

Hon. Joseph R. Biden  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

August 30, 2021

Dear President Biden:

We the following 220 undersigned American Jewish organizations from communities across the United States write with urgency about the unfolding humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan. We are horrified by the images of people desperately attempting to flee Afghanistan and are deeply concerned that countless Afghans will lose their lives if they are not evacuated.

We first ask that you immediately appoint a special presidential envoy for Afghan humanitarian and refugee issues. Doing so would send a strong signal that the humanitarian and protection needs of Afghans are a top priority for your administration.

We also urge you to commit that efforts will continue until all U.S. allies and their families and other endangered Afghans can safely leave Afghanistan. This of course includes SIV applicants and their families, as well as other Afghans who supported the U.S. and international missions in myriad ways over the last 20 years. However, we are also urging you to help other Afghans whose lives are at imminent risk, including human rights activists (particularly women and girls), journalists, and LGBTQI+ Afghans.

In addition, as a community that is all too familiar with what it means to have to flee because of our faith, we are also concerned about the fate of religious minorities in Afghanistan, including Sikhs, Hindus, Christians, Uyghers, and Shia Muslims, especially Hazaras. We therefore support the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom's recent call for the State Department to expand its Priority 2 (P2) designation to include religious minorities so that they too can have access to a pathway to peace and safety.

Our concerns also extend to our Afghan neighbors who are already in the United States. We ask that your administration stop all deportations of Afghan nationals and also designate Afghanistan for Temporary Protected Status so that nobody is now forcibly returned to danger in Afghanistan.

As Jews, our faith commands that we must assist the most vulnerable and that every human being is entitled to dignity. We stand ready to welcome Afghan refugees and help them start their lives anew in the United States.

Sincerely,

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**National Organizations:**

Ameinu  
American Conference of Cantors  
American Jewish Committee  
American Jewish Congress  
Central Conference of American Rabbis  
HIAS  
J Street  
Jewish Labor Committee  
Jewish World Watch  
National Council of Jewish Women  
Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies  
North American Board of Rabbis  
Rabbinical Assembly  
Reconstructing Judaism  
Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association  
Society for Humanistic Judaism  
The Workers Circle  
T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights  
Union for Reform Judaism

**State and Local Organizations and Communities:**

Adas Israel Social Action Committee, Washington, DC  
Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation, Bethesda, MD  
Agudas Achim Congregation, Alexandria, VA  
Ahavat Torah Congregation, Los Angeles, CA  
Am Yisrael Conservative Congregation, Northfield, IL  
Anshe Chesed, New York, NY  
Barnert Temple, Franklin Lakes, NJ  
Bender JCC, Rockville, MD  
Bet Alef Meditative Synagogue, Seattle, WA  
Bet Torah, Mount Kisco, NY  
Beth Chayim Chadashim, Los Angeles, CA  
Beth David Reform Congregation, Gladwyne, PA  
Beth El Hebrew Congregation, Alexandria, VA  
Beth El Synagogue Center, New Rochelle, NY  
Beth El Synagogue Social Justice Committee, St Louis Park, MN  
Beth El Temple, Harrisburg, PA  
Beth Meyer Synagogue, Raleigh, NC

Beth Shir Shalom, Santa Monica, CA  
Bethesda Jewish Congregation, Bethesda, MD  
BHC Justice (Baltimore Hebrew Congregation), Baltimore, MD  
B'nai Jeshurun, New York, NY  
Bnai Keshet, Montclair, NJ  
Bnai Shalom of Olney, Olney, MD  
Bolton Street Synagogue, Baltimore, MD  
Brotherhood Synagogue, New York, NY  
Chicago Jewish Coalition for Refugees, Chicago, IL  
Community Synagogue of Rye, Rye, NY  
Congregation Adat Reyim, Springfield, VA  
Congregation Beit Simchat Torah, New York, NY  
Congregation Beth Am, Los Altos, CA  
Congregation Beth Elohim, Brooklyn, NY  
Congregation Beth Emeth, Wilmington, DE  
Congregation Beth HaTephila, Asheville, NC  
Congregation Beth Hatikvah, Summit, NJ  
Congregation B'nai Yisrael, Armonk, NY  
Congregation Dorshei Tzedek, Newton, MA  
Congregation Emanu-El, San Francisco, CA  
Congregation Emanu-El B'ne Jeshurun, Milwaukee, WI  
Congregation Emanu-El of Westchester, Rye, NY  
Congregation Etz Hayim Social Action Committee, Arlington, VA  
Congregation for Humanistic Judaism of Metro Detroit, Farmington Hills, MI  
Congregation Har HaShem, Boulder, CO  
Congregation Har Shalom, Potomac, MD  
Congregation Kol Ami, West Hollywood, CA  
Congregation Kol Ami-KC, Kansas City, MO  
Congregation Mishkon Tephilo, Venice Beach, CA  
Congregation Ner Shalom, VA  
Congregation Rodef Sholom, San Rafael, CA  
Congregation Rodeph Sholom, New York, NY  
Congregation Rodfei Zedek, Chicago, IL  
Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, San Francisco, CA  
Congregation Shaare Emeth, St Louis, MO  
Congregation Shalom, Fox Point, WI  
Congregation Sherith Israel, San Francisco, CA  
Congregation Shir Shalom, Ridgefield, CT  
Congregation Shomrei Torah, Santa Rosa, CA  
Congregation Sons of Israel, Upper Nyack, NY

