

CONGRESSIONAL/COMMUNITY ADVOCACY

Instructions:

1. [Click here to look up your member of Congress.](#)
2. Be sure to send this email to all three of your members of Congress: your Representative in the House, and both of your U.S. Senators.
3. Share this link [<https://ishk.net>] with your friends and tell them to write to their members of Congress as well.
4. Local voices matter- A build up of political and media pressure can affect change in national policy. You can send the letter template below to as many locally influential people and organizations that you can think of, and ask them to sign. This could be your Congressional Reps., local newspaper, and any community figures such as religious leaders:

E-MAIL TEMPLATE 1

Dear [name of your member of Congress],

I'm writing to you as your constituent to request your immediate support for the Afghan people through emergency humanitarian aid allocation, ensuring the aid is delivered safely, and urging the Department of State to grant humanitarian parole to any Afghans in danger, expand and expedite the processing of P1, P2, and P3 refugees from the region while also removing life-threatening obstacles to qualification for those programs.

As you know, the security situation in Afghanistan is deteriorating rapidly. While many advocates welcome the U.S. government's evacuation of Afghan allies through the SIV program and the passage of the [emergency security supplemental bill](#) which includes funding for Afghan refugee assistance, I am concerned that the available pathways to safety for Afghans who were not directly involved with U.S. armed forces are extremely limited in scope and number. Because the United States chose to hasten its withdrawal from Afghanistan during the height of the summer season when Taliban attacks are at their highest, ordinary Afghans were left unprepared to flee to safer areas. This will mean more Afghans than ever will be at the front-lines of conflict and face unprecedented levels of violence from an emboldened Taliban. Afghan refugees fleeing to neighboring nations like Pakistan and Iran are already being turned away. Vulnerable Afghan women, children, and men who come from impoverished, rural areas, members of the Hazara community, journalists, activists, humanitarian workers, other ethnic and religious minorities likely face two options if the security situation continues to worsen: abject degradation at the hands of the Taliban or death.

I echo the calls from humanitarian and refugee resettlement organizations to increase the capacity of NGOs operating in the country to make referrals for the P1 program, especially for women and girls, activists, and religious and ethnic minorities.

Additionally, the increased allocation for P2 refugees is fraught with complications. As noted in the InterAction [statement](#) dated August 2, 2021, "Application for P-2 visas requires individuals to flee Afghanistan and apply from neighboring countries. InterAction feels that this is unacceptable, as several critical border crossing checkpoints are now under Taliban control and Afghanistan's neighbors may not necessarily welcome these individuals and their families." I

urge you to closely follow the recommendations outlined in the InterAction statement to mitigate these issues.

The administration must secure safe passage out of the country with chartered flights through Kabul, Kandahar, and Mazar Sharif airports and provide humanitarian parole to any Afghans in danger. Further, the DHS must designate Afghans for Temporary Protected Status to prevent deportations or other returns to Afghanistan.

I understand U.S. involvement in Afghanistan has to come to an end. But the U.S. also has a moral responsibility to do everything it can to mitigate the humanitarian consequences of its withdrawal from the country. The United States can do this by ensuring aid organizations are allowed to deliver aid without endangerment from the Taliban and call for all parties to respect international humanitarian law. I implore you to act now. Thank you.

Respectfully,

[Your name]

[Your zip code]

E-MAIL TEMPLATE 2

Dear *[NAME OF PERSON/ORGANIZATION]*,

Like many others, we have watched in horror as the Taliban seized power in Afghanistan and thousands of ordinary people fled their homes. Now is the time for the United States to uphold its commitment to the Afghan people who have suffered directly as a result of U.S policies and intervention.

Those at risk of being murdered by the Taliban include former military interpreters, and others who supported the US forces, humanitarian workers, children, journalists and female leaders, as well as young men who resist conscription.

While many remain trapped inside the country, we know that some have managed to escape but now face a life of displacement and fear without anywhere to go.

