1. Expand the Afghan Resettlement Program:

SINCE OUR OPEN LETTER LAUNCH:

- The NDP endorsed our open letter released on August 17, 2021.
- The Liberal Party of Canada has made a platform commitment to double the number of eligible refugees from 20,000 to 40,000, in line with our open letter demands.
- The Green Party of Canada has endorsed our open letter demands, including our call to increase the number of resettlements to 95,000 over two years.
- Conservative Party of Canada's Shadow Minister of International Development & Human Rights, Garnett Genuis, supports our open letter calls including committing to resettle at least 20,000 Afghans.

WE CALL FOR ALL PARTIES TO:

- Commit to resettling 40,000 Afghans this year and a total of 95,000 over two years, through both government- and private- sponsored pathways, and ensure this includes new applicants.
- Broaden eligibility criteria to allow visa applications from inside Afghanistan, especially for vulnerable Afghans. This call is supported by Rona Ambrose, former leader of the Conservative Party of Canada, and Irwin Cotler, former Liberal Minister of Justice and Attorney-General. Read their Globe and Mail piece **here.**
- Just like the government did with the Syrian Refugee Resettlement Initiative in 2015, Canada must assign Afghan refugees prima facie refugee designation. This means they need to assume that Afghan refugees meet the refugee requirements, and waive the bureaucratic requirement that an applicant must be recognized as a refugee by the UNHCR or a foreign state. Cut red tape so that the Canada is not creating unnecessary barriers for Government Sponsored and Privately Sponsored refugees.
- Increase funding and resources to resettlement agencies **and** Afghan-led organizations in Canada to support newcomer Afghan resettlement and integration. We support the **National Council for Canadian Muslims** for increasing funding to a minimum of $45 million.
- Ensure that the Afghan-Canadian community is consulted with and actively engaged in policies responding to the crisis.

2. Provide Immediate Humanitarian Assistance and Aid

OUR ORIGINAL LANGUAGE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

- Provide emergency humanitarian aid and support for Afghanistan through funding to non-governmental organizations and Canada's humanitarian partners on the ground. This would provide immediate lifesaving resources including, but not limited to, food, clothing, shelter, sanitation, drinking water, medical supplies and equipment, and COVID-19 vaccines.

SINCE OUR OPEN LETTER LAUNCH:

- On August 26, 2021, the Government of Canada **announced** that they are allocating $50 million to the United Nations and Red Cross appeals for the initial humanitarian response, in line with CCAP's demands to increase humanitarian aid. This funding is in additional to the $27.3 million already allocated for Afghanistan in 2021.

WE CALL FOR ALL PARTIES TO:

- To expedite the conversion of pledges to cash contributions without delay.
- Continue to respond to funding appeals from organizations working on the ground and in the region.
- Call on the Taliban to permit unhindered humanitarian access on the ground for aid organizations, as some humanitarian organizations have suspended operations due concerns about security and the operational environment.

3. Engage in Proactive Diplomacy

OUR ORIGINAL LANGUAGE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

- Take a proactive role in advocating for human rights in Afghanistan on the international stage through forums such as the UN General Assembly and the UN Security Council; and ensure that any engagement with the ruling power be conditional upon the preservation of the progress achieved over the last 20 years with regards to democracy, human rights, freedom of speech, rule of law, and education for girls and women.

SINCE OUR OPEN LETTER LAUNCH:

- Canada has made it clear that they will not recognize a Taliban government.
- The Conservative Party of Canada called on the government to work with third countries to establish corridors of escape and provide support to Afghans fighting the Taliban.
- Canada ended its airlift evacuation mission on August 26 after evacuating only 3,700 people from Afghanistan.

WE CALL FOR ALL PARTIES TO:

- Advocate for the right of Afghans to claim asylum.
- Immediately halt deportations to Afghanistan from other countries.
- Urge countries to increase their immediate resettlement numbers and waive bureaucratic requirements to resettlement, including refugee status and recommendation letters.
- In particular, countries in the surrounding region should be encouraged to keep their doors open and these countries should be provided with additional support to meet their anticipated needs. For example, during the Syrian resettlement initiative, Canada established temporary operation centres in partnership with Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey to speed up processing.
- Ensure that sanctions and other restrictive measures do not inadvertently create barriers to humanitarian action, thereby only punishing Afghan civilians.
- Continue to work with allies to secure the evacuation of those remaining in Afghanistan.

4. Emphasis on Preserving the Rights of Girls, Women, and Vulnerable Ethnic and Religious Groups

OUR ORIGINAL LANGUAGE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

- Lead the international advocacy of the rights of girls, women, and ethnic and religious minorities during this transitional period in Afghanistan's governance and power. This includes championing efforts to guarantee the security and protection of these groups within Afghanistan as well as prioritizing their resettlement.

SINCE OUR OPEN LETTER LAUNCH:

- Canada has continued to prioritize vulnerable and at-risk groups for resettlement, including Hazaras, human rights defenders, women's leaders, and LGBTQI+. individuals.

WE CALL FOR ALL PARTIES TO:

- Champion efforts to guarantee the security and protection of Hazaras and Shias, women leaders, human rights advocates, LGBTQI+, journalists, religious minorities, and other vulnerable groups.
- Denounce the violation of the rights of these groups and the brutal executions of women, journalists, Hazaras, and former security forces throughout Afghanistan.
- Through international forums, push for the protection of their rights to education, be involved in society, and be safe.