



7.12.2021

Dear Home Secretary and Ministers,

The delay to the government's resettlement scheme for Afghan citizens is unacceptable and is costing lives – we have heard from our own members at Migrant Voice whose families are still stuck in Afghanistan and are finding it impossible to reach safety. They are terrified that their relatives will be murdered by the Taliban and see no route out. Just 5% of Afghan nationals who applied to safety in the UK have received help, according to reports.

Any delays, even just one hour, could mean death for the thousands of Afghans who must be granted protection in the UK – let alone this three month wait that has ensued since the government first committed to the resettlement scheme.

This delay continues as you and your ministerial team attempt to pass the Nationality and Borders Bill into law on its third reading today. This bill would criminalise any person who uses their own agency to seek safety in the UK, including Afghans fleeing imminent danger. It is preposterous and barbaric.

Every day, thousands of Afghan refugees are risking their lives to cross into Pakistan or Iran because there are no safe and legal routes for them to safety.

This refugee crisis will not be the last – if we don't fix this situation now, what will be the impact on human lives when this happens again?

We need you as Home Secretary to act now, establish safe and legal routes which really work, not bogus ones which are in fact unsafe and impossible to access.

This is your chance to make that difference. Without establishing these routes, we will inevitably see thousands more refugees die in their country of origin or as they attempt to reach safety.

No one should have to risk death to save their life.

Regards,

Nazek Ramadan, Director of Migrant Voice