In 2015, we stepped up and offered safety to Syrian refugees fleeing ISIS. This government should do the same for Afghan refugees fleeing the Taliban by removing its current cap on refugees and asylum-seekers, halting deportations of Afghan asylum seekers, upholding family reunion rights so people aren't torn apart from their loved ones, and allowing communities such as **[INSERT LOCAL COMMUNITY]** to resettle refugees safely in the United States.

We should not let Afghans down in their hour of need.

Yours sincerely,

[FULL NAME AND ORGANISATION OR ADDRESS]

PHONE SCRIPT

Hello, My name is _____ and I live at _____ in _____.

I am calling to urge my representative to support the immediate evacuation of women, civil society activists, LGBTQ+, religious and ethnic minorities, and other vulnerable groups from Afghanistan.

The US must supply government-run evacuation flights for the most vulnerable Afghans. The US must use its influence to keep the Kabul airport operational. We must also broaden visa eligibility and expedite processing for [SIV](#), P1, and P2 visas. Afghans who do not qualify for

those programs must be granted humanitarian parole. We must demand that third-party processing countries drop visa requirements for those fleeing Afghanistan. These requirements are difficult to meet in the best of times, let alone during a humanitarian disaster and political collapse. Further, the DHS must designate Afghans for Temporary Protected Status to prevent deportations or other returns to Afghanistan.

The U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan and the forceful resurgence of the Taliban is deplorable. After pursuing 20 years of failed policies that have created a humanitarian crisis, the absolute least the US can do is provide refuge to those seeking it.

REPUTABLE ORGANIZATIONS WORKING IN AFGHANISTAN TO DONATE TO

If you are able, please consider donating directly to established, reputable organizations working in Afghanistan. Below are trusted NGOs, relief-organizations, Ad-hoc fundraisers, GoFundMes, etc. Charities, NGOs, and other relief organizations are experts at what they do. They know where the help is needed most and how to get it there.

1. Considerations to take when donating -- Charities, NGOs, and other relief organizations are experts at what they do. They know where the help is needed most and how to get it there. Additionally, organizations and those on the ground that are providing direct services will best be able to reach the Afghan people
2. Urgency -- Many Afghans are currently internally displaced and/or trying to evacuate and flee, the window for them to potentially escape is limited and what is of utmost priority is ensuring that their basic needs are met and that they are given support the be able to evacuate if they are able to
3. Transparency -- registered charities and non-profits are required to provide a complete accounting of their programs and operating costs, so when you donate money to a registered entity, you know your money is going where it should. GoFundMes and Ad-hoc fundraisers that are listed below are by trusted organizations and organizers
4. Uncertainty -- as of right now there is a lot of uncertainty, because of the amount of Afghans that fled into Kabul when they were fleeing Taliban invasions of their provinces, there is a shortage of supplies. Along with this, commercial flights have been cancelled and will be limited once opened, Western Unions/Banks are currently closed (as of Aug. 17 2021), and COVID is still an issue. That being said, we are trying to prioritize organizations that have supplies/resources and/or access to supplies/ resources as Afghanistan is currently limited on supplies within the Country

Donations links to reputable organizations providing life-saving care in Afghanistan:

- **EMERGENCY** -- an Italian organization that provides free, high-quality medical and surgical care to the victims of war in Afghanistan. I have seen their life-saving work first-hand. Donations to EMERGENCY are tax-deductible in the US. <https://en.emergency.it/how-to-donate/>
- **DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS** (*Medecins Sans Frontiers*) -- another reputable international organization providing life-saving medical care to victims

of war. Update from August 11, 2021: “The situation in the country has deteriorated to a point that in some cities, like Lashkar Gah and Kunduz, the medical facilities are on the front lines,” explains Laura Bourjolly, MSF humanitarian affairs manager in Afghanistan. “MSF staff continue to treat patients in all of our projects, under dire circumstances.” <https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/what-we-do/countries/afghanistan>

