

## COMMUNITY & STAKEHOLDER UPDATE

10 February 2022

### Afghan Community Support

The Ministry of Business, Innovation, and Employment (MBIE) has contracted New Zealand Red Cross to provide support to people affected by the Afghan crisis who are resettling in Aotearoa New Zealand. The new arrivals are being settled in Auckland, Hamilton, Palmerston North, Wellington and Christchurch.

New Zealand Red Cross continues to provide essential hygiene items to Afghans on their arrival in Auckland and to provide food vouchers to meet families' basic needs in their first few weeks. We are responsible for setting up houses with household items, so they are ready when the families move out into the community. Our teams also work in partnership with Community Navigator support providers, connecting families to community resources and services.

#### The Community Navigator support providers are:

- Auckland – Fahima Saeid, *New Settlers Family and Community Trust*
- Hamilton – Jo de Lisle, *The Waikato Refugee Forum*
- Palmerston North – Asmat, *The Manawatu Multicultural Council*
- Wellington – Rahela Khalili, *Changemakers*
- Christchurch – Reza Alawi, *Christchurch Resettlement Services*

### Upcoming Facebook Live Event – Afghan Community Support

We are hosting a Facebook Live event this month to provide information about the services and support provided to Afghan arrivals by New Zealand Red Cross and Community Navigators.

#### Date

- Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> February from 5.30 – 6.30pm

#### Panel members

- Ann Hood, Coordinator for New Zealand Red Cross Afghan Response
- Dr Fahima Saeid, Manager of New Settlers Family & Community Trust Auckland

- Finn Egan, Relationship Manager, Refugee and Migrant Support MBIE

You can join the Facebook Live event by clicking this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/101443726566068/posts/5153725308004526/>

*Live Dari Interpretation* will be provided.

*Questions* will be available via the chat function.

### **Additional New Zealand Red Cross support**

#### **Restoring Family Links**

If you have lost contact with family members in Afghanistan, you can contact Restoring Family Links by completing the [form on our website](#), or by emailing [familylinks@redcross.org.nz](mailto:familylinks@redcross.org.nz) directly.

Please note: This service does not provide support with visa applications or with advocacy with Immigration New Zealand. Please do not send personal sensitive information or documentation unless you are asked to do so.

#### **Latest news**

- As of 24<sup>th</sup> January, 1,018 people have come to New Zealand from Afghanistan. This includes:
  - 837 Afghan nationals on Emergency visitor visas (779) or other temporary visas (58).
  - 181 people with either NZ citizenship (79), Permanent Residency (44) or other Residency Visas (58).
- Associate Immigration Minister [Phil Twyford has said](#) 200 visas have also been issued to women judges, human rights defenders, LGBTQI+ Afghans and senior politicians. [In a report in late January](#), the United Nations said these groups have been targeted for numerous reprisal attacks by the Taliban.