

## What's happening

People all over the world are fleeing war, violence, and persecution. They've lost their homes, family, and friends. This is the situation faced by tens of millions of refugees, asylum-seekers, and displaced people, and they all need safety and a home. After the collapse of the Afghan government in August 2021 and seizure of power by the Taliban, tens of thousands of Afghans have been evacuated to the U.S., in addition to millions of displaced Afghans and refugees across the globe who were forced to flee their homes. Afghans were brought here by the United States, through the U.S. evacuation effort, by U.S. officials, but instead of ensuring their safety and a home, the United States has abandoned the newly arrived Afghans to a broken U.S. immigration system. Without Congressional action, there is no clear path for Afghans with humanitarian parole to stay in the U.S. long-term, meaning there is an expiration date on their safety, and this is unacceptable. The Afghan Adjustment Act (AAA) is way to see the Operation Allies Welcome mission through and finish the job. The AAA aims to expand humanitarian pathways for those still in Afghanistan, establish a roadmap for Afghans who have arrived or are arriving to the U.S. to apply for lawful permanent resident status, eliminating the risk of being sent back to a dangerous situation and ensuring their ability to settle into their new homes in safety.

## What can we do?

-There is hope, but we must act urgently. In August 2022, a bipartisan group of Representatives and Senators introduced the AAA – The House version <u>H.R. 8685</u> and Senate version <u>S. 4787</u>. As evidenced by the broad support for this bipartisan, bicameral legislation, it is clear Congress agrees that every Afghan family deserves a peaceful and dignified immigration process and a pathway to permanent protection. Additionally, Communities across the U.S. are coming together to welcome and advocate for Afghan refugees and newcomers, to ensure their wellbeing and security as they try to rebuild their lives. We need you to mobilize your communities to send postcards calling on your Senators to take action and pass the Afghan Adjustment Act immediately! Buy local postcards and write a short message to your Senator with our calls to action: Our message is simple: **The U.S. government must welcome, protect, and support our new Afghan neighbors and ensure they have a roadmap to stay permanently and put down real roots in their new communities so that they can find real, lasting safety in their new home. The way to do this is by passing the Afghan Adjustment Act!** We need to communicate that message and flood our government officials with thousands of emails, letters, and postcards calling on them to act now!

## How to take action:

• Buy local post cards from your local post office or store, especially if it depicts landmarks or sites from your community (i.e., city hall, national park, tourist attractions, etc.) – local postcards from your city or town illustrate that voices across the country are demanding change.

Write a personalized message on why welcoming Afghan newcomers and refugees is important to you and urge your Senator to pass the AAA.

If you prefer to send a lengthier letter, handwritten is best for that personal touch, but typed letters are great, too. Enclose each letter in its own separate envelope (so if you have 5 letters, you should have 5 envelopes!) **You can find** <u>messaging</u> here.

Ask a friend to take a photo of you taking action. Share on social media and tag your Senators using the hashtag #AfghanAdjustmentAct.

Then reach out to your family, friends, and neighbors motivate them to write a postcard.



Gather all postcards or letter envelopes and send them to your Senators. Please let us know you took this action and how many postcards/letters you sent by emailing <u>campaigns@aiusa.org</u>