

September 16, 2022

Dear Members of Congress,

As 111 religious leaders and 59 national, state, and local faith-based organizations across traditions, we urge you to **support and pass the *Afghan Adjustment Act* (S.4787 / H.R.8685) as part of the upcoming FY 2023 Continuing Resolution**. This important bipartisan legislation provides a roadmap to permanent status for evacuated Afghans resettled in the United States to ensure they have a chance to apply to become lawful permanent residents, and makes clear that the administration continues to prioritize the relocation to safety the vulnerable Afghan allies left behind.

We are called by our sacred texts and faith principles to love our neighbor, accompany the vulnerable, and welcome the sojourner. Our congregations, synagogues, and mosques have historically played key roles in assisting refugees with housing, language, employment, and social support necessary for rapid and effective resettlement into U.S. communities. Yet, our commitment to offering refuge from violence and persecution requires our elected leaders to demonstrate moral leadership.

Across faith traditions and practices, the message is clear. The Qur'an directs us to "do good to... those in need, neighbors who are near, neighbors who are strangers, the companion by your side, the wayfarer that you meet" (4:36). In the Jewish and Christian traditions, we are also invited to welcome our neighbor, and do right by them: "When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God" (Leviticus 19:33-34); and live up to our promises: "It is better not to promise anything than to promise something and not do it" (Ecclesiastes 5:5-15). Now, we call upon Congress to stay true to our government's promises to at-risk Afghans, who have put their faith in us. Not only would the *Afghan Adjustment Act* realize these values, but it would also strengthen ongoing resettlement and long-term integration efforts.

More than 75,000 at-risk Afghans were welcomed into the United States via "humanitarian parole," a temporary immigration status typically only granted for 1 or 2 years to provide safety for people under threat. Given the temporary nature of parole, tens of thousands of the relocated Afghan men, women, and children resettled in the U.S. have been navigating complex legal issues to find lasting protections in the U.S. Without the *Afghan Adjustment Act*, Afghans that the U.S. government relocated face uncertainty and insecurity, including the threat of family separation. As evidenced by the broad support for this bipartisan, bicameral legislation, it is clear Congress agrees that every Afghan family deserves a peaceful and dignified immigration process and a pathway to permanent protection.

The faith community has repeatedly urged Congress to provide lasting protection for our new Afghan neighbors. The only viable solution is through the passage of an *Afghan Adjustment Act*, as the U.S. has done for other vulnerable people such as Cubans following the rise of Fidel Castro, Southeast Asians following the fall of Saigon, and Iraqis following multiple U.S. military engagements, while we continue to hold the administration accountable for ongoing relocations and processing of vulnerable Afghans to the United States. As faith leaders, we join security experts, refugee resettlement agencies, Afghan Americans, women's rights leaders, veterans groups, and legal experts in seeking passage of this legislation.

We believe Congress has a moral responsibility to act swiftly. We eagerly look forward to working with you to ensure your support **for the *Afghan Adjustment Act* as part of the upcoming FY23 Continuing Resolution**.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Faith Organizations/Groups

Bethany Christian Services
Cedar Hills United Church of Christ
Central Pacific Conference of the United Church of Christ
Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America
Christian Reformed Church Office of Social Justice
Church Council of Greater Seattle
Church World Service
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces
Disciples Refugee and Immigration Ministries
Dorothy Day Catholic Worker House, DC
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Faith Lutheran Church (ELCA)
First Church in Windsor, CT
First Lutheran
First Presbyterian Church
HIAS
Hindus for Human Rights
Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters, USA-JPIC
Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity
Islamic Relief USA
Jemez Peacemakers
Jesuit Refugee Service/USA
Journey's End Refugee Services, Inc.
Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area (LSSCA)
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns
Member of the Berkeley Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
Meriden Congregational Church, UCC
Miami Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
Miracles And Blessings UMC
MPower Change Action Fund
Multifaith Alliance for Syrian Refugees
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Council of Jewish Women
North Madison Congregational Church
Office of Peace, Justice, and Ecological Integrity, Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth
Our Lady of Lourdes
Pax Christi New York State
Presbyterian Church (USA)
Provincial Council Clerics of St. Viator
Shoreline Interfaith Resettlement
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Congregational Leadership
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Western Province Leadership
Sisters of Charity of New York
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Justice Team
Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur (EW)
Sisters of St. Dominic of Blauvelt, New York
Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi
Southwestern Texas Synod, ELCA
St. Edward's Episcopal Church
Susan Armstrong
The Episcopal Church
Transformations CDC
Unitarian Universalist Justice Ohio
Unitarian Universalist Refugee & Immigrant Services & Education

Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice
United Church of Christ
Unity Lutheran Church
Westchester Jewish Coalition for Immigration
World Relief

Faith Leaders

National

Sister Rose Therese Nolta
Eileen Gannon, OP
Rev. Marilyn Chilcote
Rev. Joshua Baird

Alabama

Elder and Global Mission Team Member Lee Cooper

Alaska

Rev. Ellen Johnson-Price, Immanuel Presbyterian Church

Arizona

Sister Margaret McBride, Sisters of Mercy

Arkansas

Rev. Dr. Clint Schneklath, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Arizona

Sister Margaret McBride, Sisters of Mercy

California

Rev. John Katonah, Yolo Interfaith Immigration Network
Chaplain Michael Eselun, Simms/Mann UCLA Center for Integrative Oncology
Ms. JL Angell, Presbyterian
Dr. & Imam Mohammed Hashemi, Islamic Center of Los Angeles and Orange County
Rev. Diane Mettam Diane Mettam, United Methodist Church
Elder Merilie Robertson, Knox Presbyterian Church
Rabbi Peretz Wolf-Prusan, JFCS East Bay
Reverend Carla Dietz, First Congregational Church of San Jose
Board Member Felicity Figueroa, Newport Mesa Irvine Interfaith Council
Rev. Mary Kay Will, United Methodist Church

Connecticut

Rev. Gini King, First Congregational Church, UCC
Authorized Commissioned Minister United Church of Christ, Sue Timony-Hall, North Madison
Congregational Church
Rev. Shannon Clarkson, First Church Guilford
The Rev. Mark Lingle, St. Francis Episcopal Church
The Rev. Mary Anne Osborn, Christ Episcopal Church, Guilford, CT
Congregation Co-President, Nancy Burton, 57 fremont St
Rev. Tony Lorenzen, Unitarian Universalist Church in Meriden
Congregational Co-President, Nancy Burton, Unitarian Universalist Church in Meriden
Rev. Nicole Grant Yonkman, First Church in Windsor, CT
Rev. Jocelyn Cadwallader, First Presbyterian Church, New Haven

Florida

Rev. Fred L Hammond, Manatee Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Georgia

Dr. Belle McMaster, Monticello Presbyterian Church
Rev. Tom Hagood, Columbia Presbyterian Church

Illinois

Rev. Anna Ernst, Epiphany Evangelical Lutheran Church/Metro Chicago Synod, ELCA
Marilyn Breiding, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Arlington Heights, IL
Rev. Stuart Barnes Jamieson, Carter-Westminster United Presbyterian Church
Mr. Brian Chapman, Cook County
Br. Michael Gosch, Clerics of St. Viator (Viatorians)
Sister Catherine Leamy, Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary
Rev. Nancy Goede, Augustana Lutheran Church of Hyde Park

Iowa

Sr. Teri Hadro, Sisters of Charity, BVM

Kansas

Rev. Kenneth K. Grenz, United Methodist Church

Kentucky

Rev. Jane Larsen-Wigger, Presbyterian Church (USA)

Maine

Rev. Steve Garnaas-Holmes, New England Conference, United Methodist Church

Maryland

Pastor Dauba Adams
Sister Patricia Kirk, Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore
Rev. Betty E. Landis, Saint Stephen Lutheran (ELCA)
Rev. Abhi Janamanchi, Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church

Massachusetts

Chair Mission Martha Crawford, First Parish of Westwood, UCC

Michigan

Rev. Ellen Schoepf, Faith Lutheran Church (ELCA)
Monica Stuhlreyer, IHM Motherhouse

