



In the past, I faced assassination attempts, I faced harassment, intimidation and prison due to my bold stand on this issue. But these difficult challenges strengthened my faith; strengthened my belief; and strengthened my commitment and devotion to this cause.

- Shahbaz Bhatti

SUPPORT THE VICTIMS OF RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION

BRIEF INTRODUCTION

International Christian Voice is a registered Canadian charitable organization. It works to sponsor and assist refugees to Canada, who are victims of religious persecution, in their settlement and integration into Canadian Society.

ICV HAS IDENTIFIED GUL SHER MURAD AND HIS FAMILY FOR SPONSORSHIP TO CANADA IN 2020

Every year, to commemorate Shahbaz's Memorial and to continue his legacy, we raise funds to sponsor one deserving refugee family to Canada. After much deliberation, ICV has decided to support Gul Sher Murad, his wife and five minor children for sponsorship to Canada. Gul Sher has lived in exile, in hiding, under threat to his life, away from his family for the past decade. Gul Sher was the driver of then Federal Minority Minister, Martyr Shahbaz Bhatti, who was assassinated under a hail of bullets by Islamic religious terrorists. Gul Sher miraculously survived the horrific assassination of Martyr Shahbaz Bhatti on that fateful day.



GUL SHER MURAD'S STORY:

On March 02, 2011, Gul Sher, a Pakistani Catholic Christian and long-time family driver of Martyr Shahbaz Bhatti was driving him from his home to the parliament for a cabinet meeting, when Taliban terrorists attacked the Minister with a hail of gunfire and assassinated Martyr Shahbaz Bhatti, the only Christian federal minister Government. On that fateful day, Gul Sher witnessed the horrific assassination of the man of peace who stood up against religious persecution on the rise in Pakistan. Gul Sher survived the horrific assassination of Martyr Shahbaz Bhatti. Under threat to his life not to testify in court, Gul Sher lived on the run in hiding in Pakistan but ultimately, six years ago, was forced to flee Pakistan seeking asylum in Thailand. He has been granted refugee status by UNHCR but is unable to stay in Thailand or bring his family over because Thailand is not a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention and does not have specific asylum legislation. As such refugees and asylum seekers are treated as illegal migrants in Thailand, subject to detention and deportation. Gul Sher's life has been hanging in limbo, unable to stay in Thailand and unable to return home to join his family in Pakistan.

Gul Sher in Thailand



Gul Sher's family in Pakistan

WE NEED YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND APPEAL TO YOUR HUMANITARIAN INSTINCTS.

Under **Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC)** cost table guidelines, we need to raise **\$40,000** to sponsor Gul Sher, his wife and minor children who are currently scattered between Pakistan and Thailand.

We appeal to businesses, Christian Community Organizations, Churches, philanthropists, humanitarian organizations, and compassionate individuals for support with donations for the funds required to sponsor and bring this family to a safe new life in **Canada**.

We are appealing for your support to raise **\$40,000** in funds to meet the financial requirements for resettlement of this family in Canada, as stipulated by the **Ministry of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada**.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU.

Fundraiser Dinner (at Chateau Le Jardin, Woodbridge on March 12, 2021) Tickets \$100 per person.

In case of cancellation due to pandemic restrictions, your payment will be gratefully accepted as a donation and a taxable receipt will be issued for the full amount or amount refunded in full at your request.

Please note that for donations of \$20 or more, International Christian Voice will issue a charitable tax receipt.

We appreciate your generous support for this appeal in cash or by cheque in favor of:
International Christian Voice and mailed to **26 Timberwolf Rd., Brampton ON L6P 2B3**

Or, E-Transfer through e-mail:
info@icvcanada.org

STATUS OF THE SPONSORED REFUGEES FROM THE PAST FOUR YEARS OF FUND RAISING EVENTS IN MEMORY OF MARTYR SHAHBAZ BHATTI.

Faris Family – 2017

Farhat, the young widow who lost her husband while in Thailand, and her three minor children were sponsored with your love and financial support from the 2017 memorial fundraiser. The family arrived in Canada just before Christmas that year and are settled, integrated and successfully rebuilding their lives without fear or oppression.

Saira Khurram - 2018

The widowed mother of two children, sponsored at the 2018 fundraiser has cleared all Canadian IRCC required procedures including medicals and approved for immigration to Canada. Saira and her children are awaiting easing of Covid 19 travel restrictions to be issued travel documents for their flight to Canada. We expect them all to join us very soon.

Sara Sumbal - 2019

Sara and her family (parents and two brothers) sponsored at the 2019 fundraiser, have also had their final interviews and we are awaiting word on their decision. Hopefully they will also be approved and granted visas to Canada before year end.

Huma (Pakistan) and the Suthanathan couple (Sri Lanka) - 2020

The applications for Huma and the Suthanathan couple were submitted and acknowledged by the IRCC and their file number received. They are in queue for the investigations process and their interviews, which sadly is an arduous and lengthy period of time of approximately 12 to 18 months while our sponsored families continue to be held in detention. ICV continues to appeal to the Immigration Ministry to expedite their cases and alleviate their continued suffering in detention.