

Dear Patricia Leson,

Thank you for taking the time to write to the Honourable Maryam Monsef, Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Rural Economic Development.

Women and Gender Equality Canada (WAGE)'s mandate is to advance equality with respect to sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity or expression through the inclusion of people of all genders, including women, in Canada's economic, social, and political life. Considering all intersecting identity factors as part of Gender Based Analysis Plus (GBA+), not only sex and gender, has and continues to be a Government of Canada commitment.

If you are inquiring about Canada's commitment to welcome vulnerable Afghan refugees, you can find more information on Canada's response to the situation in Afghanistan here: <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/refugees/afghanistan.html>.

Please be advised that there are two different initiatives:

- 1) An evacuation effort for Afghans who worked for Canada during and after our mission in Afghanistan, which is ongoing. To apply or learn more, please email [canada-afghanistan@international.gc.ca](mailto:canada-afghanistan@international.gc.ca) or call +1-613-321-4243.
- 2) A resettlement effort for some 15,000 Afghan refugees who've been forced to leave Afghanistan and are living in other countries. This initiative will be rolled out over the next year. This is not an evacuation and the application process has not started yet. When it does, applications will be processed through the United Nations High Commission for Refugees and other partners.

**If you or a loved one are a Canadian citizen or PR currently in Afghanistan, contact Global Affairs Canada's 24/7 Emergency Watch and Response Centre ASAP by phone (+1-613-996-8885), email ([sos@international.gc.ca](mailto:sos@international.gc.ca)) or text (+1-613-686-3658).**

Take good care,

Respectfully,

Briefings and Correspondence Unit  
Corporate Secretariat  
Women and Gender Equality Canada