

# HOPE

for our

# Afghan Allies

*They risked their lives to support our mission —  
now we must keep them safe.*



Lutheran Immigration  
and Refugee Service

After two decades of presence, President Biden's recent announcement of the withdrawal of all troops from Afghanistan captured the world. Gaining rising attention in the United States, particularly among veterans and people of faith, are concerns about the fate of American-affiliated Afghans who assisted the U.S. mission.

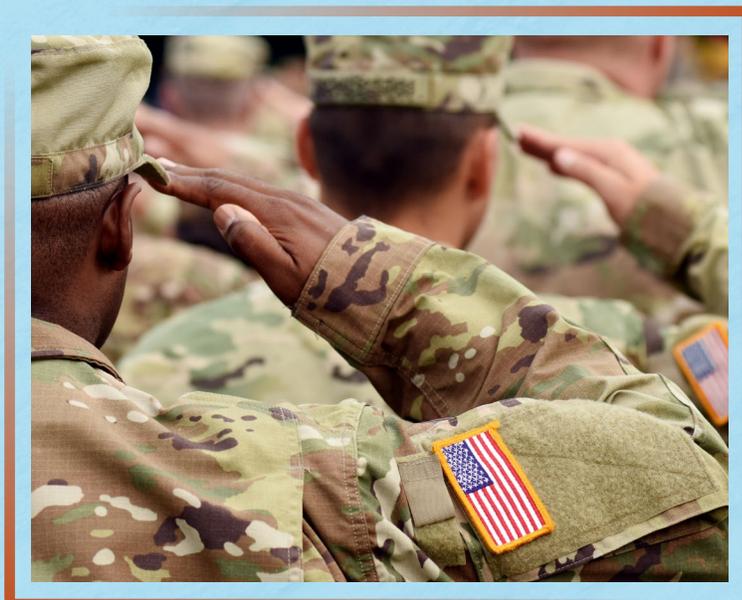
## ACT

The best way you can support our Afghan allies is to follow this guide and encourage others to take action. Please consider sharing it with your friends and family using the following message and make sure to tag LIRS in all your social media posts **@LIRSorg**.

### Post on social media or send via email:

Hi friends! Have you heard? I'm partnering with Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service to advocate for the swift and secure evacuation of over 17,000 Afghans in the Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) program along with their estimated 53,000 family members ahead of the U.S. military withdrawal from Afghanistan by September 2021. These people risked their lives to protect Americans, will you join us in advocating for their safety?

[www.lirs.org/emergency-evacuation-afghan-allies-action-alert](http://www.lirs.org/emergency-evacuation-afghan-allies-action-alert)



## DONATE

Help us continue to support the essential work of advocating for Afghan allies and their families. Whether you give once or monthly, your donation will help LIRS provide intensive support to newly arrived refugees, to place vulnerable children in safe, loving homes, and to empower new Americans to become successful, contributing members of their communities.

[www.lirs.org/give-now](http://www.lirs.org/give-now)

## ADVOCATE

Join LIRS and other national organizations in our call for the Biden Administration to swiftly and securely evacuate Afghan allies in the Special Immigrant Visa program along with their estimated 53,000 family members ahead of the U.S. military withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Urge the administration to provide urgent humanitarian protections, including evacuation, for those who have put their lives on the line for our country.

[www.votervoices.net/LIRS/campaigns/85410/respond](http://www.votervoices.net/LIRS/campaigns/85410/respond)



# PRAY

Faithful friends are a sturdy shelter: whoever finds one has found a treasure.  
Faithful friends are beyond price: no amount can balance their worth.  
Faithful friends are life-saving medicine; and those who fear the Lord will find them.

**Sirach 6:14–16**

## *A Prayer of Christian Faith*

Lord Jesus,

We know that you bless people with the gifts of life, family, and relationship.

Afghan allies that stood with the American military and their families are in danger. As America withdraws its troops from Afghanistan, the commitment we made to protect these allies and their families is being tested.

We are grateful for the safe return of our active military members, grateful for the service of all veterans of our country, and honor the memories of those who gave their lives to protect America's freedom.

