

RAR AFGHAN SUBCOMMITTEE

The Afghan subcommittee objectives are to

- Raise RAR member and public awareness about issues resulting from recent events in Afghanistan
- Provide material and information relating to the situation in Afghanistan
- Advocate for people from Afghanistan impacted by recent withdrawal of foreign troops & the fall of their government – including those who came to Australia seeking asylum prior to these events.

The subcommittee has been meeting on a monthly basis via Zoom and providing reports to the RAR National Executive. Membership of the subcommittee includes RAR members from Victoria, NSW, SA and Queensland with Afghan representatives from Ballarat, Shepparton, Mansfield, Women For Change and Muzafar Ali, RAR Patron.

Regular reports are provided to the RAR 'Update' and the subcommittee has built constructive relationships with the Media including the Saturday Paper, the Guardian and the ABC.

RAR membership have sponsored over 100 families and individuals currently in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran and continue to lobby government to increase the humanitarian intake.

Of the families RAR has sponsored four (4) families (16 people) and seven (7) single people are now living in Australia. Twenty families have been rejected to date. RAR have supported the following, two single people settled in Brazil, one family of four in Spain, three families (12 people) in Germany, one family in Italy, one family of seven in France.

RAR groups in Indi have formed a partnership with the Afghan Community in Shepparton and developed a proposal for sponsorship to their region which has been endorsed by the Councils in the region. We are awaiting a meeting with Andrew Giles to discuss the proposal.

Current Situation in Afghanistan

Girls over the age of 10 are unable to access education. Most women cannot work, women cannot go out without a male accompanying her. Young people able to attend education in Afghanistan are being exposed to extremist curriculum.

Taliban are involved in 'gender apartheid' with no representation of women in Cabinet. Cabinet consists mostly of Pashtun.

Hazaras (in Uruzgan, Bamyan, Ghazni, Behsud), Uzbeks, Tajiks (in the northern parts of Afghanistan) are being persecuted and killed. Afghan people who were serving with the Afghan security police and the army are in constant danger and subject to extrajudicial killings.

Recommendation

RAR campaign to promote the human rights abuse to women and girls by the Taliban and to urge the Australian Government to publicly condemn this abuse.

RAR campaign to increase the humanitarian intake of vulnerable Afghan people particularly woman and girls and minority groups.

