

II. PATHWAYS TO PROTECTION

AUSTRIA

Pathways for Afghans

Austria does not offer the possibility to apply for a humanitarian visa.¹⁰¹

BELGIUM

Pathways for Afghans

Belgium offers the possibility for Afghans to apply for a humanitarian visa.¹⁰²

CROATIA

Pathways for Afghans

The Croatian government has made no mention of humanitarian visas.¹⁰³

REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

Pathways for Afghans

Cyprus does not offer the possibility to apply for a humanitarian visa.¹⁰⁴

DENMARK

Pathways for Afghans

Denmark has no provision for humanitarian visas. It is still possible to apply for a visa to Denmark under the 2013 Interpreters' Agreement, which grants access to Denmark and the possibility to apply for asylum.¹⁰⁵

FINLAND

Pathways for Afghans

The Foreign Minister promised in September 2021 to make the family reunification process more flexible for Afghans by appointing a circular or temporary consul to receive applications and hold family reunification inter-interviews in Pakistan (where Finland no longer has an embassy). It has been made possible for English-speaking Afghans to have their family reunification issues handled in the Finnish embassy in Tehran (as otherwise Afghans are required to travel to New Delhi).

101. Information shared by Diakonie Refugee Service, 22 November 2021.

102. AGII, Afghanistan: evacuatie en verblijfsaanvragen, 20 August 2021, available at <https://www.agii.be/nieuws/afghanistan-evacuatie-en-verblijfsaanvragen>

103. Information shared by Centre for Peace Studies, 16 September 2021.

104. Information shared by Cyprus Refugee Council, 22 November 2021.

105. Information shared by the Danish Refugee Council, 23 November 2021.

The quota for resettled refugees will be raised by 450 people to 1500 in 2022, and the increased capacity will be allocated to Afghans (the Ministry of the Interior had proposed that the quota be raised to 2000).¹⁰⁶

FRANCE

Pathways for Afghans

The French Consulate in Afghanistan has been closed for many years, making local access to visas impossible. Family reunification visas were processed initially in Pakistan and successively in Iran. In the past, Afghans who had a visa to enter France are reported to have been blocked in Pakistan and Iran.

GERMANY

Pathways for Afghans

The German Foreign Office states: "The German Government is not at present running any additional humanitarian programme for taking in Afghan nationals." There is no possibility to lodge an application for international protection with any German embassy.¹⁰⁷

In theory, another legal pathway could be family reunification. However, such reunification is, as a rule, restricted to members of the "core family", i.e. spouses, parents with unmarried minor children. Procedures at the German embassies are currently subject to delays.¹⁰⁸ According to a media report, more than 4,000 Afghans who have a right to family reunification are on the waiting list to submit an application for family reunification, while visa processing sites in the region have only processed around 100 applications per month so far this year.¹⁰⁹

The newly elected coalition government in Germany has declared its intention to establish humanitarian corridors for those fleeing persecution; a route which could be accessible to Afghans looking to seek protection in Germany.¹¹⁰

GREECE

Pathways for Afghans

The Greek government has made no mention of humanitarian visas.

IRELAND

Pathways for Afghans

In mid-August, the Irish Government announced that up to 150 Afghan people would be allocated places on the Irish Refugee Protection Programme (IRPP). All places on this programme were allocated, with priority given to those working on human rights issues, including the rights of women and girls, as well as those working with NGOs and European and international organisations.¹¹¹

106. Additional information shared by Refugee Advice Centre Finland, 23 November 2021.

107. Information shared by JRS.

108. Information shared by JRS.

109. Neue Osnabrücker Zeitung (NOZ), Familienangehörige in Afghanistan müssen Jahre auf Visa warten, 15 September 2021, available in German at: <https://www.noz.de/deutschland-welt/politik/artikel/2421099/asyl-familienangehoerige-in-afghanistan-muessen-jahre-auf-visa-warten>; Info Migrants, Thousands of Afghans in limbo awaiting family reunification visas, 15 September 2021, available at: <https://www.infomigrants.net/en/post/35056/thousands-of-afghans-in-limbo-awaiting-family-reunification-visas>

110. InfoMigrants, New German government to introduce sweeping changes to migration policy, 25 November 2021, available at: <https://www.infomigrants.net/fr/post/36766/new-german-government-to-introduce-sweeping-changes-to-migration-policy>

111. Department of Justice Ireland, Immigration notice on the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, 19 August 2021, available at: <https://www.irishimmigration.ie/immigration-notice-on-the-humanitarian-situation-in-afghanistan/>

The Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Roderic O’Gorman declared that Ireland will provide 150 humanitarian visas to refugees fleeing Afghanistan.¹¹²

More than 300 humanitarian visas or visa letters have reportedly been issued since August 2021.¹¹³ The places have been allocated to those working on human rights issues, including the rights of women and girls, as well as those working with NGOs and European and international organisations.¹¹⁴

