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
Kando
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
Poligon 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
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 Mainer’s 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 Mariners 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