Democratic Jewish Outreach PA, Fort Washington, PA  
East End Temple, New York, NY  
East Meadow Beth-El Jewish Center, East Meadow, NY  
Edlavitch DCJCC, Washington, DC  
Fabrangen Havurah, Washington, DC  
Glen Rock Jewish Center, Glen Rock, NJ  
HIAS Action DC, Washington, DC  
HIAS Pennsylvania  
Hill Havurah, Washington, DC  
Hinenu: the Baltimore Justice Shtiebl, Baltimore, MD  
JCADA, The Greater Washington Area  
JCARI-LA, Los Angeles, CA  
JCFS Chicago, Chicago, IL  
JCRC Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI  
JEVS Human Services, Philadelphia, PA  
Jewish Activists for Immigration Justice of Western Massachusetts, MA  
Jewish Center for Justice, Los Angeles, CA  
Jewish Collaborative of Orange County, Orange County, CA  
Jewish Community Alliance for Refugee Resettlement, New Haven, CT  
Jewish Community of Greater Stowe, Stowe, VT  
Jewish Community Refugee Initiative, Charlotte, NC  
Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington, Washington DC, MD, and VA  
Jewish Congregation of New Paltz, New Paltz, NY  
Jewish Democratic Women's Salon, Atlanta, GA  
Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA  
Jewish Family Service of Metrowest-Boston, Framingham, MA  
Jewish Family Service of San Diego, San Diego, CA  
Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley, Los Gatos, CA  
Jewish Justice Advocates of Temple Beth El of South Orange County, Aliso Viejo, CA  
Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation, Evanston, IL  
Jewish Social Service Agency, Greater Washington DC  
Jewish Social Services of Madison, Madison, WI  
Jewish Study Center, Washington, DC  
Jews for Racial & Economic Justice (JFREJ), New York, NY  
JFCS East Bay, San Francisco Bay Area, CA  
Judea Reform Congregation, Durham, NC  
Kehila Chadasha, Montgomery County, MD  
Keshet Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA  
Kol Hadash Humanistic Jewish Community of Northern California, Berkeley, CA  
Kolot Chayeinu, Brooklyn, NY

Leo Baeck Temple, Los Angeles, CA  
Machar: The Washington Congregation for Secular Humanistic Judaism, Washington DC, MD, and VA  
Makom Solel Lakeside, Highland Park, IL  
Moving Torah, Los Angeles, CA  
National Council of Jewish Women, Arizona Section, Phoenix, AZ  
National Council of Jewish Women, Atlanta Section, Atlanta, GA  
National Council of Jewish Women, Austin Section, Austin, TX  
National Council of Jewish Women, Bergen County Section, Bergen County, NJ  
National Council of Jewish Women, Cleveland Section, Cleveland, OH  
National Council of Jewish Women, Colorado Section, CO  
National Council of Jewish Women, Essex County Section, Livingston, NJ  
National Council of Jewish Women, Greater Dallas Section, Dallas, TX  
National Council of Jewish Women, Greater Houston Section, Houston, TX  
National Council of Jewish Women, Greater Long Beach & West Orange County Section, CA  
National Council of Jewish Women, Greater New Orleans Section, New Orleans, LA  
National Council of Jewish Women, Greater Philadelphia Section, Philadelphia, PA  
National Council of Jewish Women, Louisville Section, Louisville, KY  
National Council of Jewish Women, Maryland Action Team, Bethesda, MD  
National Council of Jewish Women, Michigan Section, Southfield, MI  
National Council of Jewish Women, Nashville Section, Nashville, TN  
National Council of Jewish Women, Northern Virginia Action Team, VA  
National Council of Jewish Women, Palm Beach Section, Palm Beach County, FL  
National Council of Jewish Women, Sacramento Section, Sacramento, CA  
National Council of Jewish Women, Sarasota Manatee Section, Sarasota, FL  
National Council of Jewish Women, St. Louis Section, St. Louis, MO  
Nefesh, Los Angeles, CA  
Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation, Reston, VA  
Oak Park Temple, Oak Park, IL  
Open Dor Foundation, Inc., Chevy Chase, MD  
Or Hadash: A Reconstructionist Congregation, Fort Washington, PA  
Orange County Jewish Coalition for Refugees, Orange County, CA  
Orangetown Jewish Center, Orangeburg, NY  
Park Slope Jewish Center, Brooklyn, NY  
Pozez JCC of Northern Virginia, Fairfax, VA  
Rabbinical Association of Greater Miami, Miami, FL  
Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel, Elkins Park, PA  
Refugee Action Committee, Congregation Beth Tikvah, Marlton, NJ  
Riverdale Jewish Center, Riverdale, NY

