

How does someone get “refugee status”?

1. Usually, through an **interview** in the country that they are living in now to determine whether they meet the refugee definition. This process is conducted by either:
 - a) **The Government of the country**
 - b) **The UNHCR (United Nations Refugee Agency)**
 - c) **No one**
2. Sometimes, refugee status is determined on a “*prima facie*” basis (a group declaration)
 - Since 2012, to be sponsored by a Group of Five or Community Sponsor, the Principal Applicant **MUST** have a **REFUGEE STATUS RECOGNITION DOCUMENT** unless they are Syrian or Iraqi, as there is currently a temporary exemption of this regulation for Syrians and Iraqis.
 - Groups of Five or Community Sponsor applications without a copy of this document are not accepted by CIC (unless they are for Syrian or Iraqi refugees)