



September 2021

Ecumenical Statement Support of Afghans Seeking Refuge

Since the United States began its withdrawal from Afghanistan, many Afghans are in grave danger. Those who face imminent harm must be evacuated to safety immediately. We have a moral obligation to welcome Afghans seeking refuge. This profound humanitarian emergency must be met with compassion. Church World Service, the National Council of Churches and our 37 member denominations reaffirm the commitments established in our Ecumenical Declaration: to Expand Welcome and invite all people of faith to join together in prayer, love, and action to protect vulnerable Afghans fleeing violence and persecution.

We call upon people of faith to provide humanitarian protection for Afghans in harm's way and to do everything in their power to show solidarity, support, and welcome to our Afghan neighbors. Together, we will have a significant impact on the lives of those in need through assistance with housing, nourishment, legal services, advocacy, donations, and case management. These critical services will establish the foundations of a new life for those fleeing persecution.

We implore the Biden administration, U.S. Congress, state lawmakers, and local officials to embrace their important roles in the evacuation and protection of Afghans seeking refuge. It is urgent that leaders at all levels recognize the opportunity of this moment. Together, we must ensure the provision of services and invest the resources needed to help our new neighbors thrive in their new communities--our communities.

In this critical moment, let us covenant to work together and fulfill our commitments to love and welcome our Afghan neighbors.

Signed by:

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