



## **ASAP Issues Policy Framework on Response to Taliban Control of Afghanistan**

*Washington, D.C. (September 13, 2021)* – The Alliance in Support of the Afghan People today issued the following policy framework, which includes recommendations to the United States Government and the international community:

**We advocate the immediate opening of airports and borders and free movement of Afghans, and accelerated U.S. evacuation and refugee protections for all Afghans associated with U.S. programs and policies.**

**We advocate sequencing and coordination of an international policy of Afghan Government engagement:**

- Operational engagement for the new Afghan Government should only come in stages, after they take steps to uphold Afghanistan’s human rights obligations, demonstrate non-reprisal against Afghan civil society and former government and security force members, and allow humanitarian access and free movement of citizens. The US should avoid taking unilateral positions, but instead work through the G7, UN Security Council, and Afghanistan’s neighbors before Russia, China or others cut separate deals.
- Formal recognition should come, if at all, only after an inclusive government is formed, the Afghan Government agrees to international oversight with respect to humanitarian assistance and human rights protection, and the Afghan government effectively forswears terrorism and renounces all ties with terrorist organizations.
- Any steps to formal recognition should come only after the Taliban demonstrate they are prepared to make concessions as well as accept them.

**We urge the Administration to condition access to assistance and Afghanistan’s Central Bank reserves:**

- All non-lifesaving assistance must come only once the new Afghan Government has made, and followed through on, commitments to allow safe and transparent operation by international assistance agencies and unimpeded travel.
- Humanitarian assistance should, whenever possible, be provided through international organizations instead of through the Afghan Government.

**Advocate using UN Security Council, UN sanctions and UN seating to achieve longer-term human rights protections:**

- In exchange for temporary normalization of relations with the Afghan Government and their possible seat in the United Nations, the UN Security Council and Human Rights Commission, working together, should augment during its mandate renewal in September the current UN Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) with the authority to help Afghans protect their own human rights.
- Implementing mechanisms could be UN Human Rights Commission Special Rapporteurs or high-level global human rights experts from the Islamic world, such as ministers of justice and heads



of human rights commissions from Malaysia, Morocco, Indonesia and elsewhere. These experts should have an unfettered right to meet with journalists, the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission and representatives of minority communities that the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum has noted face a special genocidal threat.

**Urge Congress to establish a Standing Commission on Afghanistan National Security, Support for Terrorism and Human Rights:**

- Congress should require the Administration to produce a bi-annual report on issues relating to U.S. strategic interests, including any support for terrorism, and human rights issues in Afghanistan, including the status of all remaining SIV applicants and P1 and P2 refugee settlement.

*The Alliance in Support of the Afghan People (or ASAP) represents a cross section of American national security, military, civilian and human rights leaders who advocate for continued U.S. engagement that protects, sustains, and advances the progress the Afghan and American people have made in Afghanistan since 2001. For more information: <https://www.allianceforafghans.org/>*