

AFGHAN REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT TEAM

OCTOBER, 2023, REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION

"THE NEW COLOSSUS "

by Emma Lazarus

Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of Exiles.

From her beacon-hand
Glows world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame,
"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she
With silent lips.

*"Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore,
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"*

These words of inspiration, safety, and welcome appear on the plaque on the pedestal of The Statue of Liberty on Liberty Island in New York Harbor.

NATIONAL IMMIGRANTS DAY

The United States of America is known as the World's "melting pot". In 1987, the U.S. Congress designated October 28th as *National Immigrants Day*. Every year since then, *National Immigrants Day* gives us reason to reflect on that unique distinction among the world's 195 sovereign nations. As Americans, we are proud of our long history of welcoming immigrants from all parts of the World. We value the contributions of immigrants that add zest to our nation's blend of cultures, customs, and traditions.



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ACT

Contact Congress (U.S. Senators Tammy Baldwin and Ron Johnson; Representative Bryan Steil) to pass the **Afghan Adjustment Act** to help Afghans receive *permanent* status in the U.S. Until there is Congressional action, these Afghans face daily uncertainty about their safety, as well as the safety of family, friends, and associates scattered across the globe. If they are forced to return to Afghanistan because of Congressional *inaction*, it is almost a certainty that they will be killed by the Taliban for their assistance to U.S. troops and for fleeing Afghanistan.

Prior to this, every other group of Humanitarian Parolees has been granted asylum in a timely (relative to "government time") manner. Challenge Congress to fulfill the promise made by the U.S. to provide for these Afghan partners to U.S. and Allied troops during the War in Afghanistan.

PRAYER

Please pray for our Afghan men, our resettlement Team, and our congregation, as well as, asylum-seekers, immigrants, refugees, and unaccompanied children in our country and around the World.

+ **The ongoing integration of Afghans into communities throughout the U.S.**, including those learning a new language, adapting to an entirely new culture, working new jobs, and, in some cases, struggling to afford rent in a very tight housing market.

+ **The Church in the U.S.**, that our welcome of Afghans and others who have been displaced from their homelands would reflect the love of Jesus, would assist our new Afghan neighbors to flourish in their new home, and would lead to lasting friendships across cultural and religious differences.

+ **Afghans still at risk in Afghanistan**, that God would protect them from harm, make ways for those who need to flee the country to preserve their lives, and ultimately bring about peace and security in Afghanistan so that people would not feel they have no choice, but to leave home

+ **The U.S. Congress (the Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives)**, that Members of Congress would carefully consider important bills, which would allow Afghans currently in the U.S. with a temporary parole to undergo additional vetting to be able to apply for permanent legal status and asylum.

Source (modified) *Evangelical Immigration Table*

He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing.

Deuteronomy 10:18