

Urgent Action

Restoring Lost Humanitarian Visa Places

Immediate action to reinstate the Refugee and Humanitarian Program to previous levels.

In 2020-21 - Australia's Refugee and Humanitarian intake was at its lowest level in 45 years.

The crises in Afghanistan and Ukraine have prompted many Australians over the past year to offer to welcome and provide practical support to newly-arrived refugees

Background

- In 2013 the refugee quota was 20,000 places – the Coalition Government has reduced this to just 13,750 per year.
- In 2020-21, while the Government filled the 160,000 places in its Migration Program, only 5,947 places were provided through the Refugee and Humanitarian Program - the lowest number in 45 years.
- Serious conflicts have been escalating:
 - Afghanistan - more than 150,000 Afghans have applied for Australian humanitarian visas, but very few have been granted nearly 6 months after the fall of Kabul to the Taliban
 - Ukraine – millions have been displaced
- The two-year special intake of 12,000 Syrian and Iraqi refugees announced by the Abbott Government in 2015 enabled Australia to resettle 39,100 Syrians and Iraqis and 28,600 refugees from other nations over four years.
- The Morrison Government has announced a willingness to accept refugees from Ukraine, but has ignored persistent calls for a special quota of at least 20,000 from Afghanistan

The Ask:

1. Restoration of the annual Refugee and Humanitarian Program to its 2013 level of 20,000 places.
2. Special emergency intake for 20,000 additional Afghan refugees



Actions to Take:

1. Please read and sign the Refugee Council's open letter to the Prime Minister.
<https://bit.ly/352udtN>
2. Write your own letter - to Scott Morrison, Prime Minister
3. You can also write, email or phone:
 - Minister for Home Affairs, Karen Andrews
 - Minister for Immigration, Alex Hawke
 - Your local MP
 - The Senators in your State

All letters to MPs can be sent to:
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra, ACT 2600

All letters to Senators to:
PO Box 6100
Senate
Parliament House
Canberra, ACT 2600

If you are emailing:

Check the APH website -

https://www.aph.gov.au/Senators_and_Members/Guidelines_for_Contacting_Senators_and_Members

If you know your local MP's name - **firstname.surname.MP@aph.gov.au**

Just type (without spaces) your local MP's

firstnamedotsurnamedotMP@aph.gov.au

For Senators - senator.surname@aph.gov.au

Just type (without spaces)

senatordotsurname@aph.gov.au

For more information: austrefugeenetwork@gmail.com