In response to the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, the Irish Department of Justice is currently focused on processing applications for Afghan family members of Irish citizens and Afghan nationals living in Ireland. The Government has not yet released details of the humanitarian scheme announced in August that could see up to 500 more Afghan refugees receive permission to come to Ireland.¹¹⁵

ITALY

Pathways for Afghans

The Italian Foreign Affairs Ministry expressed a favourable opinion on the creation of humanitarian corridors, but declared that handing over lists of people to be evacuated to the Taliban regime might put them at risk; because of this, the country will be mainly working in cooperation with neighbouring countries.¹¹⁶

The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has provided guidance to prefectures, lawyers and organizations, according to which Afghan citizens seeking visas for family reunification can apply to any Italian diplomatic and consular representation, with the premise that they should be able to prove family ties. It was pointed out that many reported insurmountable difficulties in trying to access this scheme, even for those eligible to obtain a visa according to the current legislation, due to the inoperability of the Italian Diplomatic Representation in Kabul.

Relevant Italian Embassies are not currently accessible to Afghan applicants: the Italian Embassy in Tehran, for example, asks for an appointment through the ordinary electronic booking channels (possible only with an Iranian internet connection), while the Embassy in Islamabad is inaccessible to most.¹¹⁷

There is no official position on humanitarian visas as yet.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed on 4 November 2021 to establish humanitarian corridors for Afghan citizens in Afghanistan’s neighbouring countries, such as Pakistan and Iran. In contrast, there is no provision for evacuation or any form of *laissez-passers* for those still stranded in Afghanistan.

Under the MoU, 1,200 Afghan citizens are foreseen as in “clear need of international protection” and their families will be allowed to enter Italy legally.

The project is divided into two distinct actions:

(a) A first action is addressed to persons either recognized by UNHCR as deserving the refugee status under the 1951 Geneva Convention and its 1967 Protocol or persons recognized under UNHCR mandate.

(b) A second action is addressed to persons who, although not included in the previous point, meet the require-

112. The Irish Times, Ireland will provide 150 humanitarian visas for Afghan refugees, says Minister, 17 August 2021, available at: <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/politics/ireland-will-provide-150-humanitarian-visas-for-afghan-refugees-says-minister-1.4649309>

113. UNHCR – Refugees Daily, Irish visas given to over 300 Afghans; New humanitarian scheme for refugees being developed as matter of urgency, 12 September 2021, available at: <https://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/refdaily?pass=52fc6fbd5&id=613ef0453>

114. Information note on Afghanistan, Irish Refugee Council, 26 August 2021.

115. UNHCR – Refugees Daily, Irish visas given to over 300 Afghans; New humanitarian scheme for refugees being developed as matter of urgency, 12 September 2021, available at: <https://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/refdaily?pass=52fc6fbd5&id=613ef0453>

116. Ansa Mondo, Afghanistan: Di Maio, corridoi umanitari da Paesi terzi, 31 August 2021, available in Italian at: https://www.ansa.it/sito/notizie/mondo/europa/2021/08/31/afghanistan-di-maio-corridoi-umanitari-da-paesi-terzi_bd59db55-b7ce-4e73-941d-92c604a436d8.html; Open, Afghanistan, l’Italia non aprirà corridoi umanitari. Di Maio: «Non possiamo dare liste ai talebani», 30 August 2021, available in Italian at: <https://www.open.online/2021/08/30/afghanistan-italia-di-maio-corridoio-umanitario/>

117. ASGI, Visti d’ingresso per entrare in sicurezza in Italia dall’Afghanistan, 14 September 2021, available in Italian at: <https://www.asgi.it/primo-piano/sicurezza-italia-afghanistan/>

ments for subsidiary protection under Legislative Decree 251/2007.

Therefore, with respect to the criteria for identifying beneficiaries belonging to the first category, this choice is left entirely to UNHCR, which will decide on the basis of the criteria adopted in its resettlement procedures.

Regarding the second category, the provisions of national and EU legislation on subsidiary protection are taken into account. In particular, it seems that for beneficiaries of the second category, their possible links with Italy must also be taken into account. In fact, the Protocol provides that it should also be evaluated:

- » whether they have family ties with Afghan citizens regularly residing in Italy;
- » whether they have collaborated with the Italian contingent in Afghanistan or with organisations linked to Italian international cooperation in Afghanistan;
- » whether they have already been reported to the competent Ministries in order to be included in the airlift evacuation carried out in August 2021 but could not leave Afghanistan due to the criticality of that moment;
- » whether they are in a proven situation of personal vulnerability, which cannot be adequately addressed in the country of transit and which must be compatible with the reception capacities in order to be adequately addressed in Italy;
- » whether they have stable family or social networks in Italy and for this reason have declared their intention to settle and integrate in the country.¹¹⁸

Status granted

Those excluded from protection are likely to receive special protection (a sort of humanitarian status).¹¹⁹

NETHERLANDS

Pathways for Afghans

Since 2014 there has been a special programme for people who cooperated with the Dutch military in Afghanistan, such as interpreters. They could email the Dutch embassy in Kabul to file a request to get a visa.

