

# How to Help Refugees from Afghanistan

*“I would like to ask you all to see a ray of hope as well as in the eyes and hearts of refugees and of those who have been forcibly displaced. A hope that is expressed in expectations for the future, in the desire for friendship, in the wish to participate in the host society also through learning the language, access to employment, and the education of children.”* – Pope Francis, Address to Participants in the Plenary of the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People, May 24, 2013

## News and Statements

### [U.S. Bishop Chairmen Respond to Evolving Crisis in Afghanistan – Justice for Immigrants](#)

#### [Catholic Review/CNS: U.S. bishops urge rapid resettlement of Afghan refugees](#)

As the humanitarian crisis develops in Afghanistan, the U.S. bishops pledged to continue working for the resettlement of the thousands of arriving Afghans. The government must work urgently to protect Afghans in need, said Washington Auxiliary Bishop Mario E. Dorsonville, CLINIC board member

## Pray

### [Rosary for Vulnerable Migrant Populations – Justice for Immigrants](#)

USCCB Justice for Immigrants has put together a Rosary for Vulnerable Migrant Populations, which includes prayers and intentions for refugees, asylum seekers, victims of human trafficking, child migrants and migrant families.

## Learn More

### **5 Facts on the Humanitarian Emergency in Afghanistan**

Here's what you need to know about the humanitarian emergency in Afghanistan from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. [Watch](#) | [Facebook](#)

### **Afghan refugees to settle in Washington State but Community Help Needed**

<https://komonews.com/news/local/afghan-refugees-to-settle-in-washington-state-but-community-help-needed-to-house-refugees>

## How to Help

**USCCB/Justice for Immigrants Resource Page** has information for U.S citizens and others fleeing Afghanistan, and ways to help people both in Afghanistan and those arriving in the U.S. [Afghanistan Evacuation Resource Page – Justice for Immigrants](#)

**Refugee Council USA** has launched a web hub to help connect folks with the resources they need surrounding the emergency in Afghanistan; includes resources for Afghans in need of services, and ways for individuals, businesses, and elected officials to take action. <https://rcusa.org/afghanistan/>

**Locally in Washington State:** each of these agencies helps refugees in a variety of ways. Here are some specific ways you can get involved now to help Afghan refugees. Additionally, these refugee resettlement agencies will likely put out a call for donations of household items, etc. as refugee move into their homes; as well as more specific volunteer opportunities, temporarily hosting refugees, and other ways to get involved. Please note that they may have difficulty responding in a timely manner to everyone who wants to help.

- The Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service is organizing friendly faces to welcome Afghan refugees to King County. Can you pick up a family from the airport, bring them a meal, or help set up their apartment? Plus, other ways to help out. [https://lirsconnect.org/get\\_involved/action\\_center/siv](https://lirsconnect.org/get_involved/action_center/siv)
- The International Rescue Center has volunteer information sessions coming up in early September. Find out more at: <https://www.rescue.org/.../virtual-volunteer-information...>
- Volunteer as a host home, an advocate, or with welcome kits through World Relief: <https://worldrelief.org/.../get-involved/afghan-allies/...>
- The Afghan Health Initiative is helping Afghan refugees coming to King County find a place to stay. Can you offer up a bedroom for a week to a family in need or help in other ways? [How to Help – Afghan Health Initiative](#)
- Jewish Family Services – at this time, their on-call volunteer group helping resettle individuals and families from Afghanistan is at capacity. [www.JFSSeattle.org](http://www.JFSSeattle.org)
- [The Diocese of Olympia's Refugee Resettlement Office \(dioceserroseattle.org\)](http://dioceserroseattle.org) – for a variety of ways to get involved helping refugees.

## **People trying to leave Afghanistan**

[No One Left Behind](#) is a U.S.-based nonprofit devoted to “ensuring that America keeps its promise to our allies and their families who risked their lives for our freedom.” The organization aids Afghan interpreters trying to get visas and resettling in the country. It is accepting [donations](#).

[Miles4Migrants](#) accepts donated airline frequent flier miles, credit card points and cash to help people reunite with loved ones or resettle in a new country after fleeing their own that’s imperiled by war, persecution or disaster.

[Hearts & Homes for Refugees](#) is an advocacy group for people who have Special Immigration Visas, including Afghan translators, engineers, security guards, embassy clerks, logisticians and soldiers who helped the U.S. efforts. It is accepting financial [contributions](#).

[Human Rights First](#) provides pro bono lawyers to assist Afghan evacuees. The human rights organization is also offering [resources](#) to protect Afghans’ online identities from the Taliban. It is [collecting donations](#) for its relief response.

## **In Afghanistan**

[Afghanistan | CRS](#) Catholic Relief Services is working on the ground in Afghanistan. “Please help families in Afghanistan. Afghan parents are struggling to provide their children with food, clean water and education. When you give, you provide immediate assistance for your Afghan sisters and brothers who face this devastating situation. Your prayers and support will make so much difference.”

[The International Rescue Committee](#) is a global nonprofit organization dedicated to aiding people displaced by war, persecution or natural disaster. The organization has worked in Afghanistan since 1988, providing “displaced families with shelter, clean water, sanitation and other basic necessities,” according to its website, as well as education and cash assistance. The organization is accepting [financial contributions](#) for its relief efforts.

The [Child Foundation](#), which helps impoverished children access education, created the Afghanistan Crisis Fund for Emergency Assistance in the Balkh province, where about 800 children supported by the foundation live. The organization is accepting [contributions](#).

[GlobalGiving](#), a crowdfunding network that connects nonprofits to donors, launched the [Afghanistan Emergency Fund](#) to support families, activists and journalists who are “particularly at risk.” Donations will be distributed to GlobalGiving’s local partners in the country.

In partnership with Afghan Journalists Safety Committee, [International Media Support](#) is collecting [donations](#) to protect journalists who remain in Afghanistan, providing shelter, food and support.

The Committee to Protect Journalists is providing resources to Afghan journalists. The organization is accepting [donations](#).

[Vital Voices Global Partnership](#) is a Washington-based organization that “invests in women leaders who are solving the world’s greatest challenges,” according to its website. It created the [Afghan Women’s Fund](#) to support the safety of women’s rights activists in Afghanistan and those who have been evacuated from the country.

Two organizations serving Muslim Americans have launched initiatives to aid displaced families in Afghanistan. [Islamic Relief USA](#) is accepting donations to help families struggling with hunger in Kabul, Balkh, Herat and Nangahar provinces. Muslim Aid USA is providing meals and hygiene kits to displaced people in Kabul and Konar province.

*(excerpted from Washington Post, 8/25/21)*