

Dear Members of Congress,

As 135 religious leaders and 77 national, state, and local faith-based organizations representing many faith traditions, we urge you to support and work to immediately pass the bipartisan Afghan Adjustment Act of 2023 ([S. 2327](#) / [H.R. 4627](#)). If passed, the bill would provide a clear path to permanent status for Afghans living in the U.S. and expand pathways to protection for vulnerable Afghans left behind. On July 13th, the Afghan Adjustment Act was introduced as an [amendment](#) to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). We strongly encourage your support of this crucial measure and its inclusion in the NDAA to provide stability and safety to tens of thousands of Afghans, many of whom risked their lives in service of the U.S. mission.

As communities of faith, we are called by our principles and sacred texts to the spiritual practice of welcome. Our congregations have historically played key roles in meeting the needs of displaced people, a tradition that has come to include supporting Afghans who have fled from the violence and persecution of the Taliban. For nearly two years, congregations and organizations have mobilized to connect Afghans with housing, language services, employment, transportation, and social support as they rebuild their lives in the U.S. However, Afghans who have become integral to our communities will continue to face significant obstacles until Congress demonstrates moral leadership by passing the Afghan Adjustment Act.

As we approach two years after the fall of the elected Afghan government in August of 2021, the need for an attainable path to permanent status for Afghans living in the U.S. has never been more urgent. More than 76,000 at-risk Afghans have been welcomed into the United States via “humanitarian parole” which provides only temporary protection and no clear path to permanent residency. Though the vast majority of Afghan parolees are eligible for asylum or Special Immigrant Visas, due to long backlogs and processing delays, according to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, fewer than 10% have secured permanent protection.

The Afghan Adjustment Act would provide stability and security to the thousands of Afghan evacuees who remain in legal limbo as their initial period of protection is set to expire this fall. The new pathway the bill creates would be cost-effective and secure, and there is [significant precedent](#) of Congress coming together to pass similar adjustment acts for others that have been evacuated to the U.S. under humanitarian parole.

As religious leaders, congregations and faith-based organizations, we join with a diverse range of supporters calling for the immediate passage of the Afghan Adjustment Act, including [veterans](#), [businesses](#), [national security experts](#), and [women's rights leaders](#). Around the nation and across the political spectrum, a broad consensus has emerged: Congress must stand up for displaced Afghans and immediately pass the Afghan Adjustment Act.

Our nation's diverse faith traditions call us to love our neighbor, accompany the vulnerable, and welcome the sojourner. We believe that it is a moral imperative to act swiftly to protect Afghans at risk. We look forward to working with you to ensure your support for the Afghan Adjustment Act as part of the National Defense Authorization Act.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

National and International Organizations

Church World Service
Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul USA
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Franciscan Action Network
Friends Committee on National Legislation
HIAS
Islamic Relief USA
Jesuit Refugee Service/USA
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns
Mormon Women for Ethical Government
MPower Change Action Fund
Presbyterian Church USA
Red Jesuita con Migrantes LAC
St. Mary of the Capuchin Order
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Justice Team
The Episcopal Church
T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights
Union for Reform Judaism
Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice
United Church of Christ, Justice and Local Church Ministries
World Relief

State by State

Arizona

Organizations

Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Uncage and Reunite Families Coalition

Faith Leaders

Rev. Kenneth Kennon

California

Organizations

Beacon Presbyterian Fellowship
Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County
Jewish Family & Community Services East Bay
National Council of Jewish Women, Greater Long Beach & West Orange County Section
Salam Arabic Church
Santa Cruz Welcoming Network

Faith Leaders

Rev. Dr. Eileen Altman
Rev. Marcos Canales, La Fuente Ministries
S. Cecilia Canales, OP
Reverend Carla Dietz, First Congregational UCC of San Jose
Rev. Brad M. Griffin, pastor, Church of the Nazarene
Sister Joan Goulden, Sister of Saint Joseph
Sister Katherine Hamilton OP
Sister Carol Hallmeyer
Martha Larsen, Sister of Mercy
Sr. Dolores Maguire
Rabbi Howie Schneider
Sister Deanna Rose von Barga
Tiffany Westra, Associate Pastor, Church of the Nazarene

