Dear President Biden, Speaker Pelosi, Leader Schumer, Leader McCarthy, and Leader McConnell:

As the United States government continues to navigate the conclusion of its military mission in Afghanistan, we the undersigned, having seen firsthand the heartbreaking uncertainties that our Afghan allies, American citizens, lawful permanent residents, and their families face in their attempts to flee life-threatening circumstances, submit the following letter urging our country’s leadership to act. The withdrawal of the American presence from Afghanistan has prompted unprecedented action by a coalition of Veterans, active duty military, frontline civilians, non-profit, private sector, academic, and other entirely volunteer organizations working hand-in-hand with willing partners within the Departments of State and Defense to assist in the evacuation and resettlement of the aforementioned individuals. The sheer volume and complexity of this crisis, however, renders our work untenable without increasing the formal support of the US Government.

Success depends on improving interagency coordination, increasing evacuation capacity and resettlement throughput, and our government fulfilling the roles and responsibilities only a government can, in line with the expectations of the American people and our Afghan allies.

Most of our coalition partners were called to action under similar and heartbreaking circumstances: an unexpected text from their former Afghan interpreter or driver who remained behind; a call for help from the allies who became family following their resettlement in the US; a desperate plea from the patriot who volunteered to work side-by-side with US troops in support of our mission. Regardless of the nature of these relationships, the plea was always the same: “Please help. My family is being hunted. Where did the Americans go?” The resulting impact on each of our Veteran and servicemember volunteers, who have dedicated countless hours of their lives to this cause, sequestered at a computer in the middle of the night and losing time from work and family, was always the same: “How could this be, what came of my service?” As you well know, there was a related surge in requests for assistance at the Veterans crisis phone line in the days following our withdrawal and the ongoing mental health impact on Veterans and Afghans alike cannot be overstated.

The all-volunteer, non-partisan coalition that has united under the moniker #AfghanEvac, recognizes that the United States has the power and capacity to meet the challenges of this moment, and we remain both hopeful and confident that our Government will honor its promise to those who remain at risk because of their connection to US activities in Afghanistan.

The #AfghanEvac Coalition represents more than 100 organizations of ideologically and politically diverse Veterans, frontline civilians, public servants, and professionals with the shared goal of evacuating Afghan allies impacted by the 20-year US mission in their country. This broad coalition stands shoulder-to-shoulder with our Afghan allies, ready to welcome them home and support their swift integration into communities within the US and abroad.

To meet this moral imperative, the undersigned members of the #AfghanEvac coalition and other relevant organizations believe that the following steps are both possible and necessary to fulfilling our commitments:

For the Biden administration:
The Executive branch should, no later than February 2022, appoint an interagency leader with tasking authority, oversight responsibility, and a dedicated staff to develop and implement a multi-year, actionable plan for evacuating our Afghan allies, including qualified P1/P2 referrals, and bringing them to safety. This whole-of-government approach should also:
  
  - Be formally established and appropriately staffed as to ensure long-term program success;
  - Include diplomatic engagement with our allies to ensure that Afghan populations made vulnerable through their association with the United States and the values we espouse, including at-risk populations such as women, religious, ethnic, and sexual minorities, military and national security professionals, and civil servants, have a defined and safe pathway to restart their lives in the US or one of our partner nations; and
  - Leverage all tools available to the American government to assist our Afghan allies with their successful integration into American society.

- The Department of State should authorize virtual visa interviews and medical waivers, and, after appropriate resourcing from Congress, provide qualified surge support for the prompt processing of pre- and post-COM approval Special Immigrant Visa (SIV), P1/P2, and other referral, parole, and visa applicant categories.

- The Department of State should also negotiate with countries to establish and maintain multiple “lily pad” locations to retain agility during this long-term evacuation process.

- The Department of Defense should similarly maintain life support “lily pads” in multiple countries for processing evacuees from Afghanistan and preparing them for onward movement to the US.

- The Department of Defense should halt any plans to close existing safe havens; instead, existing safe havens should be expanded with wraparound services throughout the US in areas best suited for the resettlement of our Afghan allies.

- The Department of Homeland Security should waive all humanitarian parole fees and expedite the processing of visa applications and parole requests for Afghan allies.

