



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Please reply to:  
The Office of Liz Kendall MP  
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The Rt Hon Dominic Raab MP  
Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs

The Rt Hon Priti Patel MP  
Secretary of State for the Home Department

The Rt Hon Ben Wallace MP  
Secretary of State for Defence

By email

Our Ref: kb/LK49538

1 September 2021

Dear Dominic, Priti and Ben

I am writing to you on behalf of my constituents in Leicester West affected by the devastating crisis unfolding in Afghanistan.

During the past fortnight, my team and I have made urgent enquiries to the Foreign Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), Ministry of Defence (MoD) and the Home Office on behalf of 88 constituents who have contacted my office, desperately worried for relatives in Afghanistan, urgently seeking guidance and, above all, reassurance that they and their families have not been abandoned by the British government. In total, 505 constituents or their relatives are stuck in Afghanistan, fearing for their lives, many having received threats from the Taliban. However none of these urgent enquiries have yet received a full response.

This includes three British citizens, still now stranded in Kabul with their partners and young children, having frantically tried in vain to join an evacuation flight.

It also includes highly vulnerable Afghan relatives of constituents, many now in hiding in Kabul – individuals who served as judges or in the Afghan government, army or police; employees of NGOs and charities who worked closely with British Government departments; those from ethnic and religious minorities; elderly parents and grandparents now cut off from vital family support; young people with learning difficulties; women separated from their families and unable to continue working.

Many are in Kabul, but several are in other regions of Afghanistan. Others have fled to Pakistan or Iran. All are in need of urgent guidance and assistance in order to reach safety; yet none, as far as I am aware, have yet been assisted to leave Afghanistan by the British government, or have been declared eligible for any Government scheme, such as the *Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy* (ARAP). The *Afghan Citizen's Resettlement Scheme* (ACRS) is yet to be fully announced by the Home Office and therefore offers no chance of immediate assistance to my constituents, and the offer to resettle 5000 Afghans in the first year through the ACRS does not seem to meet the scale of this crisis.

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If you do not wish to receive further communication from Liz Kendall MP, please write to the above address.





What is the Government's advice for British citizens stranded in Afghanistan? How will they be urgently assisted to return to the UK with their dependent relatives? What steps is the FCDO taking to accurately assess how many British nationals and their dependants are still in Afghanistan?

With evacuation flights now ended, what is the Government's advice for all those who see land routes out of Afghanistan as their only option? How can those without travel documents now apply for and obtain them? What is the Government doing to secure safe passage across borders via civilian corridors? Which neighbouring countries should refugees travel to and what assistance will they be given once they reach them?

When will the MoD publish clear guidance on eligibility for ARAP? My constituents urgently need confirmation of whether relatives employed by the Afghan government, army, police and other roles that now leave them at increased risk will be assisted through ARAP. How many people does the MoD plan to resettle in the UK through ARAP?

When will the ACRS be launched? Will the Home Office give greater clarification re: the groups that will be prioritised – for example many of my constituents are extremely concerned about persecution of Afghan minority groups, such as Hazaras. Will the ACRS be open to those still in Afghanistan as well as those in third countries? What documentation will applicants need to provide to the Home Office? Does the Government consider that 5000 resettlement places in the first year of the ACRS is sufficient to meet the scale of the crisis?

Clearly immediate guidance and practical support is needed for all those trying to flee Afghanistan; the FCDO, MoD and Home Office must work closely to urgently provide this. For those who will remain in the country, the Government must set out its plans to work with the international community to protect human rights.

I look forward to your urgent response,

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Liz Kendall', written in a cursive style.

Liz Kendall  
Member of Parliament for Leicester West