August 30, 2021

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

Dear Mr. President,

As 219 faith leaders and 88 faith organizations and faith groups across traditions dedicated to upholding the human rights, humanitarian protection, 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 welcome Afghans in need of refuge and to implore your administration to expand opportunities for Afghans to seek refuge in the United States.

After months of warnings to evacuate and protect Afghan lives during U.S. withdrawal, faith leaders, veterans, advocates, and experts called for a timely, efficient, and secure Afghan evacuation. Tens of thousands of our Afghan allies are in imminent danger and face retaliation and death by the Taliban. 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 have 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 and that “part of the answer is some of the Afghans did not want to leave earlier — still hopeful for their country.” Taking responsibility means ensuring that there continue to be robust protections for vulnerable populations in Afghanistan — including women, girls, LGBTQIA+ people, people with disabilities, and religious and minority groups — while providing clear pathways to protection for all Afghans seeking refuge from violence. Such pathways include, but are not limited to: ensuring safe pathways out of Afghanistan and evacuating Afghan allies to US territories (e.g., Guam) 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.

If “human rights must be at the center of our foreign policy, not the periphery”, as you stated in the same address to the American people and to the world, the United States must stand behind its promises. Leaving behind Afghans could be a death sentence for many. It is morally reprehensible and an abandonment of our faith values. We cannot let this happen.

We are called by our sacred texts to love our neighbor, accompany the vulnerable, and welcome the sojourner. Our places of worship have historically played key roles in assisting refugees for rapid and effective integration into U.S. communities. Our places of worship and faith communities stand ready to welcome all Afghans in need of refuge.

Sincerely,

Faith Organizations
ADL (Anti-Defamation League)
Adorers of the Blood of Christ, US Region
Alliance of Baptists
American Muslim Empowerment Network (AMEN)
Bridgeport United Church of Christ
Casa del Migrante en Tijuana, Scalabrini International Migration Network (SIMN)
Cathedral of Hope United Church of Christ
Catholic Prison services
Christian Reformed Church Office of Social Justice
Church of the Brethren, Office of Peacebuilding and Policy
Church World Service
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces
Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes' Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Office
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul USA
Disciples Immigration Legal Counsel
Dominican Sisters - Grand Rapids
Dominican Sisters of Hope
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Faith Action Network
Faith Commons
Faith in Texas
Faithful America
Faiths for Safe Water
Fellowship Southwest
First United Methodist Church of Fremont
Franciscan Action Network
Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Holy Union Sisters
Hope Border Institute
Hopewell Church of the Brethren
IHM Sisters - Justice, Peace and Sustainability Office
Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center
Inter-Faith Committee on Latin America (IFCLA)
Interfaith Communities for Dialogue (ICD)
Interfaith Welcome Coalition - San Antonio
International Ministries
Jesuit Refugee Service/USA
John Calvin Presbyterian Church
JPIC Committee - Religious of Jesus & Mary, USA/Haiti Province
Justice for Our Neighbors El Paso
La Unión Del Pueblo Entero- LUPE
Leadership Conference of Women Religious
Market Square Presbyterian Church Peacemaking Committee
National Council of Churches
National Council of Jewish Women
National Religious Campaign Against Torture
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
NOVA Friends of Refugees
NOVA Friends of Refugees
One Journey
Pax Christi Metro DC-Baltimore
Pax Christi USA
Peace Action Group of Plymouth Church Seattle, UCC
Pennsylvania Council of Churches
Presbyterian Church (USA)
Provincial Council for School Sisters of Notre Dame Central Pacific Province
School Sisters of Notre Dame
School Sisters of Notre Dame - Atlantic Midwest Province
School Sisters of Notre Dame, Central Pacific Province
Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund (SALDEF)
Sikh Coalition
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Congregational Leadership
Sisters of Charity, BVM
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Justice Team
Sisters of Saint Joseph of Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, PA
Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi
Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, LA
Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, LA
Sisters of the Humility of Mary
Sisters of the immaculate Heart of Mary
Sisters of the Most Precious Blood of O’Fallon, MO
Sisters Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Scranton PA
Sojourners
Spring Hill United Church of Christ
SSND Immigration Committee
St Paul United Methodist Church in Fremont
The Episcopal Church
The United Methodist Church – General Board of Church and Society
U.S. Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph
Unitarian Universalist Refugee & Immigrant Services & Education
Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice
Westchester Jewish Coalition for Immigration
Wisconsin Council of Churches
Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice
World Relief

