



## Warning against “refugee visa” fraud

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The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Israel wishes to issue a strong warning about internet fraud concerning work or humanitarian visas for refugees. Bogus organizations are using fake Facebook pages and websites to promise resettlement and employment opportunities in the United States, Canada and other countries for a fee. These are scams. Immigration forms and visa applications are freely available on the internet. “Consultants” and lawyers cannot speed your process with UNHCR or with other countries.

Some of these fraudsters are also claiming affiliation to UNHCR. **UNHCR never charges for resettlement or any other services it provides to refugees, asylum-seekers or other persons of concern to the organization.** Websites claiming to be associated with UNHCR and charging for refugee resettlement services are fraudulent.

These fake internet/Facebook advertisements provide deceptive information about resettlement and employment programmes for refugees. Unsuspecting victims are encouraged to apply to these sham visa programmes by paying an administrative fee. People are sometimes offered a 'discount' if they can get more refugees to join the programme. Once the victim has paid the fee, the criminals disappear with their money.

UNHCR will do all it can to ensure that these bogus schemes are closed down and to inform potential victims about these frauds.

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UNHCR Israel  
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