

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

August 21, 2021

RE: Immediate action needed to address the situation in Afghanistan

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

We are a group of Afghan Canadian Women who experienced injustice and oppression during the Afghan civil war and the dark era of Taliban rule. The current turn of events in Afghanistan has left us profoundly distraught and helpless. We are greatly concerned that history may repeat itself and are calling for immediate actions to stop this looming human catastrophe.

In addition to the continues killing, looting, raping, torturing, and forcing women to marry insurgents are, if need be, proofs that the Taliban have not changed. Thousands of people who are internally displaced are left without support since the takeover of the government by the Taliban. We have heard from our families and friends in Afghanistan that girls are no longer allowed to attend school, women are no longer allowed to leave their home without a chaperon, and music has been banned. Taliban are conducting door-to-door searches for those worked for the US led coalition, the Afghan government, and civil society. Women's rights activists, journalists, and women working with law enforcement are the primary target and they are at great danger. Four days ago, a policewoman was taken out of her home in Kunduz province and shot dead on the street in front of her husband and children.

We value and greatly appreciate Canada's efforts and contributions to the security and the development in Afghanistan, which cost not only financial resources, but sadly many Canadian lives. Unfortunately, those hard-earned gains are now in jeopardy, as history will likely repeat itself and Afghanistan will re-enter the dark ages of the previous Taliban era. We therefore urge the Canadian government to help the Afghan people by immediately taking the following actions:

- First, Providing urgent humanitarian Aid for Internally Displaced People (IDPs).
- Second, extend and expand the special refugee programs for those at significant risk of losing their lives at the hands of the Taliban, including but not limiting to women's rights activists, journalists, law enforcement personnel and their families who did not directly work with the government of Canada and Canadian organizations, but fought for the same cause of democracy and justices.
- Third, expand and streamline the special emergency refugee program for the family members of Afghan Canadians and Afghan Permanent Residence in Canada whose families reside in dangerous situations inside Afghanistan.
- Fourth, accelerate and simplify the refugee immigration program and increase the number of governments supported and private-funded refugee sponsors.

It is our belief that Canada can play a significant and active leadership role in upholding human rights and bring peace and stability to Afghanistan. Now is the time to take concrete actions to reverse the mistake of

turning Afghanistan back into a pariah state and a safe haven for terrorism. We look forward to ongoing dialogue with you and your government to ensure that these four actions are taken immediately.

Signed,

Afghan /Canadian Women Diaspora Group

C.C.:

The Honourable Erin O'Toole P.C., M.P., Leader of the Official Opposition

Mr. Jagmeet Singh, Leader of the New Democratic Party

Ms. Annamie Paul, Leader of the Green Party

Mr. Yves-François Blanchet, Leader of the Bloc Québécois