean refugees through the help of ordinary citizens. North Koreans face many obstacles in resettling in third countries; Canada is now one of three countries that accepts North Koreans. The pilot launches in Feb 2021 and asks Canadians to donate to support the resettlement of North Korean refugees by visiting [www.hanvoice.ca](http://www.hanvoice.ca)

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### What is the role of HanVoice within this pilot program?

In addition to pre-screening and submitting sponsorship applications, HanVoice will be responsible for the selection and authorization of co-sponsors. Once approved, co-sponsors will be monitored and trained by HanVoice during the sponsorship period. This includes being provided with advice, expertise, and organizational assistance from HanVoice as well as other community organizations and settlement experts within the HanVoice network.

### Who are the groups being sponsored through this program?

Five North Korean women and their families located in transit countries are the priority group.

### Who can sponsor a North Korean family?

Private sponsors can participate in the program as co-sponsors. Eligible community groups, organizations, and corporations will work in partnership with HanVoice to sponsor and resettle North Korean families.

### How long is a sponsorship period?

Private sponsors must support the families for a 12-month-period starting from the family's arrival in Canada or until the family becomes self-sufficient, whichever comes first. In exceptional circumstances, the period may be extended to a maximum of 36 months.

### What happens after the 12-month sponsorship period?

Sponsored refugees are expected to successfully resettle in Canada. With the support of their sponsoring groups and HanVoice, the refugees will be self-sufficient and continue to integrate into Canadian society.

### What are the responsibilities of a sponsoring group?

Private sponsors must actively participate in the resettlement of the sponsored families by providing financial and social support. Their responsibilities include, but are not limited to: welcoming the newcomers at the airport upon arrival; providing the cost of food, rent and household utilities and other daily living expenses by fundraising; providing clothing, furniture and other household

goods; locating interpreters; selecting a family physician and dentist; assisting with applying for provincial health-care coverage and driver's license; enrolling children in school; and helping in the search for employment.

### What kind of support is provided to sponsoring groups?

Each sponsoring group will be assigned staff from HanVoice to act as a point of contact and ongoing resource throughout the sponsorship period.

### Where are the North Korean families coming from?

They are coming from undisclosed transit countries in Southeast Asia.

### Are there any other resettlement pathways for North Korean families?

Yes. Canada is one of three options, including the United States and South Korea. However, Canada provides a unique privately sponsored, as opposed to a government sponsored, option.





ABOUT HANVOICE

# A human rights group that bridges policy and action on North Korea

These efforts are focused in three areas:

1. Developing policy solutions for Canada to play a bigger role;
2. Supporting human rights projects around the world; and
3. Working directly with and for the North Korean people.

We envision a free and prosperous Korean Peninsula in our lifetime. Our mission is to develop Made in Canada solutions — things that only Canada and Canadians can do — to help get us there.

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INFO PACKAGE



© HanVoice / 2019  
Christopher Kim, Executive Director, at a Civil Society Roundtable hosted by Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland in January 2019.



© HanVoice / 2019  
Jack Kim, HanVoice Board Chair, at a community event with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in August 2019.



6 times that HanVoice has testified in Parliament



300 HanVoice members across the country



2,000 students engaged in the past 15 years