

**Refugee Review Tribunal
AUSTRALIA**

RRT RESEARCH RESPONSE

Research Response Number: SYR34639
Country: Syria
Date: 1 May 2009

Keywords: Syria – DFAT advice – Syrian residency rights for the husband of a Syrian citizen

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Questions

- 1. Would a Syrian woman, whose spouse and children are not Syrian nationals and who have never entered Syria, be allowed under Syrian law to sponsor them to Syria?**
- 2. Is a Syrian woman's right to sponsor her family to Syria, and to live with the spouse/children in Syria for as long as desired, less than the right afforded to Syrian men with foreign spouses? Is there discrimination against Syrian women that might result in their being separated from their foreign spouse/children?**

RESPONSE

A request was sent to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) on 13 March 2009. On 1 May 2009 DFAT provided the following response:

A. Would a Syrian woman, whose spouse and children are not Syrian nationals and who have never entered Syria, be allowed under Syrian law to sponsor them to Syria?

DFAT spoke to contacts at the Canadian Embassy in Damascus; they advise that a Syrian woman should be able to sponsor her husband to reside permanently in Syria. The husband would have permanent residency status and would be free to leave Syria and return but the husband would not be eligible to obtain Syrian citizenship.

B. Is a Syrian woman's right to sponsor her family to Syria, and to live with the spouse/children in Syria for as long as desired, less than the right afforded to Syrian men with foreign spouses? Is there discrimination against Syrian women that might result in their being separated from their foreign spouse/children?

There is a distinction between a Syrian woman sponsoring her husband and a Syrian man sponsoring his wife in that the woman sponsored by her Syrian husband would be eligible to become a Syrian citizen (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade 2009, *DFAT Report 994 – RRT Information Request: SYR34639*, 1 May – Attachment 1; for the Email which elicited

this response, see: RRT Research & Information 2009, Email to DFAT: 'RRT Country Information Request SYR34639', 13 March – Attachment 2).

List of Sources Consulted

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

List of Attachments

1. Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade 2009, *DFAT Report 994 – RRT Information Request: SYR34639*, 1 May.
2. RRT Research & Information 2009, Email to DFAT: 'RRT Country Information Request SYR34639', 13 March.