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## ISARC NEWS

### *December 2015 Update*

Hello! ISARC has been active in recent months! Read on for news, pictures, and video from our Queen's Park Religious Leaders Forum, a link to our letter of support for Syrian refugees, our job posting for a new Communications and Policy Coordinator, and more.

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### **Religious Leaders forum draws 100 political and religious leaders**

A standing-room only crowd attended our recent Faith Moving Mountains forum at Queen's Park. Participants shared their ideas for mobilizing faith groups against poverty, and heard a powerful talk by progressive economist Armine Yalnizyan. Deputy Premier Deb Matthews, and Opposition MPPs Cheri Dinovo and Julia Munro also spoke.



Armine Yalnizyan



Small group work



Irshad Osman



Deputy Premier Deb Matthews

The Toronto Star's Carol Goar wrote [a hard-hitting column](#) on the politicians' remarks to the forum, and we wrote [our own article](#) as well. You can also watch video highlights from Armine Yalnizyan's and David Pfrimmer's talks by clicking on the image below.



Highlights from ISARC's Queen's Park Forum on faith and poverty.

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### **Voices From the Margins community hearings**

We're grateful to all of you who have volunteered to take part in one of ISARC's local community hearings, through our new Voices From the Margins project. It will involve low-income people speaking of their lives, along with people from faith groups, agencies and others who work with them. We'll aim to explore ways in which our society can provide dignity for all and answer a key question: has

Ontario's Poverty Reduction Plan yielded positive results? We'll be in touch with further details early in the New Year. If you'd like to learn more about it, or to volunteer, please let us know. A dedicated group in Hamilton has already met to start planning their event!

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**Please include us in your year-end giving!**

We need your financial support, and that of your faith community, for the Voices project. ISARC needs additional funds to carry out this initiative, involving community hearings in more than 20 communities across the province, so that we reach as many people as possible. Perhaps your congregation, mosque or synagogue has funds unspent in your 2015 budget that could be used be contributed in this way? Or perhaps you could make a tax-deductible donation? We are grateful for donations of any amount.

Please make cheques payable to United Church of Canada, writing ISARC on the memo line, and send them to:

ISARC c/o Maria Pimpinella  
United Church of Canada  
#300-3250 Bloor St. W.  
Toronto ON M8X 2Y4

We'll send you a charitable tax receipt. Thank you very much for your support!

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**Help wanted: ISARC Coordinator**

ISARC is seeking a Policy and Communications Coordinator to do communications, organizing, advocacy and fundraising work. This is a 30-hour per week job, on a year-to-year contract, with a salary range of \$40,000 to \$45,000. Hurry: **application deadline is December 15**. Read the job description [here](#) or email [coordinator@isarc.ca](mailto:coordinator@isarc.ca) for more information.

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### **Speaking out for tolerance and Syrian refugees**

Our coalition has added its voice in calling for a culture of peace and to support Canada's acceptance of Syrian refugees, through a letter to Ontario's three major party leaders. The letter, signed by Jewish, Muslim and Christian leaders, is posted on our website [here](#). We invite you to send it to your MPP, and circulate within your faith community.

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### **Budget brief: Ontario can afford real poverty reduction**

Ontario's government can provide the resources needed to tackle hunger, homelessness and poverty by rejecting "the gospel of austerity" and tapping new revenue sources, ISARC will say in its brief to the government's consultations on the 2016 budget. Watch for our budget brief to be published online soon.

Join the conversation with us on Twitter, Facebook and [www.isarc.ca](http://www.isarc.ca).



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