

ACTION FOR AFGHANISTAN

Example E-mail to MP - requesting a meeting

Dear [MP Title and Surname], **REPLACE HERE**

As a resident of your electorate, I write to express my concern about the terrible humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan and request an urgent meeting with you.

Australia has been one of the greatest contributors to the intervention in Afghanistan over the last two decades and has a moral obligation to take immediate action in response to this crisis.

Australia and Afghanistan have had a long history, with the first people arriving in Australia from Afghanistan in the 1860s. There are now more than 71,500 people from Afghanistan who call Australia home and are part of our diverse community. Australia was part of the military engagement in Afghanistan that saw the toppling of the Taliban and was supported by many, many Afghani nationals.

Australia can and must take these specific steps right now:

- Immediately increase the refugee intake from Afghanistan to 20 000
- Grant permanent protection to refugees from Afghanistan already in Australia on temporary visas.
- Expedite the resettlement of people who assisted Australian and allied forces for 20 years
- Lift the ban on resettlement of refugees to Australia through the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Indonesia.
- Provide urgent humanitarian aid for the more than 250,000 internally displaced people of Afghanistan

Also, please appeal for the Australian Government to maintain diplomatic efforts to monitor human rights and apply pressure where appropriate to:

- Protect the rights of women in Afghanistan.
- Protect the rights of ethnic and religious minorities from persecution
- Oppose the Taliban's indiscriminate military engagements and targeted assassination campaigns
- Oppose the Taliban forcefully and illegally marrying women – as young as 12 – to their fighters, and gender-based violence and discrimination.
- Oppose the Taliban's extrajudicial killings of citizens in groups

As the situation is deteriorating very quickly, this letter demands your urgent attention. I urge you and your fellow Members of Parliament to please consider the action points and voice your strong support to continue Australia's long relationship with the people of Afghanistan.

I would like to meet with you in the next three weeks to discuss these matters further.
My phone number is [####]. **REPLACE HERE**

I look forward to your urgent response.

Yours Sincerely,

[First Name] [Last Name] **REPLACE HERE**

[Residential address] **REPLACE HERE**