

August 20, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

As organizations and faith groups dedicated to upholding human rights, humanitarian protections, and the rights of refugees, asylees, asylum seekers, stateless people, and all others who have been forcibly displaced, we write to express our support for a robust humanitarian response from the United States and our commitment to assist Afghans in danger, and to implore your administration to expand opportunities for Afghans to seek refuge in the United States.

Since your announcement of the US withdrawal from Afghanistan, [advocates](#), [experts](#), and [veterans](#)' organizations have warned that a humanitarian crisis would be imminent. On August 15th, [Taliban forces](#) took control of Kabul, seeding panic throughout the city and country. We are met with unending accounts of the desperation of Afghans seeking to flee: crowds overflowing the [airfield](#), resulting in avoidable and tragic deaths; Afghans who worked alongside US forces scrambling to [delete](#) their digital history, and seeking resources for disguising their [biometric data](#) for fear of being discovered and targeted by the Taliban; [women](#) having already disappeared from the streets of Kabul, their safety and freedoms slipping away.

On August 16th, you [addressed](#) the public regarding the withdrawal, stating that you “won’t shrink from [your] share of the responsibility” for how the US engaged in Afghanistan. Taking responsibility means ensuring that there continues to be robust protections for vulnerable populations in Afghanistan — including women, girls, LGBTQIA+ people, people with disabilities, and religious and minority groups, such as Sikhs, Hindus, Shiites and those with non-Pashtun ethnic identities — while providing clear pathways to protection for all Afghans seeking refuge from violence. Such pathways include, but are not limited to: evacuating Afghan allies to US territories for processing (until all 18,000 SIV applicants and their loved ones have been evacuated); expanding US refugee resettlement numbers and capacity; working with UNHCR and the international humanitarian community to support emergency aid infrastructure; halting any and all deportations of Afghan nationals in accordance with [UNHCR recommendations](#); designating Afghanistan for Temporary Protected Status; and increasing US asylum processing.

In that same address you stated that “human rights must be at the center of our foreign policy, not the periphery.” The US must not stand by as Afghan civilians and allies suffer. We urge you to continue to support and protect vulnerable Afghans within Afghanistan. At the same time, our organizations, networks, and communities are ready to welcome all Afghans in need of refuge.

Sincerely,

**National**

A Little Piece Of Light

Action Corps

Action for Palestine

ADL (Anti-Defamation League)

Advocating Opportunity

African Communities Together

Alianza Nacional de Campesinas

Alliance of Asian American Baptist Churches

American Friends Service Committee  
American Immigration Council  
American Immigration Lawyers Association  
American Muslim Bar Association  
American Muslim Empowerment Network (AMEN)  
Arab American Institute (AAI)  
Arab Resource & Organizing Center (AROC)  
Armenian-American Action Network  
Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF)  
Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC  
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO  
ASISTA  
Asylum Seeker Advocacy Project (ASAP)  
AsylumConnect  
Auburn  
Bethany Christian Services  
BiNet USA  
Blue Future  
Boat People SOS (BPSOS)  
Cameroon American Council  
Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.  
Center for Disability Rights  
Center for International Policy  
Center for the Study of Hate & Extremism - California State University, San Bernardino  
Center for Victims of Torture  
Charity & Security Network  
Christian Reformed Church Office of Social Justice  
Church World Service  
Clearinghouse on Women's Issues  
Coalition for Civil Freedoms  
Coalition on Human Needs  
CODEPINK  
Columbia Law School Immigrants' Rights Clinic  
Common Defense  
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces  
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship  
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship West  
Council for Global Equality  
Daily Kos  
DC Peace Team  
Decency & Clarity  
Disciples Immigration Legal Counsel  
Disciples Refugee & Immigration Ministries  
Engage Action  
Empowering Pacific Islander Communities (EPIC)  
Episcopal Migration Ministries  
Ethiopian Community Development Council  
Facing Abuse in Community Environments  
Faith in Action  
Faith in Public Life  
Faiths for Safe Water