- **INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE** -- IRC has been working in Afghanistan since 1988. They provide emergency assistance to internally displaced people. <https://www.rescue.org/country/afghanistan>
- **Campaign to Provide Basic Needs for Newly Arrived Afghan Refugees in Sacramento, CA** -- This campaign is offering direct support and resources for Refugees who just arrived/are arriving in Sacramento from Afghanistan https://www.launchgood.com/campaign/afghan_refugees_arriving_to_sacramento_from_kabul_need_your_support#!/
- **AFGHANAID** -- a UK charity that works in conflict and disaster-affected provinces many other organizations don't have a presence in. Donations to Afghanaid are not tax-deductible in the U.S. <https://www.afghanaid.org.uk/donate/donate/4/direct-debit>
- **Emergency Help for LGBTQ+ Afghans in Afghanistan** -- this is being organized and overseen by those onground in Afghanistan helping LGBTQ+ Afghans who are very at-risk evacuate <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-queer-and-trans-afghans-in-afghanistan>
- **WiseAfghanistan** -- Provides humanitarian assistance and ongoing emergency relief in Afghanistan: <https://wiseafghanistan.org>
 - Venmo: WiseAfghanistan
 - Paypal: [Paypal.me/wiseafghanistan](https://www.paypal.com/uk/web/web/afghanistan)
- **Miles4Migrants** -- allows individuals to donate airline miles to refugee, asylum-seekers, asylees, and their immediate family members who have legal approval to travel but cannot afford airfare: https://miles4migrants.org/?_cf_chl_jschl_tk__=pmd_RM.ml21tT8V00u_iMW.QDuiiNcTHCnk_yFrvzySju7zk-1629255488-0-gqNtZGzNAdCjcnBszQel
- **Children Without Borders** -- longstanding nonprofit organization offering children humanitarian assistance in Afghanistan, is currently fundraising to provide direct services/relief to children impacted <https://www.gofundme.com/f/afghanistanrelief2021>
- **International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)** -- provide direct humanitarian assistance from food and water to medical care for Afghans within Afghanistan (are currently onground and will continue to be): <https://www.icrc.org/en/where-we-work/asia-pacific/afghanistan>
- **Jewish Family & Community Services East Bay** is aiding 60 Afghan refugees in resesseteling by the end of this month and more refugees in the months to come - you can help by donating via their Amazon wish list or with monetary donations with the following link: <https://jfcs-eastbay.org/urgent-afghan-evacuation/>

- **Afghan American Artists and Writers (AAAWA)** -- supports Afghan creatives and artists, currently assisting with those trying to evacuate as they are at-risk: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/emergency-funds-for-afghan-artists>
- **Islamic Relief** -- one of the most reliable humanitarian assistance organizations, approximately 90% and more of your donation goes to assistance: <https://irusa.org/asia/afghanistan/>
- **Muslim Hands UK** -- Aid Agency and NGO helping those affected by poverty, conflict, and natural disaster: <https://muslimhands.org.uk/appeals/focus-afghanistan>
- **Aryana Aid** -- A volunteer-led charity working within Afghanistan: www.aryanaaid.org.uk/donate/
- **The City of Fremont** -- The effort is being managed by our Human Services Department's Family Resource Center, a 501c3. To learn more go to www.Fremont.gov/ARHelp
- **Pandemic of Love** is providing additional support for resettled Afghan Refugees by partnering to help those arriving in the DC area with Special Immigrant Visas (SIVs) using their mutual aid network to assist with housing transportation
 - Venmo: Pandemic of Love (be sure to refer to Afghan resettlement fund for any donation)
 - Cashapp: \$PandemicofLove
 - Paypal: Pandemicoflove@gmail.com
- **Ecco World** : ECCO is a nonprofit organization, that strives to improve lives through Literacy and Education of children in third world countries.
 - Linktree: <https://linktr.ee/eccodonate>
 - Paypal: https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/eccodonate?locale.x=en_US<clid=
 - Venmo: <https://venmo.com/u/eccodonate>

