



forward together

ANNUAL CAMPAIGN IMPACT: AFGHAN REFUGEES

A portion of every Annual Campaign dollar goes to HIAS, which was founded as the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society in 1881 to assist Jews fleeing pogroms in Russia and Eastern Europe. HIAS has touched the life of nearly every Jewish family in America and now welcomes all who have fled persecution.

Afghan Parolees

HIAS' 18-site network throughout the country will receive at least 2,500 Afghan "humanitarian parolees" through March 2022. Due to urgent humanitarian reasons, "humanitarian parolees" are granted admission into the United States without the typical visa process. It would not be safe for these individuals to remain in Afghanistan under Taliban control.



Jewish Social Services of Madison is a HIAS network site (and the only one in Wisconsin). JSS will likely have a role in resettling Afghans who were employed by the United States government during the War in Afghanistan. The Taliban targeted these individuals because of their affiliation with the U.S.

To put this in perspective, 54,000 Afghans have evacuated to the United States.

Afghan Refugees

Housing is one of the biggest needs for Afghan refugees when they arrive in a new country. HIAS is partnering with Airbnb to connect people with temporary housing. The goal is to provide housing to 20,000 Afghan refugees globally.



2022
Annual Campaign
MILWAUKEE
JEWISH FEDERATION

Jewish Organizations and Congregations

Led by HIAS, 220 Jewish community organizations and congregations, joined together to send a letter to the Biden Administration to expand its Priority 2 (P2) refugee designation. Currently, the United States places a higher priority on relocating Afghans who were employed directly by the U.S. government during the War in Afghanistan. The letter was signed by the Milwaukee Jewish Federation plus Milwaukee's Congregation Emanu-El B'ne Jeshurun and Congregation Shalom.



HIAS strongly supported the relocation of this group of U.S. allies, but was equally as concerned with Afghans whose safety would be under imminent risk under Taliban rule, including religious minorities. The letter stressed the familiarity with fleeing due to religious beliefs that the Jewish community has, so HIAS advocated for members of religious minorities, including Christians, Sikhs, Hindus, and Shia Muslims to have access to a pathway to peace and safety via this special designation.

The letter also urged the Biden Administration to commit to helping human rights activists (especially women and girls), journalists, and members of the LGBTQI+ community in relocation efforts. HIAS feared for the safety of these individuals under the Taliban regime.

HIAS Staff at Work

Afghan refugees are fleeing for their lives and need services to meet their basic needs in a new country. Dozens of HIAS staff are helping process Afghan refugees at military bases across the country. HIAS attorneys are assisting Afghans with preparation of government paperwork and visa applications. HIAS and its affiliates are hiring additional case management staff with specialized language skills to be able to communicate and work with the Afghan population effectively to meet their needs as they acclimate to a new life.

To learn more, contact Shelly M. Sampon, Campaign Operations Director, at ShellyS@MilwaukeeJewish.org or 414-390-5723.