On 18 August 2021 the Dutch parliament asked for the evacuation of a broader category of people. Some of these people were evacuated before the evacuation ceased. After the evacuation, many people belonging to these groups emailed to ask for help. The email address was closed on the 17 September 2021, so this programme is now closed.

It is unclear what will happen with the email requests for help received before 17 September 2021. The Dutch government is conducting exploratory talks with the UNHCR and IOM about a possible special programme for members of groups who are in danger as a result of a link with the Netherlands or their high public profile and who emailed before 17 September 2021. However, it is unknown how long it will take for such a program to be available, what the criteria will be, and how many people will be covered.¹²⁰

The Dutch government published a communication stating that people who already hold an asylum permit can apply for family reunification for their “immediate family”, referring to the spouse and children living abroad, and that it will not issue humanitarian visas for people currently in Afghanistan.¹²¹

118. Information shared by ASGI, 16 November 2021.

119. Information shared by ASGI, 16 November 2021.

120. Information shared by Dutch Council for Refugees, 22 November 2021.

121. Dutch Council for Refugees, Situation in Afghanistan, available at: <https://www.vluchtelingenwerk.nl/forrefugees/belangrijke-informatie-je-eigen-taal?language=en>

PORTUGAL

Pathways for Afghans

Portugal's Internal Administration Minister Eduardo Cabrita declared that the country has the financial capacity to receive “hundreds” of Afghan refugees, with priority for women, children, activists and journalists.¹²² Portugal's High Commission for Migration (ACM) stated that the country can receive 550 Afghan refugees, but that the network response to reception needs is still being organised. The ACM pointed out that it has received 31 responses from host organisations so far, demonstrating their willingness to support in areas as distinct as reception/housing, job creation, or the provision of essential goods.¹²³

SLOVENIA

Pathways for Afghans

It is not possible to apply for a humanitarian visa for Slovenia.¹²⁴

SWEDEN

Pathways for Afghans

The Swedish Migration Agency stated that it “cannot make exceptions to the requirements or prioritise applications for residence permits from Afghanistan”, but is currently working on a customised plan for resettlement in Sweden for people who have worked for Swedish interests in Afghanistan, as well as their close relatives. The same applies to people who already have a residence permit in Sweden, or who are Swedish citizens and are currently in Afghanistan.¹²⁵

SWITZERLAND

Pathways for Afghans

Out of 7,800 requests from Afghans for a humanitarian visa to Switzerland, only 3 were granted in October 2021.¹²⁶

Documentation required

Those without a passport who have previously approved family reunification applications will receive their *laissez-passer* at the Swiss embassy in Islamabad. However, they are not allowed to board the aircraft, because the *laissez-passer* is not accepted as a sufficient travel document by the Pakistani airport police.

Despite renewed requests to the Secretary of Migration (SEM) to issue *laissez-passers* for people in Afghanistan in the context of a pre-screening request for a humanitarian visa, a *laissez-passer* was issued only in very specific cases.¹²⁷ The SEM was additionally contacted in Autumn 2021 to enquire about the proper steps for those who do not have a passport, but do meet the requirements for family reunification or a humanitarian visa.

122. Euractiv, Portugal can afford to receive hundreds of Afghans – minister, 1 September 2021, available at: https://www.euractiv.com/section/politics/short_news/portugal-can-afford-to-receive-hundreds-of-afghans-minister/

123. Eco News, Portugal ready to host 550 refugees, 3 September 2021, available at: <https://econews.pt/2021/09/03/portugal-ready-to-host-550-refugees/>

124. Information shared by PIC, 16 September 2021.

125. Swedish Migration Agency, This information applies to persons who have family in Afghanistan, 30 August 2021, available at: <https://www.migrationsverket.se/English/Private-individuals/Moving-to-someone-in-Sweden/Nyhetsarkiv/2021-08-30-This-information-applies-to-persons-who-have-family-in-Afghanistan.html>

126. Information shared by Swiss Refugee Council, November 2021; SRF, Menschen aus Afghanistan erhalten kaum humanitäre Visa, 6 October 2021, available at: <https://www.srf.ch/news/schweiz/nach-taliban-machtuebernahme-menschen-aus-afghanistan-erhalten-kaum-humanitaere-visa>

127. Information shared by AsyLex, November 2021.

There had been no response at the time of writing¹²⁸. The SEM's website communicates the following: "Currently, no *laissez-passers* are issued in Afghanistan, as Switzerland does not have a diplomatic representation there".¹²⁹

