

In 1993, in Geneva, Canada chaired the Drafting Committee of the International Conference on the Protection of War Victims. Canada helped draft the Declaration on the Protection of Victims of War Crimes, which included specific references to the sexual assault of women during times of armed conflict. As part of the IFOR mandate, Canadian military personnel will help create a secure environment in Bosnia and Herzegovina for UN investigators gathering evidence for the prosecution of war crimes cases. They will detain indicted war criminals with whom they come into contact.

Special Immigration Measures

Special measures were introduced in July 1992 to help citizens of the former Yugoslavia join their relatives in Canada. To date, more than 7700 people have come to Canada under these special measures. Canada continues to approve a number of claims from people applying for refugee-admission, through both government-assisted and privately sponsored programs. Since July 1992, Canada has admitted more than 13 000 refugees under these programs.

In July 1995, the UNHCR appealed to Canada and 29 other countries for assistance in providing permanent or temporary protection to 5000 refugees. In response, Canada agreed to accept a minimum of 500 of the refugees identified in this appeal by the end of 1995.

In order to maximize our response, the Canadian government sought the participation of non-governmental partners. The result of this co-operative effort was the creation of the "3/9 pilot" — a refugee resettlement initiative combining elements of private sponsorship and government assistance. Under "3/9" criteria, the Government provides financial assistance to a refugee for the first three months, and private sponsors provide for the following nine months.

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