



FOI Request – FA 17/12/00767

Request for access to documents subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act)

On 19 December 2017, the Department received an FOI request seeking access to:

1. Under the offshore humanitarian programme for 2015/16/17
 - a) What were the top ten lodgements in terms of religion for people from Syria and Iraq only.
 - b) What were the top ten refusals in terms of religion for people from Syria and Iraq?

2. Taking into account all offshore humanitarian visas for the source countries of Iraq and Syria, please
 - a) provide a breakdown of the declared* religion of those provided with a visa
 - b) provide a breakdown of the declared religion of those refused a visa

**I'm aware this has been released up until Jan 2017. Update appreciated.*

- Religion is self-identified and as declared in application and may include generic responses.
- It is not a requirement that applicants declare their religion on their application form for humanitarian entry to Australia.

Important caveat: Applications lodged in one program year may not be finalised in the same program year. Therefore, it is not accurate to make comparisons about data relating to application lodgements and finalisations, ie grants or refusals, in a program year

1. Under the offshore humanitarian programme for 2015/16/17
 - a) What were the top ten lodgements in terms of religion for people from Syria and Iraq only

Offshore Humanitarian Top 10 Declared Religions Syrian and Iraqi lodgements (01 July 2015 to 30 June 2017)

Declared Religion	Total
Christian (NFD)	26,631
Greek Orthodox	15,499
Islam	12,868
Not Recorded/Unknown	11,855
Sunni	11,767
Chaldean Catholic	9,054
Assyrian Church of the East	7,718
Syrian Catholic	4,453
Armenian Apostolic Church	3,570
Sabeian Mandeian/Sabian	3,102

b) What were the top ten refusals in terms of religion for people from Syria and Iraq?

**Offshore Humanitarian Top 10 Declared Religions
Syrian and Iraqi refusals (01 July 2015 to 30 June 2017)**

Religion	Total
Christian (NFD)	19,193
Islam	13,508
Greek Orthodox	11,682
Not Recorded/Unknown	11,590
Sunni	8,509
Chaldean Catholic	5,523
Assyrian Church of the East	4,343
Armenian Apostolic Church	2,607
Syrian Catholic	2,269
Sabean Mandeian/Sabian	1,773

2. Taking into account all offshore humanitarian visas for the source countries of Iraq and Syria, please

a) provide a breakdown of the declared* religion of those provided with a visa

**Offshore Humanitarian Declared Religions
Syrian and Iraqi visa grants (01 July 2015 to 30 June 2017)**

Declared Religion	Total	Declared Religion	Total
Albanian Orthodox	<10	Jehovahs Witnesses	<10
Alevite/Alawi/Alawites	22	Maronite Catholic	113
Ancient Church of the East	13	Melkite Catholic	216
Antiochian Orthodox	<10	Not Stated	12
Apostolic Church so described	<10	Oriental Christian (NEC)	30
Armenian Apostolic Church	878	Orthodox (NEC)	85
Assyrian Apostolic (NEC)	<10	Orthodox (NFD)	86
Assyrian Catholic	516	Other Christian (NEC)	11
Assyrian Christian Church	445	Other Non Christian	<10
Assyrian Church	195	Other Protestant (NEC)	10
Assyrian Church of the East	3,922	Romanian Orthodox	73
Assyrian Evangelical Church	<10	Sabean Mandeian/Sabian	1,061
Assyrian Orthodox	77	Serbian Orthodox	<10
Baha I World Faith	<10	Shia	160
Baptist	<10	Sunni	2,118
Catholic(NEC)	434	Syriac Catholic	184
Chaldean Catholic	3,349	Syriac Orthodox Church	666
Christian & Missionary Alliance	<10	Syrian (Jacobite) Church	64
Christian (NFD)	3,029	Syrian Catholic	1,060
Church of the Nazarene	<10	Syrian Orthodox	310
Churches of Christ (NFD)	15	Syrian Orthodox Church	14
Druse/Druze	32	Western Catholic/Catholic	<10
Greek Orthodox	1,823	Yazidism	708
Islam	552		

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b) provide a breakdown of the declared religion of those refused a visa

**Offshore Humanitarian Declared Religions
Syrian and Iraqi refusals (01 July 2015 to 30 June 2017)**

Declared Religion	Total	Declared Religion	Total
Agnosticism	<10	Greek Orthodox	11,682
Albanian Orthodox	24	Independent Evangelical Churches	15
Alevite/Alawi/Alawites	176	International Church of Christ	<10
Ancient Church of the East	16	Islam	13,508
Antiochian Orthodox	26	Jehovahs Witnesses	<10
Apostolic Church so described	<10	Judaism	<10
Armenian Apostolic Church	2,607	Maronite Catholic	269
Assemblies of God	<10	Melkite Catholic	358
Assyrian Apostolic	<10	No Religion (NFD)	<10
Assyrian Apostolic (NEC)	<10	Not Recorded/Unknown	11,590
Assyrian Catholic	1,552	Oriental Christian (NEC)	81
Assyrian Christian Church	231	Orthodox (NEC)	219
Assyrian Church	20	Orthodox (NFD)	1,184
Assyrian Church of the East	4,343	Other Christian (NEC)	347
Assyrian Evangelical Church	<10	Other Protestant (NEC)	31
Assyrian Orthodox	37	Other Protestant (NFD)	<10
Atheism	19	Romanian Orthodox	84
Baha I World Faith	<10	Sabeen Mandeian/Sabian	1,773
Catholic(NEC)	799	Shia	1,257
Chaldean Catholic	5,523	Sunni	8,509
Christian & Missionary Alliance	<10	Syriac Catholic	115
Christian (NFD)	19,193	Syriac Orthodox Church	1,141
Church of Christ (Nondenom)	<10	Syrian (Jacobite) Church	51
Churches of Christ (NFD)	<10	Syrian Catholic	2,269
Coptic Orthodox Church	<10	Syrian Orthodox	663
Druidism	10	Syrian Orthodox Church	146
Druse/Druze	308	Western Catholic/Catholic	<10
Ethnic Evangelical Churches	14	Yazidism	165
Gnostic Christians	<10	Zoroastrianism	<10

Data Notes:

1. The country of birth of principal visa applicants is applied to secondary visa applicants.
2. The religion of principal visa applicants is applied to secondary visa applicants. Religion is self-identified and as declared on application and may include generic responses.
3. Refugee visas include subclass 200 (Refugee), 201 (In-Country Special Humanitarian Programme), 203 (Emergency Rescue) and 204 (Woman at Risk). SHP visas include subclass 202 (Global Special Humanitarian Programme).
4. The statistics in this table includes visas granted towards the annual offshore resettlement component of the Humanitarian Programme, and the additional 12,000 places for people displaced by conflict in Syria and Iraq.
5. Data was extracted from Departmental systems on 03 July 2017.

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