- The Department of Homeland Security should also ensure that those evacuated through private charter flights have a legal pathway to resettlement in the US, including by expanding staffing overseas to streamline the facilitation of the humanitarian parole program either overseas or through ports-of-entry.

- The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) should restore funding for Afghans in need of support and deploy trained protection advisors to serve as senior advisors to mission commanders for each step of the evacuation journey.

- The Department of State and USAID should engage with humanitarian agencies, including the International Organization for Migration and the UN High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR), to provide humanitarian support for those referred under the P1 or P2 programs and others who remain at-risk due to their association with the US.

- The Departments of State, Defense, Homeland Security, Veterans Affairs, and Health and Human Services should work together to establish ongoing mental health support services for evacuated Afghans and American volunteers and public servants involved in the withdrawal, to include dedicated programming with easy and continual availability. HHS should be designated the lead agency for this effort.

The coalition recognizes that President Biden cannot unilaterally ensure the safety and success of our fellow citizens and Afghan allies. As such, we also call upon Congress to:
• Pass the Afghan Adjustment Act to guarantee that all evacuees are able to access the US immigration system with a full pathway to citizenship.
• Adequately fund the State Department and all associated US government agencies to meet this moment.
• Integrate specific language into the SIV eligibility criteria that includes Afghan Special Operations Forces (graduates of ASOSE courses) and the family of those otherwise eligible.
• Ensure the apportionment of National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) funds that prioritize the evaluation of the mental health and moral injury impact on those Veterans, frontline civilians, and others who participated in the Afghan conflict or subsequent evacuation efforts and that provide viable solutions for their long-term care.
• Authorize a fund for the State Department, via USAID, to administer a program dedicated to funding private and non-profit humanitarian efforts providing support such as food, water, safe housing, and transportation of evacuees. Efforts funded through this program should be prohibited from earning a profit and only cover reasonable, allocable, and allowable costs related to services and related supplies.

Our coalition stands ready and willing to support the political leaders that we know will honor their commitment to our Afghan allies and other partners who remain behind.

Now is not the time to retreat to predictable partisan corners. This is a time to stand together, united in our shared belief that the promise of America remains worth preserving. The Afghans who stood alongside our troops, diplomats, and other American interests in Afghanistan have been, and will forever remain, welcome in our communities.

We made promises to these individuals and their families -- and to our servicemembers and Veterans -- that their service would be honored, and it is incumbent upon us to uphold that promise. This is the time to demonstrate, by the power of our example, the very best of America.

The #AfghanEvac Coalition remains steadfast in its commitment to our continued partnership and to assisting the US Government in achieving the steps outlined herein. We would welcome a meeting with you and your teams for further discussion.

