**ASSISTANCE TO AFGHAN REFUGEES**

**September 2021**

Since the withdrawal of British, American and other European forces and personnel from Afghanistan, triggering the mass evacuation of Afghan citizens who had worked with them, or who were deemed to be at particular risk under the Taliban regime, there has been an outpouring of concern about how to help and welcome these refugees, who are predominantly in family groups, into our country. As a Nation of Sanctuary, Wales and its faith communities are eager to play their part in this process.

Some information has already been circulated, but this provides details which may be of particular interest to members of faith communities.

* **Accommodation**

All Welsh Local Authorities have indicated that they will take part in the resettlement scheme, but meeting accommodation needs remains a challenging task. The Welsh Government is asking particularly for 3-bedroom properties which can be made available, if possible for up to a year. Letting and financial arrangements will be handled by the Local Authority.

Although very grateful for the kindness of those who have offered rooms in their own homes, Welsh Government advises that at present this is not being sought.

If you may be able to offer appropriate accommodation, please contact:

* Your Local Authority Housing Department
* **refugees@gov.wales**
* **Further Information**

Details of the Home Office schemes for the resettlement of Afghan refugees can be found here:

* <https://homeofficemedia.blog.gov.uk/2021/08/19/factsheet-resettlement-routes-for-afghan-nationals/>

Particular advice from Welsh Government is here:

* <https://gov.wales/afghanistan-support-people-affected#section-78850>

A statement from Jane Hutt MS, Welsh Minister for Social Justice, sets out the Welsh Government’s position here:

* <https://gov.wales/written-statement-distinctive-welsh-response-afghanistan-evacuation>
* **Faith Resources**

The Church of England has posted on its website some signposts to information, and access to resources from various places to assist with study, reflection and engagement on refugee and migration issues, including advocacy and campaigning. The information is largely from an English perspective, but there is reference to some Welsh organizations. (As immigration and asylum issues are managed by the UK Home Office, the overall situation is very similar.)

* + [Toolkit for supporting Afghan Refugees | The Church of England](https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/community-action/toolkit-supporting-afghan-refugees)

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