PETITIONS & CALLS TO ACTION

- **Petition -- President Biden must support the most vulnerable in Afghanistan and lift refugee caps- this petition requests that he does so:** <https://sign.moveon.org/petitions/president-biden-must-support-the-most-vulnerable-in-afghanistan-as-part-of-the-withdrawal-plan>
- **Call to Action -- Send letters to your elected officials to help Afghan asylum seekers and refugees:** Text “Crisis” to 52886 - sends you a link to sign your name to a pre-registered generated letter to your elected officials
- **Call to Action (send an automated e-mail by filling this form that CAIR has created)** -- Urge Congress, Vice President Kamala Harris and President Joe Biden to evacuate Afghans attempting to seek refuge, the link to do so can be found here: <https://cair-la.salsalabs.org/evacuateafghans/index.html>
- **Call to Action (send an automated e-mail by filling this form that IRC- International Rescue Committee has created)** -- Urge President Biden and his Administration to act now to protect at-risk Afghans by filing the following form out: <https://act.rescue.org/yRqHe9p>
- **Petition -- Call on the UK Government to commit to resettling at least 20,000 refugees from Afghanistan:**

<https://www.change.org/p/priti-patel-call-on-the-uk-government-to-resettle-20-000-afghan-refugees>

- **Petition -- President Biden must support the most vulnerable in Afghanistan and lift refugee caps:**
<https://sign.moveon.org/petitions/president-biden-must-support-the-most-vulnerable-in-afghanistan-as-part-of-the-withdrawal-plan>
- **Letter/Form -- Urgent appeal for Afghanistan's scholars, students, practitioners, civil society leaders, and activists**
 - Please consider adding your signature to the below letter addressed to US government officials urging them to take immediate action to help save Afghanistan's scholars, students, and civil society actors.
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScEpEaFXVieJXcQiUuf6Oh0wQo3KZKaJA0K8VJHbiBcNVHizg/viewform>
 - Scholars at Risk (SAR), in partnership with higher education institutions, associations, networks, and professionals concerned about colleagues in Afghanistan, is seeking signatures from higher education community members to the below letter addressed to US government officials urging them to take immediate action to help save Afghanistan's scholars, students, and civil society actors. Please join them in doing everything we can to protect those in Afghanistan. The letter can be found here (<https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/2021/08/urgent-appeal-for-afghanistans-scholars-students-practitioners-civil-society-leaders-and-activists/>) and pasted below

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- **WiseAfghanistan** -- Provides humanitarian assistance and ongoing emergency relief in Afghanistan: <https://wiseafghanistan.org/become-a-volunteer/>
- **Moshiri Immigration Services** -- Is taking volunteers to help with Afghan Refugee pro bono cases, as of right now it does NOT look like you need to be a Canadian citizen to assist them with these efforts, you can reach out by calling them at + 1 (647) 677-5505 or e-mailing them at info@moshiriconsulting.com
- **American Constitution Society** -- The American Constitution Society is a progressive legal organization. The group's stated mission is to "promote the vitality of the U.S. Constitution and the fundamental values it expresses: individual rights and liberties, genuine equality, access to justice, democracy and the rule of law. They are looking for Attorneys and Law Students to help with Afghan Immigration pro bono cases, you can help by e-mailing: LCEmails@acslaw.org
- **Solidarity Davis** -- Building remote Dari, Pashto, Arabic and Farsi Interpreters to help Immigrants and Refugees, you can send them a message through instagram: @solidaritydavis
- **For those who speak Dari, Farsi, Pashto, or Arabic and are open to fostering Afghan Children, please register with your local foster agency if you are located in the Bay Area, Sacramento, or Southern California**
 - For those in Sacramento you can contact Heather Tolbert (Clerical Sup I DCFAS/CPS/FRA) Office by calling: (916) 875-8149 or (916) 767-2468,