Colorado

Organizations

Accompaniment & Sanctuary Coalition Colorado Springs
Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Faith Leaders

Rabbi Deborah R. Bronstein, Congregation Har HaShem
Rev. Monica Butler
Mr. Ralston Deffenbaugh, retired president, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service
Reverend Doctor Marta Fioriti
Rev. Diana Linden-Johnson
Catherine Mueller, SL
Rev. Mark Meeks, Capitol Heights Presbyterian

Connecticut

Faith Leaders

Sister Maryann Mueller

District of Columbia

Organizations

JAMAAT - Jews and Muslims and Allies Acting Together
Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area (LSSNCA)

Faith Leaders

Dora Currea, Co-Chair, Washington National Cathedral Sanctuary Ministry
Rev. Louise Green
Rabbi Jessica Shimberg
Rev. Dr. Sharon Stanley-Rea

Florida

Organizations

Florida Conference, United Church of Christ

Faith Leaders

Rev. Jacques Mervil

Illinois*Organizations*

Provincial Council Clerics of St. Viator

Faith Leaders

Sister Benita Coffey, OSB

Karen A. Jackson, Coordinator of Peace and Social Justice Committee, Christ the Servant Church

Sister Kathlyn S Myers

Mary Southard CSJ

Indiana*Faith Leaders*

Sister Emily TeKolste

Sister Noella Poinsette, OSF

Iowa*Organizations*

Catherine McAuley Center

Faith Leaders

Pr. Brian Jack

Pastor Erin Bird

Rev. Gary Nims

Rev. Michael Wilker

Sr. Marjorie Wisor

Kansas*Organizations*

Immigration Committee, Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia, KS

Faith Leaders

Sister Linda Roth

Louisiana*Organizations*

Jesuit Social Research Institute, Loyola University New Orleans

Maine*Faith Leaders*

Rev. Steve Garnaas-Holmes, United Methodist

The Reverend LK Watson-Hill

Maryland*Organizations*

Missionary Servants of the Most Holy Trinity

St. Margaret's Church, Annapolis

Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics, and Ritual (WATER)

Faith Leaders

Sr Marie Lucey
Ann Scholz, SSND

Massachusetts

Organizations

Jewish Activists for Immigration Justice

Michigan

Organizations

Berrien Immigrant Solidarity Network
Interfaith Action SW Michigan
Strangers No Longer

Faith Leaders

Rev. Miriam M.-K. Bunge, ELCA
Pastor Jack Eggleston
Sister Mary Ann Penner
Rabbi Ari Witkin

Minnesota

Organizations

Valley Community Presbyterian Church

Faith Leaders

Rev Bonnie Wilcox, Senior Pastor, First Lutheran Church (ELCA), Columbia Heights, MN

Missouri

Organizations

Inter-Faith Committee on Latin America
Jesuits of the US Central and Southern Province

Faith Leaders

Sister Mary Therese DeMoor
Sister Bernie Galvin, cdp
Sisters of St Joseph of Carondelet

Nebraska

Organizations

St Pius X Catholic Church Catholic Social Teaching Team

Faith Leaders

Rev. Dr. Marcee Binder
Sister Rita Parks

New Hampshire

Organizations

Meriden Congregational Church, UCC

New Jersey*Organizations*

Beacon Unitarian Universalist Congregation
Peace & Justice Committee St Catharines RC Church

Faith Leaders

Rev. Joseph Monahan

New Mexico*Organizations*

First Congregational United Church of Christ

Faith Leaders

Dr. John Maddaus, chair, Immigration Justice Team, First Congregational United Church of Christ,
Albuquerque, NM
Martha A. Phillips, Social Justice Chair, First Congregational Church

New York*Organizations*

Church Women United in New York State
Faiths for Safe Water
Journey's End Refugee Services, Inc.
New York Justice for Our Neighbors, Inc.
Pax Christi New York State
Sisters of St. Dominic of Blauvelt, New York
Sisters of St. Joseph - Long Island Immigration Clinic
Westchester Jewish Coalition for Immigration