Lord, strengthen our country to be a faithful friend to the Afghan families that are in need of protection. Lord Jesus, these allies placed their lives and the lives of their families in danger because they believed in the American mission.

May we honor our commitment and aid their safe passage. May we seek peace as the mission for our families and communities. May we live as faithful friends in the world.

AMEN

## *An Interfaith Prayer*

All human hearts seek lasting peace.

As we live in this broken world, we uplift the sacrifice and risk to human life present in the current military withdrawal and the threat to Afghan allies and families.

May the United States honor its commitment to the many Afghan allies who put their lives at grave risk to support US troops.

Honor speaks to the interrelationship of all humans.

We affirm this prayer and pray for peace, protection of human lives, and harmony in the world.

## *Prayers of the People*

God our Father, you call us to show hospitality to strangers. Guard the Afghan translators and helpers who worked with the US military and are now in danger. Hide them and their families under the shadow of your wings. Open our hearts and strengthen us to advocate for their safety and help.

**Lord, in your mercy—Hear our prayer.**

God, you are the refuge and strength of all who look to you for help. Surround the Afghan allies of the US military with your presence as their lives are now in danger. As the US leaves Afghanistan, may the commitment that we made to protect these vulnerable people be honored so that hope can come out of despair and light out of darkness.

**Lord, in your mercy—Hear our prayer.**



# TEACH

## Mohammad's Story

Mohammad Wais Formuly, 34, is one of our Afghan allies who was resettled in the United States through the Special Immigrant Visa program. Mohammad, a professor of political science and international relations, had worked with the United States and NATO for four years as part of the ANSF Literacy Project, which was designed "to promote education, mutual understanding, and peace."

As a result of his employment with the project, Mohammad says, "life-threatening risks were created [for] me and for my family."

It took five years for Mohammad and his family to go through the SIV application process and find safety in the United States. Today, they remain committed to the pursuit of knowledge and justice in their new home, as well as the one they were forced to leave.

"I had a sense of fulfillment and accomplishment when I was able to teach the young generation and taking part in the development of my country." Mohammad says. "I moved to the U.S. with the same intention — to serve back the U.S., Afghanistan, and other countries through my knowledge and expertise."

Learn more about Mohammad's story: [www.lssnca.blog/2020/06/20/wrd-formuly/](http://www.lssnca.blog/2020/06/20/wrd-formuly/)



# TEACH continued

*"The window is quickly closing to protect Afghan allies who have risked everything on behalf of America's mission, including the safety of their own families. To truly honor those who have undoubtedly saved American lives, we must keep our word by saving theirs."*

*- Krish O'Mara Vignarajah  
President and CEO, LIRS*

## What is the SIV Program?

In 2009, Congress passed the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009. This allows for Special Immigrant Visas (SIVs) to be given to Afghans who have worked for at least one year as translators or interpreters, or who were employed by, or on behalf of, the U.S. government in Afghanistan. This special protection for Afghan allies has allowed thousands to find safety in the United States. Since the act was put into place, the United States has received more than 65,000 Afghan SIVs, with LIRS serving more than 11,000 of them through the resettlement program.

Now, many of them are facing threats to their lives because of their work in support of the U.S. mission.

## What is Happening in Afghanistan?

In 2001, the United States sent troops to Afghanistan to help dismantle the Taliban. Between 2002 and 2009, the United States committed over \$38 billion in humanitarian and reconstruction assistance.

Last month, the Biden Administration announced that all U.S. forces will be withdrawn from Afghanistan by September 11, 2021. More than 17,000 Afghan allies, along with approximately 53,000 of their family members, are waiting for protection through the Special Immigrant Visa program. The risk to our allies' safety is imminent and growing. Taliban gains in the country underscore the extent to which U.S.-affiliated interpreters, drivers, advisors, support staff, and their families are increasingly in danger of targeted attacks.

## Additional Resources

[LIRS Calls for Emergency Evacuation of Afghan Allies Ahead of U.S. Withdrawal](#)  
[Gather: Afghanistan](#)



# Thank you

for partnering with us to support  
our Afghan allies.

Together we can extend a warm welcome  
fitting of the tremendous sacrifices our  
allies have made.



Lutheran Immigration  
and Refugee Service

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