Signed,

1. Shawn VanDiver | US Navy Veteran | #AfghanEvac
2. Pegah Parsi | US Army Veteran | #AfghanEvac
3. Jessica Bradley Rushing | US Army Veteran | #AfghanEvac
4. Jeffrey Wells | US Navy Veteran | #AfghanEvac
5. Joseph Goulet | US Marine Corps Veteran | #AfghanEvac
6. Mary Winans | US Marine Corps Veteran | #AfghanEvac
7. Tripp Adams | US Army Veteran | #AfghanEvac
9. Maggie Feldman-Pilch | Operation Eagle
10. Elsa Kania | Operation Eagle
11. Camille Mackler | Immigrant ARC
12. Mike Jason | US Army Veteran | Allied Airlift 21
13. Bridget Altenburg | US Army Veteran | Allied Airlift 21
14. Boe Young | US Army Veteran | Allied Airlift 21
15. Raymond Kimball | US Army Veteran | Allied Airlift 21
16. Tuan Le | US Army Veteran | Allied Airlift 21
17. Chris Macri | US Army Veteran | Allied Airlift 21
18. Michael Breen | US Army Veteran | Human Rights First
20. Scott Cooper | US Marine Corps Veteran | Veterans for American Ideals
21. Joshua Marcuse | Frontline Civilian | Young Professionals in Foreign Policy
22. Jenna Ben-Yehuda | Truman Center for National Policy
23. Rachel Kleinfeld | Frontline Civilian | Truman National Security Project
24. Katherine Brown | Frontline Civilian | Truman National Security Project
25. Katherine Maher | Frontline Civilian | Truman National Security Project
27. Jason Hartwig | US Army Veteran | Truman National Security Project
29. Farhat Popal | Frontline Civilian | Truman National Security Project
30. Stephen Ryan | Frontline Civilian | Truman National Security Project
31. Mark West | US Navy Veteran | Truman National Security Project
32. Jessica Gottsleben | Frontline Civilian | Truman National Security Project
33. Marla Keenan | Frontline Civilian | Truman National Security Project
34. Angelic Young | Frontline Civilian | Truman National Security Project
35. Hai Tu | US Army Veteran | Truman National Security Project
37. Peter Kiernan | US Marine Corps Veteran | Truman National Security Project
39. Mark Christopher | Truman National Security Project
40. Barbi Appelquist | Truman National Security Project
41. Carrie Walling | Truman National Security Project
42. Moh Kilani | Truman National Security Project
43. Shirley Hargis | Truman National Security Project
44. Jamia Jowers | Truman National Security Project
45. Kristina Biyad | Truman National Security Project
46. Victoria Virasingh | Truman National Security Project
47. Kathryn Smith | US Air Force Veteran | Truman National Security Project
48. Laurie A. Watkins | Truman National Security Project
49. Elie Jacobs | Truman National Security Project
50. Amy Dahm | Frontline Civilian | Truman National Security Project
52. Mari Manoogian | Frontline Civilian | Truman National Security Project
53. Andrea Schaller | US Army Veteran | Truman National Security Project
55. Ryan McGill | US Marine Corps Veteran | Truman National Security Project
56. Frank Spring | Truman National Security Project
57. Jonathan Scanlon | Frontline Civilian | Truman National Security Project
59. Martin Martinez | US Army Veteran | Truman National Security Project
60. Rachel Peterson | Truman National Security Project
61. David Anderson | US Marine Corps Veteran | Truman National Security Project
62. Rebecca Yang | Frontline Civilian | Truman National Security Project
63. Bryant Jones | Frontline Civilian | Truman National Security Project
64. Aaron Brennan | US Navy Veteran | Truman National Security Project
65. Alexandra A.K. Meise | Frontline Civilian | Truman National Security Project
67. Cress Clippard | US Marine Corps Veteran | Combined Arms
68. Khalil Arab | Frontline Civilian | Combined Arms
69. Kelly Finn Stormer | US Navy Veteran | Combined Arms
70. Mike Hutchings | US Army Veteran | Combined Arms
71. Haroon Azar | Frontline Civilian | Afghan-American Foundation
72. Jason Kander | US Army Veteran | Afghan Rescue Project
73. Ryan Mauro | Afghan Rescue Project
74. Stacia George | Frontline Civilian | Transit Initiatives
75. Roseann Casey | Frontline Civilian | Transit Initiatives