UNITED KINGDOM

Pathways for Afghans

The UK Home Office declared that the Afghan citizens' resettlement scheme (ACRS) will provide protection for people at risk identified as in need, and that the eligibility requirements will be published in due course. The government committed to include around 5000 people in the scheme in the first year and up to 20,000 over the coming years.¹³⁰

The UK Home Office declares on its website that the ACRS "makes the UK's humanitarian response to the crisis in Afghanistan one of the most ambitious in the world to date and builds on our proud record of resettling more people than any other European country since 2015."¹³¹ However, the UK Refugee Council notes that current resettlement schemes support only a fraction (around 1%) of those in need, and refugees face a long and uncertain wait to hear if they will ever be able to rebuild their lives in safety. In the 12 months prior to June 2021, just 661 people were resettled in the UK.¹³²

The Afghan resettlement scheme has not yet been implemented at the time of writing.¹³³ The most recent update to the UK Government's website was 13 September 2021, stating: "The scheme is not yet open. Please check this page regularly. Further details will be announced in due course."¹³⁴

An answer to a UK Parliament written question about the progress of the scheme on 02 December 2021 stated: "Officials are working urgently to stand up the remaining elements of the scheme. However, the first to be resettled through this scheme will be some of those who arrived in the UK under the evacuation programme, which included individuals who were considered to be at particular risk. There will not be a formal Home Office owned application process for the ACRS. Instead, eligible people will be prioritised and referred for resettlement to the UK."¹³⁵

128. Information shared by AsyLex, November 2021.

129. State Secretariat for Migration, Afghanistan Crisis: Key Information, available at: <https://www.sem.admin.ch/sem/en/home/asyl/afghanistan.html#-471856565>

130. UK Home Office, Afghan citizens' resettlement scheme, available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/afghan-citizens-resettlement-scheme>

131. UK Home Office, Afghanistan resettlement and immigration policy statement (accessible version), 13 September 2021, available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghanistan-resettlement-and-immigration-policy-statement/afghanistan-resettlement-and-immigration-policy-statement-accessible-version>

132. UK Refugee Council, Asylum backlog reaches a record high, including over 3,000 Afghans, 26 August 2021, available at: <https://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/latest/news/asylum-backlog-reaches-a-record-high-including-over-3000-afghans>

133. The Guardian, Tory anger grows over Priti Patel's failure to start resettling stranded Afghans, 28 November 2021, available at: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/nov/28/tory-anger-grows-over-priti-patels-failure-to-start-resettling-stranded-afghans>

134. UK Home Office, Afghan citizens' resettlement scheme, available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/afghan-citizens-resettlement-scheme>

135. UK Parliament, Refugees: Afghanistan, Question for Home Office, UIN 81016, tabled on 24 November 2021, answered on 02 December 2021, available at: <https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-24/81016>

III. ACCESS TO ASYLUM, TREATMENT OF ASYLUM APPLICATIONS, DETENTION PRACTICES AND RECEPTION CONDITIONS, FOR AFGHANS ALREADY IN EUROPE

AUSTRIA

Suspension of returns to Afghanistan

Austria was one of six EU countries that sent a joint letter to the European Commission on 05 August 2021, warning against the suspension of non-voluntary returns of Afghan migrants. The letter argued that any suspension of deportations would act as a migration magnet and “motivate even more Afghan citizens to leave their home for the EU.”¹³⁶ Following the quick deterioration of the security situation in Afghanistan, most of the signatories reversed their initial position and halted returns to Afghanistan.

Austria, however, insisted that it plans to keep removing “illegal immigrants” back to Afghanistan, as the Taliban seized Kabul, and suggested setting up “deportation centres” in nearby countries as an alternative to halting returns.¹³⁷ However, the Constitutional Court ruled on 18 August 2021 that there was no prospect of deporting an asylum applicant whose claim has been rejected back to Afghanistan.¹³⁸

A coalition of NGOs – including the Austrian Red Cross – wrote to the government in Austria to advocate for the re-evaluation of the government’s positions on Afghan returns.¹³⁹

Currently, there is no official communication regarding returns to Afghanistan other than that they are not possible at this time.¹⁴⁰

Detention

The general practice is that detainees are now being released from administrative detention, as the conditions for detention are no longer met given that returns to Afghanistan are not currently possible.¹⁴¹

Treatment of previously rejected asylum cases

Two Austrian Constitutional Court cases were decided in September 2021:

- » In *VfGH E3047/2021*,¹⁴² dated 24 September 2021, the Constitutional Court overturned a negative decision from 1 July 2021 which had ordered a return. The Constitutional Court stated that at this time it was already “perceptible” in the COI that the situation in Afghanistan was very volatile and further deterioration was imminent. Therefore, the Administrative Court had erred in only carrying out an assessment of the lack of hostile action in certain areas at the moment of decision (“at present”). It was already perceptible that there was a serious risk for civilians like the applicant.

