



NEWSLETTER September 2021

Dear Grandmothers and Friends,

Welcome to this special Afghanistan Situation edition of our G4R Newsletter.

As the UN forecasts 500,000 displaced people due to the return to Taliban rule in Afghanistan, the adequacy of the Australian Government response deserves scrutiny.

Alarmingly, PM Morrison has said those Afghans who fled the country during the 20 years of war – and happened to come here by boat – will get no consideration of their claims for permanent protection. This means they are unable to secure safe departure of their families from Afghanistan.

In this newsletter you will find an **invitation to a Special Briefing on the legal issues for Afghan family reunions from Refugee Legal**. We invite you and our grassroots movement members of the Australian Refugee Action Network to join us. **Booking details are inside.**

There is also an ARAN members **letter writing kit** which we urge you to use as a guide for making representations on behalf of all Afghan refugees at this terrible time.

As we anticipate the next Federal Election – perhaps as soon as November – we look forward to hearing from Labor spokesperson on Home Affairs, Senator Kristine Keneally. **Make your booking today.**

Best wishes,

Le nonne per i rifugiati
Γιαγιάδες για προσφύγες
难民的祖母
جدات للاجئين



Grandmothers and Frogs

DON'T MISS THIS

**You are invited to meet online with
Senator Kristina Keneally
Labor spokesperson on Home Affairs**

Tuesday 21 September 6.30-7.30pm AEST



This is a special event open to all Grandmothers for Refugees and Friends of Grandmothers.

The event is free, but bookings are essential to enable us to send you any updates and the link to join the meeting. **Go to TryBooking** <https://www.trybooking.com/BTQBI> to register or hover your smartphone or ipad camera over this **QRcode>>>**

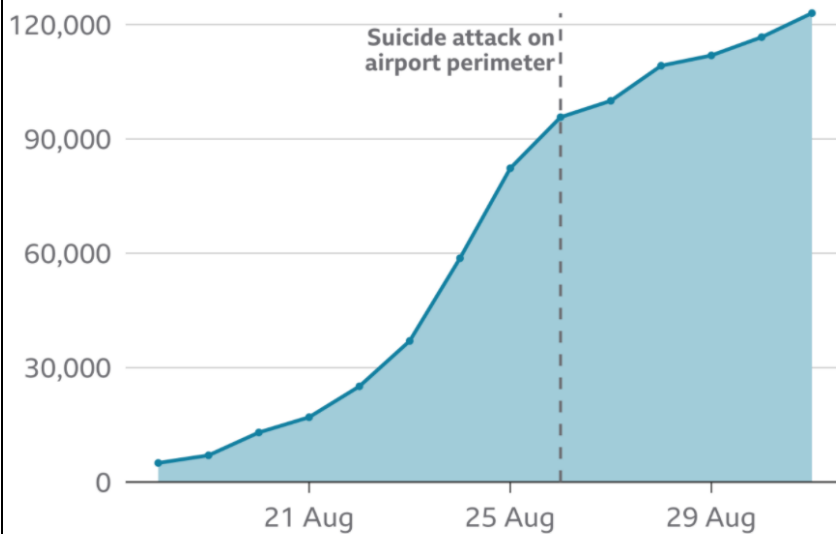


Visit our website today www.grandmothersforrefugees.org

UN says 500,00 are fleeing AFGHANISTAN after Taliban reclaim control

More than 120,000 people were airlifted out of Kabul airport after Taliban took control

Total number of people evacuated by US and coalition planes



Source: Briefings from US Defense Department and the White House



How many Afghans were evacuated?

The US-led operation to evacuate people by air has now ended, with the last flight taking off from Kabul airport just after midnight on Tuesday - a deadline agreed with the Taliban for foreign forces to withdraw.

More than 123,000 civilians were evacuated by US forces and its coalition partners after the Taliban took control of the capital on 14 August - but it's unclear exactly how many of those were Afghan nationals.

The US has said that it flew nearly 80,000 civilians out of Kabul and of those, about 5,500 were Americans and more than 73,500 were either Afghans or other foreign nationals.

