

Australia can - and must - do more in response to the worsening humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan. We must act with immediacy and compassion to offer safety, solidarity, support, aid and protection. We have collated a range of actions you can take as individuals to call on our leaders to take brave and compassionate action in response to this crisis. We are taking our lead from the Afghan Australian community; amplifying their voices and calls to action - and we ask our community members to join us.

WELCOMING CITIES:

Welcoming Cities is a national network of cities, shires, towns and municipalities who are committed to an Australia where everyone can belong and participate in social, cultural, economic and civic life.

The initiative supports Local Councils and community stakeholders through knowledge sharing; partnership development; celebrating success; and, standards & accreditation. Welcoming Cities is part of a growing movement of more than 135 municipalities around the world.

Welcoming Cities recognises that, of all tiers of government, local councils are best placed to understand the complexity and diversity of their communities. However, they often engage in this work with limited resources and support. Members of Welcoming Cities have unprecedented access to a community of like-minded Local Governments and community stakeholders to support their vital work.

MOTIONS TO EXPRESS SOLIDARITY WITH AFGHANISTAN

On the 17th August, the City of Port Adelaide Enfield, a member of the Welcoming Cities network, held a Special Meeting to pass the below motion

The City of Port Adelaide Enfield:

1. recognises the rich social, cultural and economic contributions of humanitarian migrants from Afghanistan—including the large population of Hazara—in the City of Port Adelaide Enfield;
2. acknowledges the particular persecution, marginalisation and disadvantage now facing the Hazara as well as other Afghans who worked with Australian forces over the past twenty years;
3. commits to working with the local Hazara community and broader Afghan diaspora in Port Adelaide Enfield to provide appropriate social and community support; and
4. calls on the Australian Government to urgently:
 - a) grant permanent protection visas to Afghan refugees who are on temporary visas already here;
 - b) enable family reunification by granting financially accessible partner/family type visas; and
 - c) establish a resettlement quota for Afghans most at risk from the current unrest in Afghanistan and assist with their emergency evacuation.

Since this time, other members of the other Welcoming Cities members; such as the City of Playford and the City of Salisbury have demonstrated solidarity in passing similar motions of support and commitment. Local Councils across Australia can add their voices **today** to the call to action from the Afghan Australian community.

For more ways to take action,
visit <https://welcoming.org.au/initiatives/afghanistan-solidarity/> and www.actionforafghanistan