136. VOA News, Six EU Countries Want to Maintain Deportations of Afghan Asylum-Seekers, 11 August 2021, available at: <https://www.voanews.com/europe/six-eu-countries-want-maintain-deportations-afghan-asylum-seekers>

137. Euractiv, Austria calls for ‘deportation centres’ to host Afghans near Afghanistan, 17 August 2021, available at: <https://www.euractiv.com/section/global-europe/news/austria-calls-for-deportation-centres-to-host-afghans-near-afghanistan/>

138. Reuters, Court ruling further undermines Austria’s stance on deporting Afghans, 18 August 2021, available at: <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/court-ruling-further-undermines-austrias-stance-deporting-afghans-2021-08-18/>

139. Information shared by the Austrian Red Cross, 07 September 2021.

140. Information shared by Diakonie Refugee Service, 22 November 2021.

141. Information shared by Diakonie Refugee Service, 22 November 2021.

142. Available in German at https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/Dokument.wxe?ResultFunctionToken=2b6b1f55-205e-4594-8067-6d70c445827f&Abfrage=Vfgh&Entscheidungsart=Undefined&Sammlungsnummer=&Index=&SucheNachRechtssatz=True&SucheNachText=&G-Z=&VonDatum=&BisDatum=01.12.2021&Norm=&ImRisSeitVonDatum=&ImRisSeitBisDatum=&ImRisSeit=Undefined&ResultPage-Size=100&Suchworte=&Dokumentnummer=JFR_20210924_21E03047_01

- » In *VfGH E 3445/2021*,¹⁴³ dated 30 September 2021, the Constitutional Court explicitly stated that the security situation in Afghanistan was, at least from 20 July 2021 on, of such volatility that a violation of Article 3 ECHR was definitely and in all cases (“*jedenfalls*”) to be expected in case of return to Afghanistan.

It remains unclear whether these decisions mean that from 20 July 2021 all negatively decided protection claims by Afghans should be cancelled (or from 1 July 2021, if the assessment was not properly conducted) or whether all decisions from 1 July 2021 should be overturned.¹⁴⁴

Subsequent applications seem to be successful in practice, insofar as a new case may be introduced and not dismissed as *res iudicata*. However there have been no decisions as yet.¹⁴⁵

Status granted

Applicants who are excluded from protection status (whether asylum or subsidiary protection) do not receive any other legal status, although the decision on their case may be that return is not permitted or not possible. Individuals can apply for a tolerated stay called “*Duldung*”. While this is not a legal status in itself, and the individual’s stay continues to be irregular, this can lead to legal status in the future.¹⁴⁶

BELGIUM

Examination of asylum applications from Afghans

On 16 August 2021, the CGRS decided a temporary and partial suspension of the notification of decisions for Afghan applicants in Belgium, that initially applied until the end of September.¹⁴⁷ At the beginning of October 2021, the suspension was extended until 15 November 2021. This suspension has now been extended until 4 January 2022 for the assessments of claims from Afghan nationals for subsidiary protection status but it does not apply to decisions on refugee status.¹⁴⁸

Treatment of previously rejected asylum cases

Decisions on second requests for asylum from Afghan nationals are currently suspended,¹⁴⁹ including decisions on the admissibility of these claims.¹⁵⁰

Suspension of returns to Afghanistan

Belgium was one of six EU countries that sent a joint letter to the European Commission on 5 August 2021, warning against the suspension of non-voluntary returns of Afghan migrants. The letter argued that any suspension of deportations would act as a migration magnet and “motivate even more Afghan citizens to leave their home for the EU.”¹⁵¹ Following deterioration of the security situation, most of the signatories

143. Available in German at https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/Dokument.wxe?ResultFunctionToken=2b6b1f55-205e-4594-8067-6d70c445827f&Abfrage=Vfgh&Entscheidungsart=Undefined&Sammlungsnummer=&Index=&SucheNachRechtssatz=True&SucheNachText=&G-Z=&VonDatum=&BisDatum=01.12.2021&Norm=&ImRisSeitVonDatum=&ImRisSeitBisDatum=&ImRisSeit=Undefined&ResultPage-Size=100&Suchworte=&Dokumentnummer=JFR_20210930_21E03445_01

144. Information shared by Diakonie Refugee Service, 22 November 2021.

145. Information shared by Diakonie Refugee Service, 22 November 2021.

146. Information shared by Diakonie Refugee Service, 22 November 2021.

147. CGRS - Office of the Commissioner general for refugees and stateless persons, Afghan decisions suspended, 16 August 2021, available at: <https://www.cgra.be/en/news/afghan-decisions-suspended>

148. Available in Dutch at <https://www.cgvs.be/nl/actueel/tijdelijke-gedeeltelijke-opschorting-van-de-betekening-van-beslissingen-voor-verzoekers-uit>

149. Information received from JRS Europe.

150. Information shared by Cabinet d’avocats du Quartier des Libertés, 22 November 2021.

151. VOA News, Six EU Countries Want to Maintain Deportations of Afghan Asylum-Seekers, 11 August 2021, available at: <https://www.voanews.com/europe/six-eu-countries-want-maintain-deportations-afghan-asylum-seekers>

reversed their initial position and halted returns to Afghanistan.