76. Jessica Curtin | Frontline Civilian | Transit Initiatives
77. Steve Miska | US Army Veteran | Strategically Protecting Soft Networks
78. Christine Antal | US Army Veteran | Task Force Antal
79. Mark Antal | US Army Veteran | Task Force Antal
80. Safi Rauf | US Navy Veteran | Human First Coalition
81. Alex Plitsas | US Army Veteran | Human First Coalition
82. Emilia Pierce | Frontline Civilian | Human First Coalition
83. Joy Shanaberger | Frontline Civilian | Human First Coalition
84. Bharat Jain | Human First Coalition
85. Lyla Kohistany | US Navy Veteran | Task Force Pineapple
86. Scott Mann | US Army Veteran | Task Force Pineapple
87. Zac Lois | US Army Veteran | Task Force Pineapple
88. Ashley Sogge | US Army Veteran | Task Force Pineapple
89. Matt Coburn | US Army Veteran | Task Force Pineapple
90. Heather Callahan | Frontline Civilian | Task Force Pineapple
91. Patrick Callahan | US Army Veteran | Task Force Pineapple
92. Aston Armstrong | US Army Veteran | Task Force Pineapple
93. John Rester | US Army Veteran | Task Force Pineapple
94. Brian Luti | US Army Veteran | Task Force Pineapple
95. Seth Middleton | US Army Veteran | Task Force Pineapple
96. Lindsey Baldwin | Frontline Civilian | Task Force Pineapple
97. Elizabeth Lynn | US Navy Veteran | Task Force Pineapple
98. Tanya Hildenbrand | US Air Force Veteran | Task Force Pineapple
100. Douglas Amentrout | US Army Veteran | Task Force Pineapple
101. David Williams | US Navy Veteran | Task Force Pineapple
102. Lester Dodson | US Marine Corps Veteran | Task Force Pineapple
103. Shelby Hladon | US Navy Veteran | Task Force Pineapple
104. Jon Singleton | US Navy Veteran | Task Force Pineapple
105. Jessica Serafin | US Navy Veteran | Operation Sacred Promise
106. David Hicks | US Air Force Veteran | Operation Sacred Promise
107. Kate Kovarovic | Operation Sacred Promise
108. Salomon Jaramillo | US Army Veteran | Team Hope
109. Arnold V. Strong | US Army Veteran | Operation Snow Leopard
110. Karen Kraft | US Army Veteran | Operation Snow Leopard
111. Jason Hatch | US Army Veteran | Operation Snow Leopard
113. Catalina Gasper | US Navy Veteran | Task Force Diablo
114. Kathleen Breeden | US Army Veteran | Task Force Diablo
115. Jean Borden | US Women’s Army Corps Veteran | Task Force Diablo
118. Tim Flynn | US Navy Veteran | Sayara Group
120. Jasmin Moufliard | Frontline Civilian | Hospitality for Humanity
121. Andrew Swick | US Army Veteran | Vets4Afghans
122. Colleen Parker | US Army Veteran | WEF GSC Afghan Allies
123. Danielle Cosgrove | Frontline Civilian | WEF GSC Afghan Allies
124. Jamie Carroll | Frontline Civilian | Hoover Institution Volunteer
125. Ben Owen | US Army Veteran | Flanders Fields
127. Matt Zeller | US Army Veteran | Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA)
128. Meaghan Mobbs | US Army Veteran | Save our Allies
129. Nick Palmisciano | US Army Veteran | Save our Allies
130. Chad Robichaux | US Marine Corps Veteran | Save our Allies
131. Tim Kennedy | US Army Veteran | Save our Allies
132. John Tackett | US Army Veteran | Save our Allies
133. Jesse Jensen | US Army Veteran | Task Force Argo
135. Courtney Wilcox | US Army Veteran | Task Force Argo
136. Tania Daniels | US Air Force Veteran | Task Force Argo
137. Matthew Young | US Marine Corps Veteran | Task Force Argo
138. Scott Sale | US Army Veteran | Task Force Argo
139. Edward Stimac | US Marine Corps Veteran | Task Force Argo
141. Dilawar Khan | Frontline Civilian | Task Force Argo
142. Rebecca Giacalone | US Air Force Veteran | Task Force Argo
143. Sylvia Bergstedt | US Air Force Veteran | Task Force Argo
144. Jessica Dow | US Army Veteran | Task Force Argo
145. Lisa Tonnar | US Navy Veteran | Task Force Argo
147. Keith Russell | US Marine Corps Veteran | Task Force Argo
149. Teresa Selph-Tamez | US Army Veteran | Task Force Argo
150. Jeff Daniels | US Air Force Veteran | Remember Those
153. Jon Collette | Operation Recovery
154. Aron Horiel | US Army Veteran | Operation Recovery
155. Jessica McCarty | Frontline Civilian | Operation Recovery