you can also go to the following

link: <https://family.binti.com/users/signup/sacramento-ca-county>

- **Nationalities Service Center** -- Is helping resettle Afghans in Philadelphia and could use volunteers to help with airport pick-up/drop-off and other resettlement efforts, you can volunteer by following the following link: <https://nscphila.org/afghanistan-resources-and-how-you-can-help>
- **Tarjimly** -- helps give Refugees on-demand access to language access, you can sign-up to help with translations if you speak Farsi, Dari, Pashto, or Arabic by signing up here: <https://tarjimly.org/en>
- **International Rescue Committee (Los Angeles and Bay Area)** -- The organization has resettled more than 16,000 Afghan refugees through the Special Immigrant Visa program, more than half of those in California. Looking for volunteers to assist in a variety of fields such as Refugee resettlement, outreach efforts, translation, etc., anyone can help with something! Dari/Pashto speakers are particularly needed, you can sign-up here: <https://www.rescue.org/volunteer-opportunities/los-angeles-ca> and <https://www.rescue.org/volunteer-opportunities/oakland-ca> and <https://www.rescue.org/volunteer-opportunities/san-jose-ca>
- **Jewish Family & Community Services East Bay** -- Is aiding Afghan refugees in resettling by the end of this month - they are asking for volunteers to help folks resettle in the East Bay, volunteer services will include things like airport pickups, helping register for social services, providing ESL support, etc.: <https://jfcs-eastbay.org/urgent-afghan-evacuation/>
- **Afghan Coalition** -- Is helping men and women and their families feel at home in the Bay Area after they have fled Afghanistan due to threats they received after serving alongside U.S military forces, they currently need Virtual Tutors. As a virtual tutor, you would be paired up with a family, set a schedule, and meet with adult members via video conferencing to evaluate their educational context, assess what resources would be needed to help the person, and do your best to be their advocate and tutor. You can sign-up here: <https://www.volunteermatch.org/search/opp3316646.jsp>
- **East Bay Area (Fremont, Newark, Union City, and Hayward → California)** - Is asking for volunteers to help with Afghanistan Relief Advocacy, Evacuation Support, Resettlement Support, and Spaces to Coordinate Efforts in the U.S, you can help by signing up here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfOabcuHsNpao81A2JeCgYWqhz8XCCVxzfvu3FKQTXMnWJW_g/viewform?fbclid=IwAR35cO9R-i3DAIxUk3_M53_gHUrTnbJyy_BtBNY1ri4HXbLuYHWak5Ve3XQ
- **Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services** -- allows you to volunteer your time to help with services like airport pick-ups, apartment set-ups, or bringing a meal, please sign-up using the button that represents your region or sign-up for the general stand-by list in areas like Tacoma, Seattle, DC, Maryland, Virginia, Houston and Fort Worth https://lirsconnect.org/get_involved/action_center/siv

WOMEN-FOCUSED SUPPORT

- WOMEN FOR AFGHAN WOMEN:
 - <https://womenforafghanwomen.networkforgood.com/projects/123748-20-years-of-afghan-women-strong>
- SAMIRA HAMIDI:
 - Works for Amnesty International and has a lot of experience working on human rights in Afghanistan. Support humanitarian aid to internally displaced people. Contribute to her [GoFundMe campaign](#), at any level. Funds are administered through local volunteers who are getting aid directly to those in need.
- AFGHAN WOMEN'S NETWORK + OTHERS:
 - A very active organization founded by Samira Hamidi and other women's rights activists. This will support safe houses that are protecting women in Afghanistan targeted by the Taliban. Contribute to this [GoFundMe campaign](#), at any level, organized by the Women's Regional network and requested by the Afghan Women's Network (AWN), Safety and Risk Mitigation Organization (SRMO) and Afghan Women's Skills Development Center (AWSDC).
 - [International Women's Media Foundation - Afghan Journalists](#)
 - [Afghan Institute of Learning](#): Support Afghan women and girls empowerment.
 - [Friends of the American University of Afghanistan \(FAUAF\)](#): Support women's education in Afghanistan.
 - [The Lamia Afghan Foundation](#): Afghan women and children in Afghanistan
 - OTHER HELPFUL RESOURCES: ([From U.S.-Afghan Women's Council](#))