**Faith Leaders and People of Faith**

**Arizona**
Rev. Carol Reynolds Scottsdale Congregational United Church of Christ
Rev. Kenneth Kennon, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Alice Stambaugh, Scottsdale Congregational United Church of Christ, United Church of Christ
Margaret Grannis, Centering Prayer Group, Scottsdale Congregational
Rev Elizabeth Enright
Elder Salena Petersen Keesecker, Guadalupe Presbyterian Church, Guadalupe Presbyterian Church
Bergen Priest Associate, Episcopal Church of St. Matthew

**California**
Minerva G. Carcaño, San Francisco Episcopal Area, The United Methodist Church
Reverend Thomas Widlund, Woodland United Methodist, Church United Methodist
Rev. Rick Sample, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, Baptist
Rev. Lita Sample, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, Baptist
Rev. Angel Kyodo williams, Transformative Change, Buddhist
Rev. Dr. Shijung Shim, United Methodist Church of Castro Valley United Methodist Church
Rev. Johann M. Osias, St Paul United Methodist Church
Dana VanderMey, Hope Community Church of Santa Barbara
Sister Jocelyn Quijano, Presentation Sisters Union
Rev. Dr. Linda L. Pickens-Jones, St. Mark’s United Methodist Church
Pastor Youngmi Jung, First United Methodist Church of Fremont United Methodist Church
Rev. Marylee Sheffer, Napa Methodist Church
Ms. Anita Cuttler, Saint Augustine by-the-Sea Episcopal Church
Jo Marshall, First United Methodist Church
Rev. Christine morgan, Retired Hospice Chaplain, Interfaith
Rev. Rebecca Littlejohn, Vista La Mesa Christian Church, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Sister Martha Larsen, Sisters of Mercy
Rev. Dr. Myrna Tuttle, First Congregational Church of Santa Barbara, United Church of Christ
Person of Faith, St. Paul United Methodist Church, United Methodist
Dr. Catherine Regan, Sisters of Mercy
Rose M Berger, Sojourners
Bishop Sally Dyck, United Methodist Church
Susan Dunaway-Tsujihara, Napa United Methodist
Ellen Patterson, Napa Methodist Church Methodist

Colorado
Rabbi Deborah Ruth Bronstein, Congregation Har HaShem, Reform Judaism

Connecticut
Reverend Carla Dietz, Connecticut Conference of UCC
Stanley Maticka, Immanuel Congregational Church, UCC
Sister Maryann Mueller, CSSF, JPIC Coordinator, Felician Sister
Michele Mudrick, First Church of Christ Glastonbury CT, UCC
Sr. Elaine Betoncourt CSJ, Sisters of St. Joseph, Chambey/West Hartford
Virginia Streppa, Covenant Church, Protestant

District of Columbia
Rev. Kealani Willbanks, Foundry UMC
Diane Randall, Friends Committee on National Legislation
Sim J. Singh, Sikh Coalition
Rev. T.C. Morrow, Public Witness and Ecumenical Connection Foundry UMC
Faith Ottenhoff, John’s Episcopal Church

Florida
Rev. Dr. William Olewiler, Virginia Annual Conference, United Methodist Church

Georgia
Rev. David W. Key, Sr. Founding Pastor Lake Oconee Community Church, Multi-denominational
Dr. Belle McMaster, Monticello Presbyterian Church

Illinois
Sister Dorothy Pagosa, Sisters of St Joseph Third Order of St Francis
Sister Joyce Shanabarger, Franciscan Sisters
Carol Devoss, CUCC, Congregational (UCC)
Susan Armstrong, Broadway United Methodist Church
Rev Ms Shirley Wooden, Westminster Presbyterian

Indiana
The Very Reverend Gray Lesesne, Christ Church Cathedral

Kansas
Tracy Baack, Journey Bible Church

Kentucky
Mary Landrum, Wesley United Methodist Church, United Methodist

Louisiana
George D Bond II, St George’s Episcopal Church
Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Cahalan, Saint Jerome’s Catholic Church

Maine
Maryland
Fran Eskin-Royer, Executive Director, National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
Rev. Dr. Cheryl L. Tatham, North Chevy Chase Christian Church, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Sister Marie Lucey, Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia
Sister Ruth Harkins, The Catholic University of America
Mary Liston Liepold ofs, Secular Franciscan
Rev Patricia Roop Hollinger, Church of the Brethren/Quaker

