



November 29, 2021

Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister:

We are a collective of Afghan-Canadians from across the country requesting your urgent action on the Afghanistan crisis.

In light of the Government of Canada's commitment to accepting 40,000 refugees, we request that the government commit to a strict timeline of arrivals in Canada. As of November 24, 2021, only 3,555 Afghans have arrived in Canada under the special programs, despite the program being announced in August. We strongly recommend that you commit to urgently expediting their acceptance and resettlement to happen within the next 6-9 months.

As you know, human rights defenders, women and girls, and vulnerable ethnic and religious groups' lives, including Hazaras, are in peril. We request that the government reverse the change in criteria for the special program for vulnerable Afghan refugees to include vulnerable Afghans *within* Afghanistan as well as those who have escaped. The designation of temporary resident permits and *prima facie* refugee status should be utilized in order to expedite their resettlement.

Afghans are desperate for assistance. Right now, in Afghanistan, young babies and children are starving to death. Desperate families are selling off their children to make ends meet. Afghanistan is facing a crisis of conflict, coronavirus, climate change, and economic collapse. To this end, Canada can make further funding commitments to the UN's World Food Programme call for \$272 million per month to deliver urgent food aid. Millions of lives depend on this.

The Afghan community, agencies, and organizations stand ready to support Afghans arriving in Canada. Companies who are ready to hire Afghan refugees have not heard from the government on where they are. We request that you provide regular and detailed updates to Afghan organizations, community leaders, grassroots groups, and agencies involved in resettlement on the government's plan to bring refugees to Canada on a monthly basis at minimum through the formation of a working group or roundtable.

Mr. Prime Minister, Canada's position as an international advocate for human rights and justice depends on our response to this crisis. We urge you to act today, not tomorrow, in a manner that meets the urgency of the crisis. It is our moral obligation, and we cannot afford to do any less.

Signed,

Canadian Campaign for Afghan Peace

CC: The Hon. Sean Fraser, Minister of Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship
The Hon. Harjit Sajjan, Minister of International Development
The Hon. Melanie Joly, Minister of Foreign Affairs