Returns to Afghanistan from Belgium are currently *de facto* suspended.¹⁵²

Reception conditions

Belgian NGOs reported an increase in the number of Afghans demanding their services, particularly access to reception centres and legal assistance. These are mainly subsequent applicants who do not have reception rights, and, therefore, have no direct access to services at the first point of contact.

On a general basis, subsequent applicants are not automatically reintegrated into the reception system. Instead, they have to wait until they get an admissibility decision from the CGRS. The criteria are different only when it comes to specific vulnerable cases (vulnerability under Fedasil's framework). On 16 August 2021, the CGRS suspended these admissibility decisions until the end of September 2021. As a consequence, subsequent applicants who are not among those vulnerable profiles will not have access to reception and will be confronted with even longer waiting periods before accessing a centre.

CROATIA

Access to asylum

Various pushbacks of Afghan refugees were registered between 6 and 29 August 2021 at the Croatian border with Bosnia, as reported, among others, by the Danish Refugee Council (DRC). Around 60 people were subjected to the pushbacks, half of whom were minors.¹⁵³

Examination of asylum applications from Afghans

At present there have been no changes to the processing of Afghan claims.¹⁵⁴

REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

Suspension of returns to Afghanistan

While there is no official communication, there is also no information indicating that there are Afghans in return procedures. Information received unofficially indicates that there would be no returns and likely no capacity to return.¹⁵⁵

Detention

Based on monitoring, currently there are no Afghans in detention.¹⁵⁶

Status granted

Those excluded from protection status and not returnable to Afghanistan should properly be granted humanitarian protection. However, in practice the few cases observed are left undocumented.¹⁵⁷

152. Information received from JRS Europe.

153. EU Observer, Croatia accused of pushing back Afghan refugees, 01 September 2021, available at: <https://euobserver.com/tickers/152771>.

154. Information shared by JRS.

155. Information shared by Cyprus Refugee Council, 14 September 2021.

156. Information shared by Cyprus Refugee Council, 14 September 2021.

157. Information shared by Cyprus Refugee Council, 14 September 2021.

CZECH REPUBLIC

Access to asylum

In mid-August, the Czech Interior Minister Jan Hamáček confirmed that Afghans who arrive in the Czech Republic will be able to apply for international protection and receive support to help them integrate into society, if they choose to remain in the country. Prague Mayor Zdeněk Hřib offered support with the admission of Afghan interpreters and their families.¹⁵⁸

Suspension of returns to Afghanistan

The Czech Republic is currently refusing to officially suspend deportations to Afghanistan; the Interior Minister declared that the country will treat each asylum application individually, examining the reasons thoroughly to determine whether to grant (asylum) or not, without making any “blanket exceptions”.¹⁵⁹

Detention

In August, 34 Afghan nationals were in the Detention Centre for Foreigners, according to the authorities. It is unclear how many of this number are currently awaiting removal.¹⁶⁰

DENMARK

Suspension of returns to Afghanistan

Returns to Afghanistan are suspended.¹⁶¹ Forced removals to Afghanistan were put on hold on 12 August 2021 following the request by the former Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the EU.¹⁶²

Detention

It is not clear whether Afghans are released from administrative detention.

Examination of asylum applications from Afghans

On 16 August 2021, the Refugee Appeals Board suspended the examination of Afghan asylum cases.¹⁶³ The Danish Immigration Service has also put the examination of Afghan asylum applications on hold. However, Dublin cases regarding Afghan asylum seekers are still being processed.¹⁶⁴

Treatment of previously rejected asylum cases

The Refugee Appeals Board initiated a screening of cases of Afghan asylum applicants whose claims had been rejected and who were still present in Denmark, to assess whether their cases should be re-examined. The Board will screen all old and pending cases of rejected Afghans who have not yet been deported, to determine whether there are grounds for reassessment.¹⁶⁵ It is as yet unclear whether this means all cases will

158. Expats CZ, Czech Republic won't refuse asylum to those facing danger in Afghanistan, 17 August 2021, available at: <https://www.expats.cz/czech-news/article/czech-republic-to-welcome-afghans-who-want-to-remain-in-the-country-as-evacuations-continue>

159. Reuters, Prague says it will not suspend deportations to Afghanistan, 13 August 2021, <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/prague-says-it-will-not-suspend-deportations-afghanistan-2021-08-13/>