Familia: Trans Queer Liberation Movement  
Feminist Majority Foundation  
First Focus on Children  
Food Empowerment Project  
Foreign Policy for America  
Freedom Forward  
Freedom Network USA  
Friends Committee on National Legislation  
GirlForward  
Global Exchange  
Haitian Bridge Alliance  
Hanan Refugees Relief Group  
Heartland Human Care Services  
HIAS  
Human Rights First  
ICDR International  
Immigrants Rising  
Immigration Hub  
Indivisible  
International Campaign for Arakan  
International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN)  
International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP)  
International Rescue Committee  
IronPac  
Islamic Relief USA  
J Street  
Japanese American Citizens League  
Jesuit Refugee Service/USA  
Justice Action Center  
Justice Democrats  
Kandoo  
Labor Council for Latin American Advancement  
Lambda Legal  
Lawyers for Good Government (L4GG)  
Leadership Conference of Women Religious  
Lights for Liberty  
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service  
MADRE  
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns  
Matthew Shepard Foundation  
MomsRising/MamásConPoder  
MPower Change  
Muslim Advocates  
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Council of Churches USA  
National Education Association  
National Equality Action Team (NEAT)  
National Immigrant Justice Center  
National Immigration Forum  
National Immigration Law Center

National Immigration Litigation Alliance  
National Justice for Our Neighbors  
National Network for Immigrant & Refugee Rights  
National Partnership for New Americans (NPNA)  
National Priorities Project at the Institute for Policy Studies  
National Religious Campaign Against Torture  
National Resource Center on Domestic Violence  
New American Economy  
Niskanen Center  
Oil Change International  
Our Revolution  
Oxfam America  
Peace Training and Research Organization  
Planned Parenthood Federation of America  
PolicyLink  
Polygon Education Fund  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration  
Progressive Democrats of America  
Project On Government Oversight (POGO)  
Psychologists for Social Responsibility  
Queer Crescent  
Rachel Corrie Foundation for Peace and Justice  
RAICES  
Refugee Advocacy Lab  
Refugee Congress  
Refugee Council USA  
Refugees International  
RefugePoint  
Revolutionary Love Project  
Revolving Door Project  
Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights  
Servant Partners  
Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund (SALDEF)  
Sikh Coalition  
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Justice Team  
Sojourners  
SolidarityINFOService  
South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT)  
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC)  
Southern Poverty Law Center  
Student Clinic for Immigrant Justice  
Sunrise Movement  
Tahirih Justice Center  
Tarjimly  
The Advocates for Human Rights  
The Anastasis Center for Christian Education and Ministry  
The Episcopal Church  
The Swell Collective  
The United Methodist Church - General Board of Church and Society  
The Workers Circle

Their Story is Our Story  
Together for Hope  
Toora Arsala  
U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants  
UndocuBlack Network  
Union for Reform Judaism  
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee  
United Methodist Women  
UNITED SIKHS  
United Stateless  
Upwardly Global  
USAHello  
USC Gould International Human Rights Clinic  
Vday  
Veterans for American Ideals  
Veterans for Peace  
Voice for Refuge Action Fund  
We Are All America  
Welcoming America  
Win Without War  
Women's Action for New Directions  
Women for Afghan Women  
Women's March  
Women's Refugee Commission  
World Education Services  
World Relief  
Yemeni Alliance Committee  
Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights

## **State**

Asian American Advocacy Fund  
Asian American Federation  
Asian Americans Advancing Justice | Chicago  
Asian Resources Inc  
Azerbaijan Society of Maine  
Board of Church and Society, Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church  
Broward for Progress  
Building Peaceful Bridges  
California Immigrant Policy Center  
Cambodian Community Association of Maine  
Casa Ruby  
Central Washington Justice For Our Neighbors  
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)  
Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition  
Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition Action Fund  
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Texas  
Council on American-Islamic Relations, Washington Chapter (CAIR-WA)  
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon  
Faith in New Jersey  
Fellowship Southwest  
Florida Young Democrats

