



National Campaign Launches Calling on Canada to Take Further Immediate Action for Afghanistan

On Tuesday, Afghan-Canadians Across the Country Launched the Canadian Campaign for Afghan Peace

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Afghan-Canadians have launched the Canadian Campaign for Afghan Peace (CCAP), a united cross-section of voices from the Afghan community in Canada, Canadian civil society, international organizations, nonprofits, activists, and citizens concerned about the escalating humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan. CCAP is a multi-partisan campaign and voter engagement initiative that urges Canada to take immediate action for Afghanistan and intends to keep Afghanistan on the agenda for the election. CCAP centers around an open letter outlining four key demands developed and endorsed by activists, experts, advocates, and civil society. CCAP was launched through an online platform where Canadians can engage with decision-makers by email and social media, and additional voter engagement initiatives rolled out throughout the election period. The open letter can be found at www.ayedi.ca/ccap/.

Many of the CCAP's members have family in Afghanistan; some are mourning the loss of loved ones, others are worried about the uncertainty around Afghanistan's future. CCAP urges Canada to take immediate action to support Afghan-Canadians and Afghanistan and to meet the four demands outlined in our open letter.

"Afghanistan is the central and most urgent foreign policy issue in the Canadian election, and rightfully so," said Marjila Yousof, one of the organizers behind CCAP. "We need to ensure that Afghanistan remains on the agenda and we are calling on all political parties to urgently present a plan to address our demands".

While the community recognizes the Canadian government for the commendable measures they have announced to date, it is not enough. According to the International Rescue Committee (IRC), there are more than four million people in Afghanistan who are displaced by conflict or drought. This year, over 500,000 Afghans have been internally displaced due to the conflict, and these numbers will continue to soar.

Canada's Afghan resettlement program aims to resettle 20,000 refugees who were already within the system and have already fled or will be fleeing the country. News reports indicate that the 20,000 refugees will arrive over several years. CCAP wants this number to be annual, at least doubled to 40,000 per year, and the eligibility criteria expanded to include those within Afghanistan.



“Community members have been hearing horror stories from back home about the Taliban and people’s human rights being violated. The Afghan community in Canada is worried about loved ones back home and loved ones who have escaped as refugees,” said Khalidha Nasiri, another organizer of CCAP.

“Hazara, Shia, Sikh and minority groups within Afghanistan are at heightened risk from prosecution and threats to their lives from the Taliban. We must act now to expand the Afghan Resettlement Program and save their lives before it’s too late and we see a horrific genocide take place,” said Yasmin Rajabi, an organizer of CCAP.

We call on all Canadians and parties to stand in solidarity with Afghanistan and the Afghan-Canadian community through addressing our demands.

#Canada4Afghanistan

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