Minnesota

Rev. Andrew Yackel, Urland Lutheran Church, ELCA
Pastor Corrine Haulotte, Lutheran Campus Center of Winona
Paula Nordhem, United Church of Christ
Sr. Dorothy Zeller, Good Counsel Learning Center
Rev. Dr. Lindsay Louise Biddle, Presbyterian Church (USA)
Pastor James Erlandson, Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

Nevada

Chaplain C. Brent Hoy-Bianchi, Renown Health

New Hampshire

Rev. John Gregory-Davis, Meriden Congregational Church, UCC

New Jersey

Rev. Marc A. Stutzel, Christ Lutheran Church

New York

Rev. Dr. Richard Gilbert
Dr. Rosemarie Pace, Pax Christi New York State
Sister Margaret O'Brien, Sisters of Charity
Brother Michael Potvin-Frost, Order of Franciscan Hermits
Rev. Merle Showers, University United Methodist Church
Sister Joan Agro, Sisters of St. Dominic of Blauvelt, New York
Sister Anne Marie Bucher

North Carolina

Rev. Leigh Wisner, Clemmons Presbyterian Church
Rev. Diane Faires Beadle, St. Paul's Christian Church
Rev. Dr. Steven Tate, Congregational United Church of Christ
The Rev Christine Payden-Travers, Retired Episcopal priest
Ms. Trisha Lester, Eno River Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
The Rev. Dr. Gary Smith, Saint Andrews-Covenant Presbyterian Church

Ohio

Rev. Dr. Brian Q. Newcomb David's United Church of Christ, Kettering
Sister Carol Dikovitsky, Sisters of Notre Dame
Elder Paula Ewers, College Hill Community Church
Rev. Kellie Kelly, Miami Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
Pastor Hank Osmundson, St. John's United Church of Christ

Oregon

Rev. Jennifer Seaich, Beaver Creek United Church of Christ

Pennsylvania

Rev. DeAnn Books, Shiloh Lutheran
Rev. Paul Hagedorn, Tabernacle Lutheran Church
Church Vestry Peggy Hanzelman St. Edward's Episcopal Church
Mr. George J. Schofield III, St. Mary's Episcopal Church
Spiritual Director Linda Frank, St. John Neumann
Father Christopher Promis, Spiritans
Sister Dominica Lo Bianco, Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia

Texas

Francis Hymel, New Hope Counseling
Rev. Allison Lanza, Be The Neighbor
Sr. Betty Keegan, Franciscan Missionary of Mary
Bishop Susan Briner, Southwestern Texas Synod, ELCA
Rev. Dr. Paul Ziese, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Vermont

Venerable Catherine Cooke, Cathedral Church of St. Paul- Episcopal
Rev. Joan Javier-Duval, Unitarian Church of Montpelier

Virginia

Mr. Robert Shields, Accotink IU Church
Sardarni Adarsh Khalsa, Raj Khalsa Gurdwara

Washington

John alder, Westminster UCC
Rev. Joshua Stromberg-Wojcik, El Camino de Emaús Lutheran Church

Washington D.C.

Rev. Dr. Sharon Stanley-Rea, Disciples Refugee & Immigration Ministries

West Virginia

Rev. Jenny Williams, Justice & Jubilee
Rev. Bradley Davis, United Methodist Church
Rev. Michael Ludle, Ravenswood United Methodist Charge
Rev. Amber Baker, Cheat Lake UMC
Rev. Sarah Allen, United Methodist Church
Rev. Joe Webb, New Wineskins

Wisconsin

Rev. Valerie Showalter Madison Mennonite Church
Pastor Rev. Don T. Timmerman, Mary of Magdala
Rev. James Rossey, Norbertine Fathers
Sister Ruth Battaglia, Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes
Sr. Frances Hoffman, Racine Dominicans
Dr. Stephanie Mitchell, Racine Interfaith Coalition
Rev. Jamie Brandt Brieske, Immanuel Lutheran Church
Rev. Jeffrey Dodson, First Congregational Church of Ripon UCC