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Laurier's Brantford campus to host mock refugee camp

BRANTFORD – Wilfrid Laurier University's Brantford campus is hosting a mock refugee camp on **Nov. 17** in order to raise awareness around refugee issues. The event, run by the student-based local committee of the [World University Service of Canada](#) (WUSC), will be held in the Research and Academic Centre West lobby, from **10 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

"As a refugee who came to Laurier through the WUSC Student Refugee Program, this event means a lot because I want to draw attention to the refugee crisis and what life is like being a refugee," said **Dammee Sero**, a fourth year Human Rights and Leadership student and organizer of the event. "I lived as a refugee for 10 years and life wasn't easy. By educating people about refugees and their lives, people can have more understanding about what is going on in the world today."

The mock refugee camp will simulate the experience of a real refugee camp and will display photos to share stories about refugee experiences. WUSC Student Refugee Program (SRP) students, like Sero, will also share their stories with visitors.

The event organizers hope to raise awareness about refugee issues and about the WUSC Student Refugee Program, an exclusively Canadian program that allows universities to sponsor students for their entire four years of post-secondary education. Since 2011, students at Laurier's Brantford campus have brought one student per year, through a special levy of four dollars per student per semester, from a refugee camp to study at Laurier and settle in Canada. The levy covers tuition, living expenses and support for the SRP students on campus.

The local WUSC committee runs events throughout the year to help raise additional funds for SRP students. The committee consists of eight students who – with assistance from faculty and staff – are involved in supporting new refugee students in all aspects from helping to set up their living situation to helping them to adjust to life in Canada.

Both the Brantford and Laurier community are welcome to attend the event and get involved with the WUSC committee. For more information contact Dammee Sero, the Student Refugee Program coordinator, at sero7910@mylaurier.ca or Mike Boylan, Laurier's Global Engagement Program coordinator, at mboylan@wlu.ca.