

## Tips for this Letter-Writing Campaign

### 1. State the clear goal

- Be specific: Ask the Minister and other officials to expedite the Siraji family's immigration process and protect them from deportation from Pakistan.
- Focus on urgency: Emphasize the immediate risk of forced return to Afghanistan and the family's approved status for resettlement in Canada.

### 2. Feel free to use the template, but personalize It

- You could start with the provided letter template, but feel free to add one or two personal sentences about:
  - Why this issue matters to you.
  - Your connection to the family or the community supporting them.
  - Your hope for Canada's humanitarian leadership.

### 3. Be respectful and focused

- Use respectful language, even when expressing frustration or concern.
- Keep letters relatively short (or about 400–500 words). The template is longer, but feel free to be more concise.
- Avoid partisan or inflammatory language—this is a humanitarian issue, not a political attack.

### 4. Include the essentials

- Full names of the family members and their Canadian immigration reference numbers (G numbers). We have their permission.
- You could mention that they have:
  - UNHCR recognition
  - Sponsorship through the Inter-Cultural Agency of Greater Victoria, a Canadian SAH (Sponsorship Agreement Holder)
  - Approved applications awaiting final medical request
- Note the worsening conditions (including extreme heat) in Pakistan and recent Pakistani edicts to remove Afghan refugees.

### 5. Send your letter to multiple stakeholders

- Always send your letter to:
  - The Honourable Lena Diab, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC)
  - Our local Member of Parliament (MP) (Will Greaves)
- Feel free to copy other relevant figures such as:
  - Prime Minister of Canada
  - Minister of Foreign Affairs
  - Elizabeth May, MP for Saanich—Gulf Islands
  - Senator Salma Ataullahjan
- See the federal contacts list that we've prepared.

- 

## **6. Send by email *and* snail mail (if possible)**

- Email is faster—but a printed letter often has more impact.
- If you can, mail your letter to Parliament (no postage required in Canada to the House of Commons).

## **7. Encourage others**

- Share a call-to-action on social media or in your community newsletter.
- Include:
  - A short explanation of the situation
  - A sample letter or link to a template
  - A list of email addresses and mailing info

## **8. Follow up**

- A few days after sending, call or email the office to ask whether your letter was received.
- Encourage a response and thank them for considering the issue.

## **9. Be consistent but not repetitive**

- You can write more than once, especially as circumstances change.
- In follow-ups, include updates and new details about the family's situation or ongoing risks.

## **10. Keep Hope Alive**

- Let your compassion and hope for a just outcome shine through.
- Officials are more likely to act when they see the issue has broad support and moral clarity.

## **11. Keep praying**

- If you have messages or wishes that you would like to share with the family, please forward them to André ([andrefontaine.victoria@gmail.com](mailto:andrefontaine.victoria@gmail.com)) or D'Arcy ([darcymcpherson.victoria@gmail.com](mailto:darcymcpherson.victoria@gmail.com))