



Refugee Family
Reunification

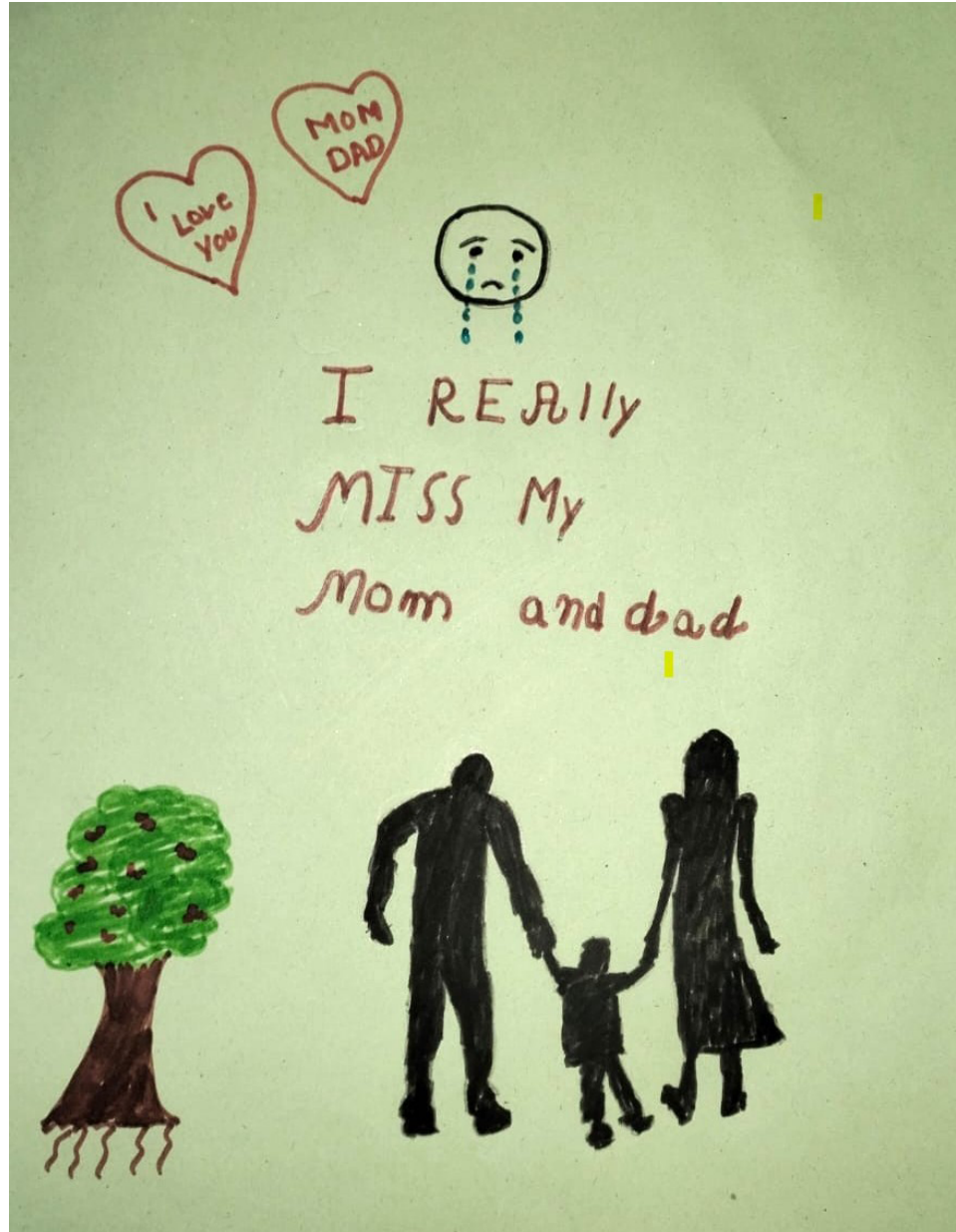
Réunification familiale
des réfugiés

FAMILY SEPARATION FROM THE CHILDREN'S PERSPECTIVE

Thousands of children are experiencing years of separation from family members due to the Canadian government's decision to delay family reunification for refugees.

We invited affected families to share drawings by children, so that we can better understand the impact of family separation from the children's perspective.

