



The Office of Secretary of State

Brad Raffensperger
SECRETARY OF STATE

April 23, 2025

The Honorable Kristi Noem
Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C.

Dear Secretary Noem,

As Secretary of State for Georgia, I write with deep concern regarding the Department of Homeland Security's recent action to revoke the parole status of Afghan Christian refugees residing legally in the United States. I respectfully urge DHS and the Administration to pause this decision for at least 90 days and to consider granting Temporary Protected Status (TPS) or similar legal relief to these individuals. These refugees, many of whom have already applied for asylum and possess documentation of lawful parole, face a credible threat of imprisonment, torture, or death if returned to Taliban-controlled Afghanistan.

In the wake of the Biden Administration's haphazard withdrawal from Afghanistan, American citizens and faith-based organizations stepped forward to rescue and support vulnerable Afghans, particularly Christians - many of whom had risked their lives for religious freedom and democratic values in service of American forces in-country. These individuals eventually made their way to the United States via lawful channels.

Afghanistan under Taliban rule remains one of the most dangerous places in the world for Christians. Reports from multiple organizations, including Help the Persecuted and the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, confirm that Afghan Christians face targeted violence, state-sponsored persecution, and near-certain execution under Taliban interpretations of Sharia law. Deportation, in this context, could constitute a violation of international law and moral responsibility.

In alignment with Georgia's longstanding commitment to religious liberty, and the values enshrined in the Constitution of the United States, I respectfully urge an immediate pause to the deportation of affected Afghan Christians, and the evaluation of their Temporary Protected Status or SIV eligibility.



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America has long stood as a beacon of hope to the oppressed and a defender of religious freedom. I respectfully request that DHS continue in that tradition by extending protection to these Afghan Christian families. Our nation's moral leadership is defined not just by the policies we enact, but by the people we choose to protect.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brad Raffensperger". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "B" and "R".

Brad Raffensperger
Secretary of State
State of Georgia