156. Colleen Boland | US Air Force Veteran | Saving Our September
157. Vivian Leal | Saving Our September
158. Beth Murphy | Frontline Civilian | Saving Our September
159. Stacy Gentile | US Army Veteran | Operation North Star
160. Katherine Schuette | US Army Veteran | Team America Relief
161. Peter Lucier | US Marine Corps Veteran | Team America Relief
162. Anh-Thu Nguyen | Frontline Civilian | Team America Relief
163. David Low | US Army Veteran | Team America Relief
164. Wilson St. Pierre | US Army Veteran | Team America Relief
165. John Friberg | US Army Veteran | Team America Relief
166. Zohra Hunter | Team America Relief
167. Jeff Phaneuf | US Marine Corps Veteran | Team 13
168. Sasha Ghosh-Siminoff | Frontline Civilian | People Demand Change
169. Wynona Heim | Frontline Civilian | Wise Woman Advising
170. Hanna Tripp | US Air Force Veteran | Greater Boston Veterans Collaborative
171. Zuhai Bahaduri | Frontline Civilian | Team Spirit
172. Samad Fazli | Frontline Civilian | Team Spirit
173. Haroon Faquiryan | Team Spirit
174. Lark Escobar | Frontline Civilian | Tufts
175. Timothy Compton | US Marine Corps Veteran | Afghan Assistance Group
176. Shawn Haney | US Marine Corps Veteran | Afghan Assistance Group
177. Laura Griffin | US Army Veteran | Afghan Assistance Group
178. Adriana Jansen | Afghan Assistance Group
179. Jeannie Hartley | Afghan Assistance Group
180. Roger Misso | US Navy Veteran | Veterans Organize Central New York
181. Francisco Quinones | US Army Veteran | Arcis International
182. Monica Aguilera | Arcis International
183. Ahmad Mohibi | Frontline Civilian | Rise to Peace
184. Alex Cornell du Houx | US Marine Corps Veteran | Evacuating Vocal Afghan Citizens
185. Michael Trudeau | US Army Veteran | Association of Wartime Allies
186. Kim Staffieri | Association of Wartime Allies
187. Riki Hawk | US Army Veteran | Riki Hawk Enterprises, LLC
188. Timor Karimy | Frontline Civilian | Bamyan Foundation
189. Barrett Bogue | US Marine Corps Veteran | Evocati
190. Annie Pforzheimer | Frontline Civilian | Alliance in Support of the Afghan People
191. Amy Palmer | US Air Force Veteran | Soldiers’ Angels
192. Lindsay Church | US Navy Veteran | Minority Veterans of America
194. Rev. Chloe Breyer | Frontline Civilian | Interfaith Center of New York
195. Aubrey Cox Ottenstein | Frontline Civilian | Globally
196. Daniel Elkins | US Marine Corps Veteran | Special Operations Association of America
197. Stephen Patterson | US Air Force Veteran | Special Operations Association of America
198. Brian Beetham | US Army Veteran | Special Operations Association of America
199. Donald Franklin | Special Operations Association of America
200. Will Felder | US Army Veteran | Tarjoman Relief
201. Nanako Tamaru | Frontline Civilian | Peace and Security Collaborative
203. Loren Voss | US Air Force Veteran | No One Left Behind
204. Phil Caruso | US Air Force Veteran | No One Left Behind
205. John Yori | Frontline Civilian | United Soldiers and Sailors of America
207. Richard Brookshire | US Air Force Veteran | Black Veterans Project
208. Carmine Inteso | US Navy Veteran | AFGfree
209. Kandyce Pinckney | AFGfree
211. Tommy Breedlove | US Army Veteran | Project Exodus Relief
212. Mike Edwards | US Army Veteran | Project Exodus Relief
213. Zachary Kallenborn | Project Exodus Relief
214. Dan Barkhuff | US Navy Veteran | Veterans for Responsible Leadership
215. Ted Saint | US Navy Veteran
216. Michael Mingle | US Army Veteran
217. Gary Maziarz | US Marine Corps Veteran
218. Shawn Cooper | US Army Veteran
219. Ron Kellogg | US Navy Veteran
220. Charles Smith | US Navy Veteran
221. Ryan Waddell | US Navy Veteran
222. Chad Belding | US Navy Veteran
223. Amy Letmanski | Military Family Member
224. Alison Kosnett | Frontline Civilian
225. Amb. Philip Kosnett | Frontline Civilian
226. Asiyah Sharifi | Frontline Civilian
227. Khaliqyar Haidary | World Hazara Council
228. Erol Kekic | Church World Service
229. Nawid Mousa | Idaho Defense Alliance
230. Leigh Ann Kosmas | The Lamia Afghan Foundation