All names are fictitious.



Sukhjit's story

Sukhjit is 8 years old and has been separated from his parents for nearly 7 years. He lives with his paternal grandparents, who have numerous health problems. His parents have two other children.

Sukhjit talks to his parents every day and says he wants to come and live with them. He misses his parents and wants to get to know his two little brothers.



Each drawing is a window into how children live with long separations, fear, and hope.

Amelia, 17, living far from her mother

Amelia is 17 years old and has been separated from her mother for 3 years. She lives with her sister and her great-uncle's wife in Cameroon.

Amelia's mother worries about her daughters' security given the kidnappings and unrest in the country. *"I miss them every day."*



Kabizi, 13, drawing anxiety and danger



This image, drawn by 13-year-old Kabizi, depicts the distress and anxiety his family has been experiencing since they were separated. The family is in utter despair, forced to move repeatedly due to insecurity in their neighbourhood. Threats have been directed at the family. The separation has affected everyone's mental health, and their greatest wish is to be reunited.

Kabizi lives in Burundi in hiding with his father and siblings, while his mother and older sister—who lives with a disability—are in Canada.

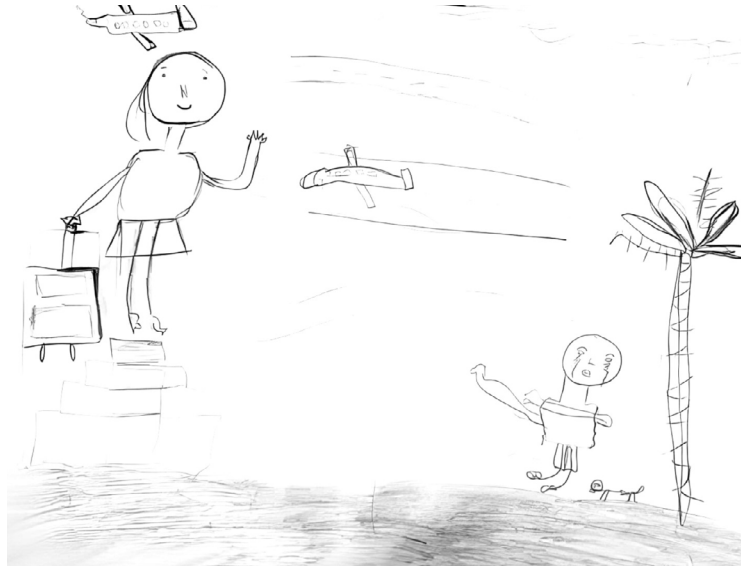


For many children, daily life is shaped by separation, hardship, and the hope of joining parents in Canada.

Dion, 9, living with his grandmother in Haiti

Dion has been separated from his mother for two years. He is 9 years old and lives in Haiti with his sick grandmother – and the family dog. He is currently unable to attend school and does not have enough to eat every day.

He is waiting to be reunited with his mother and brother in Canada.



Jamil, 10, writing to his father and brother

Jamil is 10 years old and lives in Afghanistan with two siblings and his mom. His father and brother Jalil are in Canada. A has been separated from his brother and father for 3 years.

The text says: *“My dear father and brother, we miss you both so much. We remember you every day. It has been three years that we have been separated from each other. I hope the day comes that we can reunite and live together again. My mom misses Jalil a lot, and she cries every day. However, when we go to her, she smiles and pretends like she is ok, so that we do not get upset. I hope to see you soon again, my dear father.”*



Behind each drawing is a child waiting to be reunited with family. Policy decisions in Canada have real, daily consequences on children around the world.

Ricardo's story



Ricardo, who is 7 years old, has been separated from his father Jose for over three years. Jose had to flee Nicaragua as he faced political persecution.

The long separation is hard for both Jose and Ricardo.

In this drawing Ricardo writes *"I miss you, Daddy"*

We thank the children and parents for sharing their artwork. Their drawings and words remind us that family separation is not abstract policy – it is a daily reality felt in children's hearts, homes, and imaginations.

TAKE ACTION FOR FAMILY REUNIFICATION

Please take action to help reunite these and other children with their parents and siblings in Canada. Learn more and add your voice at refugeefamilyreunification.ca/en/advocacy/take-action



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