ICAN’s Resilience Initiative for a Post-Conflict Syria

In response to the Syrian crisis ICAN has initiated a plan to introduce the profession of social work in Syria and to train future generations of Syrian professionals dedicated to the democratic rebuilding of their country. This initiative includes 3 major components: Resettlement, Reconstruction, and Relief.

Resettlement: building a home in Canada
ICAN will recruit 100 Syrian refugees in Canada over the next 5 years to train them in the School of Social Work at McGill in order to help integrate the refugees into the cultural mosaic of Canadian society.

Ease the process of resettlement
- These Syrian Social Workers would assist newly landed refugees in their resettlement process and integration in Canada
- This initiative would provide professional opportunities particularly for Syrian women

Assist the Syrian refugees to fully integrate in Canadian society
- These Syrian Social Workers are culturally competent to receive the refugees and would act as ambassadors to the Canadian society, acting on behalf of the refugees to educate leaders and citizens about issues relating to the Syrian reality

Reconstruction: thinking beyond the conflict
The post-conflict period reconstruction is essential for Syria’s survival as a country. Social Work is critical for Syria both in its ability to provide services to a war-torn population as well as to construct and reconstruct policies, programs, and institutions. Currently, Syria does not have the profession of social work. This component of the initiative aims to accomplish two main goals:

Establish the profession of social work in Syria
- ICAN will recruit 12 Syrian academics from related disciplines into the ICAN MSW Fellowship Program
- ICAN will train Syrian academics to become knowledgeable of models of social work education and practice in order to design appropriate academic programs to be taught in Syria’s post-conflict reality

Set the groundwork for Syrian civil society, the Rights-Based Community Practice Model
- In addition, ICAN will recruit 12 Syrian activists and community leaders in order to develop centres for rights-based community practice for the Syrian community. These centres will operate in Jordan until the situation allows for them to be moved to Syria

Relief: assisting the Syrian refugees in Jordan
Until the crisis has settled, there are great needs that must be met and the Syrian Fellows from our MSW Fellowship will not be able to return to Syria. The Fellows will establish rights-based community practice centres in Jordan to provide much-needed relief to the refugees living in the camps and cities in Jordan.
Imagine you had to leave everything behind. Wouldn’t you want someone to help you rebuild the life you lost?

Contribute online to bring one Syrian Fellow and their family to study at McGill at ICAN’s MSW Fellowship. Visit:

www.mcgill.ca/seedsofchange/project/mcgills-msw-syrian-fellowship

Facebook.com/SponsorASyrianStudentMcGill

You can also send your contributions to “McGill University” with a memo specified for “ICAN-Syrian Initiative” to the following address:

Donation and Record Services
McGill University
1555 Peel Street, 9th Floor
Montreal, Quebec
H3A 3L8

U.S. friends of McGill
If you are donating from the U.S and are not a McGill graduate or immediately related to one, you can still make a tax-deductible contribution through Friends of McGill University Inc. Make your donation payable to “Friends of McGill Inc.” with a memo reading: “ICAN-Syria Initiative” and send it to the following address:

Friends of McGill University Inc.
P.O. Box 28137
New York, NY 10087-8137

For more information contact Marisa Samek at marisa.samek@mcgill.ca or 1-514-398-6717