

My sisters and brothers,

“You shall not oppress a sojourner. You know the heart of a sojourner, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt.” (Exodus 23:9)

As you well know, Episcopal Migration Ministries is one of the most direct and tangible ways that we embrace the invitation to become a Church that looks and acts like Jesus, by reaching out our hands in love to the dispossessed, displaced, exiled, and marginalized. For over four decades, in times of war, genocide, political persecution and upheaval, EMM has enabled the Church at all levels to welcome and care for God’s beloved children, supporting them on their journey as new Americans, our neighbors.

At this moment in history, we face an unprecedented humanitarian crisis, an emergency relocation of our Afghan allies. Like the other eight official resettlement agencies of the United States, Episcopal Migration Ministries and its network of 11 local affiliates face critical challenges. In normal times, refugee resettlement is a process that is lengthy and planned well in advance. This current crisis instead meets the definition of a disaster: a sudden event that has overwhelmed the resources of the resettlement community to respond, requiring external and additional support.

### **This is where EMM needs your help.**

1. **Prayer.** Refugee resettlement ministry includes professional staff, but also tens of thousands of volunteers, congregations, and community partners and stakeholders, who all come together to welcome and support our new neighbors.

2. **Volunteer support.** To address the severe staffing shortages in the face of this crisis, we prayerfully ask for bishops to second deacons, diocesan staff, retired clergy, or other personnel to embed for a period of 1-3 months in an EMM affiliate office or within EMM’s churchwide headquarters staff. This secondment may occur virtually/remotely, in some circumstances. At present, one of the top identified needs is for individuals with volunteer coordination, project management, and community organizing experience. Interested and skilled individuals should email [AfghanAllies@episcopalchurch.org](mailto:AfghanAllies@episcopalchurch.org), attaching their CV and briefly explaining their relevant experience.

3. **Financial support.** In partnership with The Episcopal Church’s Office of Development, EMM has created the **Neighbors Welcome: Afghan Allies Fund**, recognizing that considerable funding is needed to support the housing, medical, legal, and other basic needs of the Afghan families we welcome.

Donate

Text "EMMALLIES" to 41444 to donate  
or call

(212) 716-6002 to give over the phone

Give Online

<https://episcopalmigrationministries.org/donate-afghan-allies/>

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Send your gift by mail

Send check or money order to:

DFMS-Protestant Episcopal Church USA

P.O. Box 958983

St. Louis, MO 63195-8983

(Include EMM-Afghan Allies in the memo line)

In the midst of unprecedented challenges, Episcopal Migration Ministries has already experienced a remarkable outpouring of support. On behalf of the EMM team, I thank you for your prayers, your support, and for circulating this information and these asks amongst your clergy, congregations, ministries, and affiliated organizations. And I remain,

Your brother in Christ,

+Michael

Presiding Bishop and Primate The Episcopal Church