Faith Leaders

Sr. Joan Agro, OP
Sister Mary C. Boys, SNJM
Dr. Amelia DeMarco
Mary Doyle CSJ
Sister Virginia Elizabeth Down, CSJ
Rev. Dr. Zachariah Ellis
Reverend Tonya Eza
Jean Fallon, Sister, Maryknoll Sisters
The Rev. Mary Foulke, Rector, St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Harlem
Sister Kathleen Kanet
Sr. Peggy McPartland
Rev. Danielle Miller
Sister Margaret O'Donnell
Catherine M. Patten, RSHM
Sr. Maria Timoney, RSHM

North Carolina*Organizations*

Congregational United Church of Christ, Greensboro

Faith Leaders

Richard W. Hammer O. S. F.
Rev. Christine Payden-Travers
Rev. Julie Peeples
Rabbi Matthew V. Soffer, Judea Reform Congregation

Ohio

Organizations

Marianist Social Justice Immigration Team

Faith Leaders

Rev. Theodore Cassidy, SM
Fr. Tony Gallagher
Maureen Gwynn Associate of the Congregation of St. Joseph
Tiffany Hunsinger, PhD Student in Theology at University of Dayton
Rev. Dr. Jonathan Moody

Oregon

Organizations

Social Justice Coalition, Central Lutheran Church

Faith Leaders

Sr Dorothy Jean Beyer
Kenneth Crouse, First Congregational United Church of Christ
Rev. Dr. Chuck Currie
Sister Mary Ellen Holohan
Sister Phyllis Jaszowskiak
Cathy Leamy SNJM
Rev. Dr. Amanda Llewellyn
Eileen Sleva, Social Justice coordinator, Holy Trinity Catholic Church
Rev. Andrew Wade

Pennsylvania

Organizations

Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia-JPIC committee

Faith Leaders

Sister Bridget Connor
Pastor Donald Fitzkee
Rabbi Megan GoldMarche
Rev. Sonja L Ingebritsen
Sr. Catherine Kelly, SSJ
Harry King Minister of Peace, Justice, Outreach Frazer Mennonite Church
Sister Dominica Lo Bianco, OSF
Pat Lupo, OSB
The Rev. Beth Lyon
Kathleen Mackerer, Sisters of Saint Joseph
Sr. Mary McMahon
Sister Kate O'Donnell Sister of St Francis of Philadelphia Roman Catholic

Rev. Marian P. Shearer, United Church of Christ
Rev. Ruth A. Sheets
Rev. Elisabeth Simpson, retired Presbyterian Church USA
Sister Patricia Warman, osf
Rev. John D. Yost

Rhode Island

Faith Leaders

Rabbi Preston D. Neimeiser

South Carolina

Faith Leaders

Rev. Dr. J. Austin Watson

Texas

Organizations

Diocesan Migrant and Refugee Services Inc
Justice For Our Neighbors North Central Texas
Southwestern Texas Synod, ELCA

Faith Leaders

Brother Larry Atkinson CSC
Sister Kathleen Corbett, SL
Maria de Jesus Dixon, Minister, Baptist
Rev. Dr. Edward Kern (ELCA)
Rev. Jessica Vacketta
Rev. Ruth Winkler Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Rev. Dr. Paul Ziese

Utah

Organizations

Holy Cross Ministries of Utah
Utah Muslim Civic League

Vermont

Organizations

Faith Leaders

The Ven. Catherine Cooke

Virginia

Organizations

Raj Khalsa Gurdwara

Faith Leaders

Kenn Speicher, Refugee Response Team, Virginia United Methodist Church

Washington

Organizations

Dai Bai Zan Cho Bo Zen Temple
JUJustice Washington

Faith Leaders

Dianne Aid, TSSF
Reverend Debra Blane
Rev. Catharine Cline
Robert Crawford, former coordinator of Washington State Religious Campaign Against Torture
Rabbi Seth Goldstein
Pastor Anne Hall
Rev. Pamela Griffith Pond

Wisconsin

Organizations

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Green Bay, Inc.
Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa
First Baptist Church of Madison
Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin
Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice

Faith Leaders

Sister Marcella Anibas, FSPA
Marie DesJarlais, FSPA
The Reverend Jeffrey Dodson, United Church of Christ
Rabbi Betsy Forester
Rabbi Bonnie Margulis, Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice
Reverend Tim Schaefer
Erica Serlin, co-chair Temple Beth El Immigrant and Refugee Rights Team
S. Kathy Wiesneski