

Recommendation from the Refugee and Newcomers Committee (RNC)
September 6, 2022 Board of Management Meeting

To: Chair of the Board of Deacons, Chair of the Board of Management and Chair of the Finance Committee

In November 2021 the congregation of FBCH gave approval for the sponsorship of Khatro Hussein's mother, Abshira Mohamed. At that time the funds to sponsor her were already raised. Over the last couple of months, after the IRCC released a number of slots to our partner the Anglican Diocese of NS and PEI, Paula Antunes, Khatro and Sandra Murphy worked on the sponsorship application.

Before that work began Khatro had made a strong plea to also bring her eldest brother Abdikadir to Canada. He is currently 19 and living with his mother in the Hagedera Refugee Camp in Kenya. Khatro also has three other brothers who are younger but they have moved to Uganda and are supported by an aunt and uncle there and are completing their education. The RNC discussed Khatro's request and it was decided that come the autumn it would bring a recommendation to the congregation that a further application to sponsor Abdikadir be submitted in 2023. The Anglican Diocese of NS and PEI expressed willingness to provide us with the necessary slot and to partner with us on this further application if our recommendation received congregational approval. (FBCH cannot submit applications on its own but only through a Sponsorship Agreement Holder such as ISANS or the Anglican Diocese. Each SAH is allocated only so many sponsorship slots each year).

We were almost at the point of submitting Abshira's application when we learned that unless the dependent children are listed on the application they would not be able to apply to come to Canada in the future. Not only must they be listed but a sponsorship slot must be allocated for them even if they are not planning to come with the primary applicant(s). This was news to us and to Elizabeth Heuther, the person with whom we are working at the Anglican Diocese. Suddenly we needed five slots and not one and all the Anglican Diocese's slots had been allocated. In addition to the reason why the children are not accompanying their mother must be explained. This can be easily done for the three sons in Uganda but Abdikadir (the oldest son) is still in Kenya and living with this mother and wishes to come to Canada.

IRCC very conveniently released more slots and we now have the five necessary slots. The question of Abdikadir and his application, however, still needs to be addressed. The best thing would be for us to submit an application for Abshira and Abdikahir together.

The additional cost to include him in the application will be approximately \$5019.00.

There is currently \$11,426 in the Refugee and Social Justice Funds combined. The obligations for the year 2022 which we had hoped to meet include the \$4089 for Abshira's sponsorship, \$1000 towards Franc Nannyanga's travel loans (already issued), an estimated \$4500 for Abdihafid's travel costs (although at the moment the

government has informed Khatro that her loan amounts to \$2143.99 which will come due in December. We are not certain if this included the funds for the IOM escort.), and \$1000 for miscellaneous. This is a total of \$7232.00 if the loan amount is right or could be up to \$8600 if the loan amount is higher.

In other words we would need an additional \$825 or \$2282 for the sponsorship depending on the final amount of the travel loan for Abdihafid.

The RNC will be working with the Auxiliary on the autumn yard sale and will receive some of the proceeds from that effort. An effort could also be made to increase donations to the Social Justice Fund.

In the meantime work on Abshira's sponsorship application has been delayed until the autumn. It should also be noted that the current processing time for refugee applications has risen to almost four years.

In light of these new developments, on behalf of the RNC, with the approval of the Diaconate and the endorsement of the Board of Management, I would like to move:

That First Baptist Church Halifax agree to the sponsorship of Abdikadir Khalif Abdullahi with the sponsorship application to Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada that to be combined with that of his mother Abshira Mohamed and submitted before the end of 2022 at an additional cost of up to \$2300. to be drawn from the Social Justice Fund and The Refugee Committee Fund.