160. Expats CZ, Czech Republic won't refuse asylum to those facing danger in Afghanistan, 17 August 2021, <https://www.expats.cz/czech-news/article/czech-republic-to-welcome-afghans-who-want-to-remain-in-the-country-as-evacuations-continue>

161. Information shared by Danish Refugee Council, 07 September 2021.

162. Information by the Danish Ministry of Immigration and Integration, “Orientering om afghansk beslutning om midlertidigt at suspendere tvangsmæs-sige hjemsendelser til Afghanistan”, 12 August 2021, available in Danish at <https://www.ft.dk/samling/20201/almdelel/UUI/bilag/148/2433331/index.htm>

163. Refugee Appeals Board, “Flygtningenævnet berostiller sager vedrørende afghanske statsborgere”, 16 August 2021, available in Danish at <https://fin.dk/da/Nyheder/Nyhedsarkiv/2021/16082021>

164. Information shared by the Danish Refugee Council, 23 November 2021.

165. Information shared by the Danish Refugee Council, 07 September 2021.

be reopened and reassessed.¹⁶⁶ It is also possible for rejected Afghan asylum seekers to apply for reexamination of their cases.¹⁶⁷

Regarding subsequent applications and reconsideration requests, the normal practice is to reopen cases when there is new general information about the situation in a country, or when there is new evidence put forward by an applicant. The Refugee Appeals Board has not been able to assess Afghan asylum cases due to lack of country of origin information. At the time of writing the Refugee Appeals Board was due to reconsider the suspension of Afghan cases at the next coordination meeting on 16 December 2021.¹⁶⁸

Status granted

Those who are excluded from protection status in Denmark, but would be at risk and so cannot be returned to their country of origin, would be present in Denmark on a tolerated stay, and therefore would be exempt from the requirement for a residence permit.¹⁶⁹

ESTONIA

Examination of asylum applications from Afghans

There were no Afghan cases known to be pending at the time of writing, and therefore no suspensions, resumptions, or re-examinations.¹⁷⁰

FINLAND

Suspension of returns to Afghanistan

Finland was one of the first European countries to announce a temporary suspension of returns, alongside Sweden and Norway. On 9 July 2021, the Finnish Immigration Service suspended decision-making processes leading to a negative decision based on which a person would be returned to Afghanistan. This will continue until the Finnish Immigration Service has assessed the security situation in Afghanistan and reviewed policy guidelines on the country.¹⁷¹

The Immigration Service has stated that they no longer apply the internal flight alternative to Afghanistan.¹⁷²

Examination of asylum applications from Afghans

The Finnish Immigration Service suspended the making of negative decisions for Afghan asylum seekers involving removal from the country on 09 July 2021. The making of positive decisions has not been suspended.¹⁷³

In November 2021, Finland issued new country guidelines for decision-making on asylum and residence permit applications for Afghan citizens.¹⁷⁴

166. Information shared by the Danish Refugee Council, 22 November 2021.

167. Information shared by the Danish Refugee Council, 23 November 2021.

168. Information shared by the Danish Refugee Council, 22 November 2021.

169. Information shared by the Danish Refugee Council, 13 September 2021.

170. Information by Estonian Refugee Council, November 2021.

171. Finnish Government – Ministry of the Interior, Non-return of persons from Finland to Afghanistan – policy in line with UN advisory, 18 August 2021, available at: <https://valtioneuvosto.fi/en/-/1410869/non-return-of-persons-from-finland-to-afghanistan-policy-in-line-with-un-advisory>.

172. Information from Refugee Advice Centre Finland, 11 November 2021.

173. Finnish Immigration Service, Finnish Immigration Service has paused issuing of negative decisions involving removal from the country to Afghanistan, 14 July 2021, available at: <https://migri.fi/en/-/finnish-immigration-service-has-paused-issuing-of-negative-decisions-involving-removal-from-the-country-to-afghanistan>

174. Finnish Immigration Service, New country guidelines for Afghanistan – extensive assessment of the security situation to continue, available at: <https://migri.fi/en/-/new-country-guidelines-for-afghanistan-extensive-assessment-of-the-security-situation-to-continue?ref=newsroom>

FRANCE

Examination of asylum applications from Afghans

There has been no suspension of Afghan asylum cases. The position of asylum claims is still unclear, and diverges between first instance administration (OFPRA) and the appeal court (CNDA). Some OFPRA decisions still consider that there is generalised violence in Afghanistan justifying subsidiary protection. However, CNDA has stated that the conditions are no longer met to grant subsidiary protection on this ground and that now the examination of cases having regard for the Geneva Convention should be privileged.¹⁷⁵ However, in another decision of 21 September 2021, the CNDA granted subsidiary protection to an Afghan considering that he was at risk of being subjected to inhuman treatment due to his vulnerability (on the basis of his young age, social isolation and psychological issues).¹⁷⁶

GERMANY

Suspension of returns to Afghanistan

Germany was also one of the last countries to temporarily stop deportations to Afghanistan; the decision was taken on 11 August 2021, but there is still no official document available.¹⁷⁷ There is therefore a *de facto* suspension, while return orders remain valid.¹⁷⁸ A formal document could be agreed on at one of the upcoming conferences of the Ministries of Interior.