Rockland Jews for Immigrant Justice, Rockland County, NY  
Romemu, New York, NY  
SAJ-Judaism that Stands for Us, New York, NY  
Scarsdale Synagogue Temples Tremont and Emanuel, Scarsdale, NY  
Secular Humanist Jewish Circle, Tucson, AZ  
Secular Jewish Community and School, Oak Park, IL  
Shaare Tefila Congregation, Olney, MD  
Shaare Torah, Gaithersburg, MD  
Sinai Chicago, Chicago, IL  
Sixth & I, Washington, DC  
Synagogue Coalition on the Refugee and Immigration Crisis, New York, NY  
Synagogue of the Summit, Frisco, CO  
Temple Akiba of Culver City, Culver City, CA  
Temple Bat Yahm, Newport Beach, CA  
Temple Beth Am, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA  
Temple Beth Ami, Rockville, MD  
Temple Beth David, Westminster, CA  
Temple Beth El, Stamford, CT  
Temple Beth El of South Orange County, Aliso Viejo, CA  
Temple Beth Hatfiloh, Olympia, WA  
Temple B'nai Shalom, Fairfax Station, VA  
Temple Concord, Binghamton, NY  
Temple Emanuel, Kensington, MD  
Temple Emanu-El, Dallas, TX  
Temple Emanu-El, Westfield, NJ  
Temple Emanuel of Beverly Hills, Beverly Hills, CA  
Temple Emanuel of Greater New Haven, Orange, CT  
Temple Emanu-El of Haverhill, MA  
Temple Emeth, Teaneck, NJ  
Temple Emunah, Lexington, MA  
Temple Isaiah, Fulton, MD  
Temple Isaiah, Los Angeles, CA  
Temple Israel, Long Beach, CA  
Temple Israel Center, White Plains, NY  
Temple Israel of Hollywood, Los Angeles, CA  
Temple Israel of New Rochelle, New Rochelle, NY  
Temple Israel of the City of New York, New York, NY  
Temple Micah, Washington, DC  
Temple Ner Tamid, Bloomfield, NJ  
Temple Rodef Shalom, Falls Church, VA

Temple Shaaray Tefila, Bedford, NY  
Temple Shaaray Tefila, New York, NY  
Temple Shalom Congregation, Chevy Chase, MD  
Temple Sholom of Chicago, Chicago, IL  
Temple Sinai of Cinnaminson, Cinnaminson, NJ  
The Anshe Emet Synagogue, Chicago, IL  
The Community Synagogue, Sands Point, NY  
The Kitchen, San Francisco, CA  
The Reconstructionist Synagogue of the North Shore, Manhasset, NY  
The Reform Temple of Forest Hills, Forest Hills, NY  
The Reform Temple of Rockland, Nyack, NY  
The Shtibl Minyan, Los Angeles, CA  
The Tikkun Olam Committee of Stephen Wise Temple, Los Angeles, CA  
The Village Temple, New York, NY  
Tifereth Israel Congregation, Washington, DC  
Town & Village Synagogue, New York, NY  
United Synagogue of Hoboken, Hoboken, NJ  
University Synagogue, A Reconstructionist Congregation, Irvine, CA  
Utah Jews for Refugees, Salt Lake City, UT  
Valley Beth Shalom, Los Angeles, CA  
Vassar Temple, Poughkeepsie, NY  
Washington Hebrew Congregation, Washington, DC  
Westchester Jewish Center, Mamaroneck, NY  
Westchester Jewish Coalition for Immigration, Westchester, NY  
Wisconsin Jewish Democrats, Milwaukee, WI  
Woodlands Community Temple, White Plains, NY