Massachusetts
William Ramsey, Charlemont Federated Church, United Church of Christ
Sister Mary Lou Simcoe, Justice and Peace Promoter Holy Union Sisters
Nancy Ross, Franklin Federated Church UCC/American Baptist Churches
Dr. Brad Rothrock, Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Episcopal

Michigan
Rev. Michael S. Mulberry, Pilgrim Congregational UCC, United Church of Christ
Sister Joan Williams, Dominican Sisters–Grand Rapids
The Rev. Susan Greenwood, First Congregational UCC Coloma, United Church of Christ
Lys Blakeslee, Christ Church
Rev. JP Sundararajan, Reformed Church in America
Art Hanson

Minnesota
Rev. T. Michael Rock, Robbinsdale Parkway United Church of Christ, United, Church of Christ
Rev. Dan Adolphson, First Christian Church Minneapolis, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Missouri
Pastor Corrine Haulotte Reverend, Lutheran Campus Center, ELCA
Emily Kuttenkuler, Asylum-Seeker Support Ministry Team, Kirkwood United Church of Christ
Susan D. Laughlin, Kirkwood, UCC
Rev. Betsy Happel, Pastor, Kirkwood United Church of Christ, UCC
Karen J Kaul, Congregation, Kirkwood United Church of Christ, UCC
Vic Burton, Universal spirituality
Sisters of the Most Precious Blood of O'Fallon

Montana
Rev. Laura Folkwein, Associate Pastor, UCC Missoula, United Church of Christ/Christian

New Jersey
Sister Mary Virginia Tomasiak, CSSF
Sister Lynn Marie, CSSF, Felician Sisters of North America
Dr. Rosalind Smith Edman, St. Charles Borromeo Parish
Rev. Patricia Bruger, UM Retired Clergy
Daniel Grossano, Youth and Family Ministry, Church of the Little Flower
Sister Kathleen McDonnell, Sisters of Mercy

New York
Rev. Dr. Donna Schaper, Orient Congregational Church
Arlene Flaherty OP, Director, JPIC Dept. School Sisters of Notre Dame Atlantic Midwest Province
Sarah Manasrah
Sister Kathleen Kanet, RSHM, Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary
Sister Maureen Welch, Ursuline Sisters, Eastern province
Br. Michael Potvin-Frost, OFH Brother Order of Franciscan Hermits
Sister Ann Marie Pierce, IHM, Sister, Servant of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
The Rev. Elizabeth G. Maxwell, Church of the Ascension, Episcopal
Kerry A. Giansante, Journey's End Refugee Services
Arlene Kaukus, The Chapel at Crosspoint
Bro. Terence Connolly CFC, Christian Brothers
Sister Maureen Jessnik, Sister Life Minister, Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
Rev. University United Methodist Church
Sister Roberta Smith, Sisters of St. Francis
JJ TenClay, Reformed Church in America
Evangelical and Environmental Scientist Roosevelt-freeport church of christ

North Carolina
Rev. Paula Clayton Dempsey, Alliance of Baptists
Santiago Reales, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of NC
Rev. Julie Wilson, Open Arms Community, United Methodist
Suzanne Null, Unitarian Universalist
Megan Wilson, Salem Presbyterian
Dr K Michie Harriss Dew, New Creation Community Presbyterian
Douglas Wingeier, Rev Dr, United Methodist Church
The Rev Christine Payden-Travers, Episcopalian

Ohio
Sister Sheila Marie Tobbe, Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland

Oregon
Rev. Tara L. Wilkins, Bridgeport United Church of Christ, United Church of Christ
Taylor Nasim Stone, Imago Dei Community
Bob Morse, South Mountain Friends Meeting