While Canada and the UK have each pledged to take in 20,000 Afghan refugees, Australia has designated just 3,000 places in its existing humanitarian visa program which has room for 13,750 per year.

Priority will go to people with family already settled in Australia, women and girls, children and persecuted minorities like Hazaras. However, for those Afghan people who fled during the past 20 years of war and made it to Australia by boat, the Morrison Government still refuses to let them stay.

You are invited to meet online with

David Manne

Executive Director and Principal Solicitor, Refugee Legal

Afghanistan Briefing: A Second Wave Refugee Crisis

Wednesday 29 September

2 - 3pm AEST

A Grandmothers for Refugees event in conjunction with Australian Refugee Action Network



Go to **TryBooking** to register or scan this QR code to go directly to the TryBooking event page

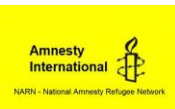


Refugee Legal:



CALL TO ACTION >>>
Refugee Sector Letter Blitz

ARAN
Australian Refugee
Action Network



Issue for SEPTEMBER 2021
Crisis in Afghanistan

Supported by ARAN, RAR, G4R, & NARN



Included in this kit ([click here for the full kit](#)) is the information you need to create your own letters or use the proformas.

- **Guide and Background notes** prepared by ARAN's Letter Writing Network
- 3 proforma **letters to politicians** that you can copy (and personalise) to send by post or email
- Postal Addresses for MPs and Senators
- Email addresses for MPs and Senators
- 2 **sample Letters to the Editor** - Letter 1 = 237 words / Letter 2 = 149 words
- Please personalise these letters or they may not be published
- Email addresses for capital city newspapers Letters to Editor
- And a link to **resources for Twitter** on the Action for Afghanistan website - <https://www.actionforafghanistan.com.au/resources>

Personalised letters are best.

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Regards,  
The ARAN Letter Writing Network  
[austrefugeenetwork@gmail.com](mailto:austrefugeenetwork@gmail.com)

Visit our website today [www.grandmothersforrefugees.org](http://www.grandmothersforrefugees.org)



**CALL TO ACTION>>>**

**Grandmothers support permanent residency for the Murugappan family**

**Petition closes 22 September 2021**

There are just a few days left to sign and share Parliamentary [Petition EN3130](#). Click on the embedded link or here:

[e-petitions – Parliament of Australia \(aph.gov.au\)](https://aph.gov.au/e-petitions)

You will be sent an email asking you to verify that it was you who signed this petition. Please remember to verify.



**Did you miss the RAC Canberra Remembering Tampa Zoom Session?** You can catch up with it here:

<https://youtu.be/5KkW40YY-S8>

**HAS YOUR FEDERAL ELECTORATE CHANGED?**

**New federal electoral divisions in Victoria came into effect from 26 July 2021.**

**What you need to do:**

**check your status:** [Names and boundaries of federal electoral divisions in Victoria decided - Australian Electoral Commission \(aec.gov.au\)](#)

**notify us:** [info@grandmothersforrefugees.org](mailto:info@grandmothersforrefugees.org) of your new electorate so we can keep our membership lists up to date.

**The AEC will automatically:**

- transfer you to the new electoral roll for your new electoral division, and
- notify you that your electoral division has changed.

**For more, check out Antony Green's Election blog [2021 Federal Redistribution – Boundaries Finalised for Victoria – Antony Green's Election Blog](#) and**

**Totes and Tees still on sale...** Our website is the best way to place your order. Go to [www.grandmothersforrefugees.org](http://www.grandmothersforrefugees.org) and scroll down on the Front Page. Or click [here](#).



**Look out for us on social media>>>**

**Facebook:**

<https://www.facebook.com/GrandmothersforRefugees/>

**Twitter:**

<https://twitter.com/gmothersadrc/>

**Instagram:** [Grandmothers4Refugees \(@grandmothers4refugees\)](https://www.instagram.com/grandmothers4refugees) • Instagram photos and videos

We look forward to seeing you at upcoming Zoom Briefings. Until then, stay safe.  
**Jean, Margaret, Jane, Linda, Gill**