231. Michael Sheridan | Community Supported Film
232. Kendra Ganobsik | Global Afghan Allies
233. James Young | Operation Freedom Birds
234. Travis Peterson | US Air Force Veteran | Operation Freedom Birds
235. Minda Aguhib | Female & Free Speech Airlift
236. Holly Rosen Fink | Westchester Jewish Coalition for Immigration
237. Arash Azizzada | Afghans for a Better Tomorrow
238. Lyssia Porter | Afghans for Progressive Thinking
239. Amy Robertson | Hearts & Homes for Refugees
240. Kathie OCallaghan | Hearts & Homes for Refugees
241. Reshad Ahmad | Hearts & Homes for Refugees
242. Marla Gitterman | Business Council for Peace
243. Kimberly Meyer | SS Libra Afghan Rescue
244. Selina Rothweiler | SS Libra Afghan Rescue
245. Matt Vallone | Janes
246. Sunhil Varghese | International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP)
247. Jenine Saleh | Human Rights First
248. Maran Turner | Freedom Now
249. Lindsey Greising | The Advocates for Human Rights
250. Betty Reardon | International Institute for Peace Education
251. AnnaMarie Bena | US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants
252. Ardian Shajkoci | American Counterterrorism Targeting and Resilience Institute
253. Soraya Omar | Friends of Afghanistan
254. Spojmie Nasiri | Law Office of Spojmie Nasiri, PC
255. Rose Jackson | Frontline Civilian | Atlantic Council
256. Leah Fiddler | Atlantic Council
257. Paula Villescaz | San Juan Unified School District
258. Erin Piper | Afghan Refugee Relief and Aid
259. Richard Hedderman | Frontline Civilian | Afghan Refugee Relief and Aid
260. Saman Hamidi-Azar | Afghan Refugee Relief and Aid
261. Bajun Mavalwalla | US Army Veteran | Afghan Refugee Relief and Aid
262. Walter Givhan | US Air Force Veteran | Troy University
263. Justin Richmond | US Army Veteran | Impl Project
264. Ian Schuler | Frontline Civilian | Development Seed
265. Maria Aini | Afghans Rising
266. Alexander Flores | US Marine Corps Veteran | AFGExpatriation
267. Adrian Kinsella | US Marine Corps Veteran | AFGExpatriation
268. Ali Scotten | National Iranian American Council New Mexico Chapter
269. Leisel Bogan | Frontline Civilian | TAPP, Belfer Center, Harvard University
270. Helen Hallenback | US Air Force Veteran | Vibrant Hearing
271. Homaira Hosseini | Afghan American Community Organization (AACO)
272. Mark Lindquist | US Air Force Veteran
273. Mariam Atash | Prime Counsel
274. Alina Atash | Nooristan Foundation
275. Farhad Ghafoor | Ghafoor Foundation
276. Michael Farar | US Air Force Veteran
277. Philip Lowry | US Army Veteran
278. Faisal Jamal | Frontline Civilian | Core Skill Focus Organization
279. Maryam Aziz
280. Jill Kornetsky | Frontline Civilian | Homestead Afghanistan
281. Mark Moniz Jr | US Marine Corps Veteran
283. Charles Cross | US Army Veteran | ADG
284. Matthew Butler | US Army Veteran
286. Brian Olsen | US Army Veteran
287. Donnie Naiman | US Air Force Veteran
288. Levin Duran | US Army Veteran
289. Brandon Provins | US Air Force Veteran
290. Jason Scarbro | US Army Veteran
291. Les Ashe | US Air Force Veteran
292. Craig Feinberg | Frontline Civilian
293. Rick Burns | US Army Veteran | Karadah Project International
294. Bill Mankins | US Navy Veteran
295. Robert Corsi | US Air Force Veteran | Aces and Eights
296. Hamid Fazli | US Army Veteran
297. Patricia J. Cooper | Frontline Civilian | Women’s Regional Network
298. June Gaeta | Darul Amun Project
299. Shafi Rezai | US Army Veteran
300. Stephen Gates | Afghan Scout Relief Fund
301. Jack McCracken | US Army Veteran
302. Ashley Reilley | Frontline Civilian
303. Perry Blackburn | US Army Veteran | Sanctuary
304. Kate Hoit | US Army Veteran
305. Toby Gialluca | Lights for Liberty
306. Fatima Jaghoori | US Army Veteran | Shona ba Shona
307. Faith Okpotor | Moravian University
308. Andrew Herring | US Army Veteran
309. Thomas Leo Briggs | US Army Veteran
310. Deena Heg
311. Mary Clark Navarro
312. Elizabeth Deaton
313. Timothy Bettis | US Air Force Veteran
314.

States: 49 states and DC
Veterans: 179
Frontline Civilians: 88
46% Women