Pennsylvania
Sister Joyce Bell, Sisters of IHM
Betsy Wiest, Sisters of St. Joseph of NW PA
Donna Marie Korba, Office of JPIC, Sisters of IHM
Sister Mary Ann Adams, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
Sister Ann Marie McDonnell, Sisters of IHM
Sister Ann Rosalia, Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
Sister Mindy WeldingServing of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
Sr. Danat Brysch, Felician Sisters
Katherine Kearney, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
Sr. John Michele Southwick, Campus Minister, Marywood University
Sister Fran Fasolka, IHM Congregation Sisters of IHM
Margaret Gannon
Rev. Paul Hagedorn, Tabernacle Lutheran Church
Sister Mary Elaine Anderson, Sisters Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
The Rev. Sandra L. Strauss, Pennsylvania Council of Churches
Rev. James A. Cavallero, St. Paul's United Methodist Church
Rev. Susan L. Worrell, Hope Christian Counseling
Bonita L Reed, Saint James Episcopal
Rev. James D. Bell, International Ministries
Mrs. Rachel Mateti, Plains Mennonite Church
Sr. Mary Ann Buckley, Society of the Holy Child Jesus
The Rev. Faith J. D’Urbano, Diocese of Bethlehem
Glenn Simmons, Pastor, Millbrook Chase
Deacon Linda Maule, Deacon, Light of Christ
The Rev Jennifer McKenna, Market Square Presbyterian
Maria, OSF
Rev. Thomas E. McKee, St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Chris Koellhoffer, Sisters of IHM
Rhode Island
Sister Noelle J Cooper, Cluny Sisters USA/Canada, Srs. Of St. Joseph of Cluny
Sister Mary, Sisters of Mercy
Sister Genevieve-Marie Vigil, Provincial of the United States and Canada, Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny

South Carolina
DorothyAnn Rowland, OFS, Secular Franciscan Order

Tennessee
Robert Fingerman, B'nai Zion

Texas
Rabbi Nancy Kasten, Faith Commons
The Rev. Erin J. Walter, Texas Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry
Jim Flannery, United Methodist Church
Sister Rosemarie Goins, Felician Franciscan Sisters
Rev. Phil Dieke, White Rock United Methodist Church
Pastor Cirilo Bernal, The House of Love and Justice
Emily Morrow Loachamin, FBC
Karen Morrow, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
Rev. Lisa Garvin, Southern Methodist University
Dr. Fessenden, Lighthouse Myanmar Ministries
Dr. Fessenden, Catholic Charities Dallas
Lisa Stone, Beth Israel
Rev. Dr. Edward Kern, Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA)

Vermont
Rev. D. Mark Blank, Second Congregational Church, UCC
The Venerable Catherine Cooke Archdeacon, Cathedral Church of St. Paul- Episcopal

Virginia
Ann Speicher, Mt. Olivet UMC
The Rev. Daniel Vélez-Rivera, Saint Gabriel's Episcopal Church
Rev. Tim Bobbitt, First Christian Church of Alexandria
Rev. Dr. Leah G. Davis, Ravensworth Baptist Church
Paramjit Sachdeva, Sikh Foundation of Virginia
Katherine Wood, Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church
Rev. Casey Wait, John Calvin Presbyterian Church
Kenn Speicher, Board of Church & Society, United Methodist Church, Virginia Conference
Elder Marie A. Monsen, John Calvin Presbyterian Church
Rev. Sarah S Scherschligt, Peace Lutheran Church
Molly Keen Wilmarth, The Falls Church Episcopel
Wendy Chan, St. George's Episcopal Church of Arlington
Katlyn B, New City Fellowship

Washington
Jordan Smith, Bellingham First Christian Church (DOC)
Rev. Catharine M. Cline, United Church in University Place
Will Rutt, Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center
Sister Aneelah Afzali, Muslim Association of Puget Sound
Roya Jalili, MAPS
Ms. Jennifer MacDonald, Assumption Church
Nancy Jacobs, St. Margaret's Episcopal Church
Rev. Allison Mattocks, Congregation Minister, Longview UMC
Val Keller, St. Benedict Parish
Dr. Margaret Diddams
Elise DeGooyer, Faith Action Network
Rev. Liz Kearny, Presbyterian Church

Wisconsin
Rabbi Bonnie Margulis, Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice
Rev. Kerri Parker, Wisconsin Council of Churches
Dr. Peter Bakken, Justice and Witness - Wisconsin Council of Churches
Rev. Rebecca Voss, First United Methodist Church of Wausau
Rev. Brad Brookins, Immanuel United Church of Christ
Rev. Sonja Ingebritsen, Community of Hope UCC
Reta Harring, Lake Edge UCC
Jan Gregorcich, School Sister of Notre Dame
Mr Thomas J Littelmann, Gesu Parish
Frederick R. Trost, Wisconsin Conference of the UCC