Gateway Community Services Maine  
Georgia Muslim Voter Project  
HANA Center  
High Road Alliance  
Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota  
Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project  
Immigrant Legal Center  
Indivisible Northern Nevada  
IRIS - Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services  
Isuroon  
Justice for Our Neighbors Michigan  
Ladder to the Moon Network  
Living United For Change (LUCHA)  
Louisiana Fair Housing Action Center  
Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains  
Maine Business Immigration Coalition  
Maine Equal Justice  
Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition  
Maine Women's Lobby  
Mainers for Accountable leadership  
Make the Road New York  
Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition  
Michigan Immigrant Rights Center  
Mississippi Center for Justice  
Muslim Women's Organization  
New York Immigration Coalition  
New York Justice for Our Neighbors, Inc.  
NH Veterans for Peace  
Northwest Immigrant Rights Project  
NOVA Friends of Refugees  
Oasis Legal Services  
Ohio Immigrant Alliance  
OneAmerica  
OPAWL  
Pars Equality Center  
Project New Yorker  
ProsperityME  
Refugee Action Network  
Reviving the Islamic Sisterhood for Empowerment (RISE)  
Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network  
SNEUCC/IRATT  
SOCIAL ECOLOGICAL EDUCATION-LA (SEE)  
South Dakota Voices for Peace  
Tennessee Immigrant & Refugee Rights Coalition  
The Children's Partnership  
The Freedom BLOC  
The Restorative Justice Institute of Maine  
Transformations CDC  
Unified Asian Communities  
Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network  
Washington State Labor Council

## Wind of the Spirit Immigrant Resource Center

### **Local**

Afghan Health Initiative  
AIRS  
Arab American Civic Council  
ARTogether  
Asian American Arts Alliance  
Asian American Organizing Project (AAOP)  
Austin Region Justice for Our Neighbors  
Beacon Presbyterian Fellowship  
Bethel Community Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)  
Border Organizing Project  
Burma Refugee Families & Newcomers  
Canopy NWA  
Capital Area Immigrants' Rights Coalition  
Capital Area New Mainers Project  
Catholic Charities of Southern New Mexico  
Church Without Walls Berkeley  
Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice  
Community Impact LAB  
Community Refugee & Immigration Services (CRIS)  
Comunidades Unidas / Communities United  
Connecticut Shoreline Indivisible  
Diversity in Health Training Institute  
Don't Separate Families  
East Bay Refugee and Immigrant Forum  
ECDC African Community Center - Denver  
Eden United Church of Christ  
Edu-Futuro  
Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles - Interfaith Refugee & Immigration Service  
Exodus Refugee Immigration, Inc.  
Faith in New York  
Focus Points Family Resource Center  
Harbor House Ministries  
Hearts & Homes for Refugees.org  
Hope Acts  
Human Rights Initiative of North Texas  
Iglesia Piedra Viva UMC  
Immigrant and Refugee Center of Northern Colorado  
Indivisible Marin  
Indivisible Nation BK  
Ithaca Welcomes Refugees  
Jefferson County Immigration Rights Advocates  
Journey's End Refugee Services, Inc.  
Jubilee Immigration Advocates  
Justice for Our Neighbors El Paso  
La Puerta Waco  
LUCHA Ministries, Inc.  
Makom Solel Lakeside  
Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid

Middle Eastern Immigrant and Refugee Alliance  
Motherland Beauties  
NAMI Huntington  
New American Pathways  
New Bridges Presbyterian Church  
New Mainers Resource Center, Portland Adult Education  
New Portland Foundation  
Nguyen Van Ly Foundation  
Northridge Indivisible  
Oak Park Temple  
Our Revolution South Central Virginia  
Pars Equality Center, Los Angeles  
Portland Adult Education  
Portland ME  
Portland Public Schools  
Presbytery of Boston, PC (USA)  
Program for Torture Victims (PTV)  
R Bazaar  
ReEstablish Richmond  
Refugee Education and Adventure Challenge (REACH)  
Refugee Women's Alliance  
RefugeeOne  
Rivertowns for Refugees  
Sampreshan Inc  
Social Justice Committee Chair Congregation Ohabai Sholom  
The Rian Immigrant Center  
United Methodist Sacramento Social Justice Team  
Unity Church of San Leandro  
USC/SDA Institute for Theatre & Social Change  
Vietnam Coalition Against Torture  
Welcoming the Stranger  
Westchester Jewish Coalition for Immigration  
World Relief Chicagoland  
World Relief Spokane  
Yemeni American Merchants Association  
YWCA of Queens