Examination of asylum applications from Afghans

In Germany, around 11,000 cases are pending at first instance, and between 15,000 and 20,000 review cases of Afghan nationals are also pending. In August 2021, BAMF announced a halt in decision making concerning applications by Afghans, due to the change in the security situation and the need for a renewed assessment. The previous approach of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) was restrictive, with the internal protection alternative often applied.

Therefore, the BAMF has been making decisions on cases in which it was able to grant refugee recognition or subsidiary protection according to its previous assessment of the situation before the Taliban came to power. An update to the country of origin information provided by the Federal Foreign Office was presented in October 2021. However, BAMF tied the pause in decision making to the publication of the update of the EASO Country Guidance, published recently.¹⁷⁹ From 1 December onwards, the BAMF can again make decisions regarding applications by Afghans based on new guiding principles.¹⁸⁰

Treatment of previously rejected asylum cases

There is no official position, but organizations are encouraging rejected Afghan asylum seekers to reapply.¹⁸¹ There are no plans for *ex officio* re-examination.

The debate on cases in which a follow-up application makes sense is ongoing. It is already relatively certain that those who fled persecution by the Taliban, and whose asylum applications were rejected in the past solely because of a so-called domestic flight alternative within Afghanistan, will be granted refugee status in the case of a subsequent asylum application.¹⁸²

175. Cour Nationale du Droit d'Asile, Communiqué de presse: Evolution de la situation sécuritaire en Afghanistan, 30 August 2021, available in French at: <http://www.cnda.fr/La-CNDA/Actualites/Communique-de-presse5>

176. Cour Nationale du Droit d'Asile, Communiqué de presse: La Cour protège un ressortissant afghan vulnérable, 05 October 2021, available in French at: <http://www.cnda.fr/La-CNDA/Actualites/Communique-de-presse7>

177. EU Observer, Germany and Netherlands halt returns of Afghans, 12 August 2021, available at: <https://euobserver.com/migration/152640>

178. Information shared by JRS.

179. Information from Pro Asyl, 12 November 2021.

180. Information shared by Pro Asyl, 3 December 2021.

181. Information shared by JRS.

182. Information shared by Pro Asyl, 12 November 2021.

Status granted

2,800 Afghans currently live in Germany only on the basis of a toleration status (so-called “*Duldung*”). National civil society organisations are advocating for higher protection and additional rights.¹⁸³

GREECE

Suspension of returns

On 07 June 2021, in a Joint Ministerial Decision, Greece unilaterally declared Turkey a safe third country for asylum-seekers originating from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Somalia, in addition to Syria. As a result, the use of admissibility procedures, previously only applied to Syrians, is expanded to four additional nationalities and its geographical range extended to transfers from the Greek mainland.¹⁸⁴ The country has not revised its stance after recent developments; on the contrary, the Greek Minister for Migration and Asylum, Notis Mitarakis, has warned of a repeat of the situation in 2015 and announced that Greece will not be the “gateway to Europe for illegal Afghan migrants”.¹⁸⁵

Reception conditions

In Greece there are reports of more than 400 Afghans “stuck” in a hotel, without clear indications on their legal status.¹⁸⁶

IRELAND

Examination of asylum applications from Afghans

On the Department of Justice webpage, a section is dedicated to international protection applicants: “If you are an Afghan national currently awaiting a final decision on your international protection application, please note that the Department is now reviewing all current applications from Afghan nationals with a view to expediting their progress. We will contact you directly when there is an update on your case.”¹⁸⁷

Treatment of previously rejected asylum cases

There is no official position, but civil society is encouraging rejected applicants to formally seek revocation of deportation orders due to recent developments.¹⁸⁸

Suspension of returns to Afghanistan

No deportation orders will be actioned at the present time.

Dublin transfers

For cases subject to the Dublin III Regulation which have been designated for transfer to another EU Member or found to be inadmissible, the Department of Justice has decided to accept these cases on a compassionate basis.¹⁸⁹

183. Information shared by Pro Asyl, 07 September 2021.

184. UNHCR, UNHCR’s Position and Recommendations on the Safe Third Country Declaration by Greece, 02 August 2021, available at: <https://www.unhcr.org/gr/en/22885-unhcrs-position-and-recommendations-on-the-safe-third-country-declaration-by-greece.html>

185. Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung European Union, On the border: Greece’s response to Afghan asylum seekers, 25 August 2021, available at: <https://eu.boell.org/en/2021/08/25/border-greeces-response-afghan-asylum-seekers>

186. Information shared by Danish Refugee Council, 18 November 2021.

187. Department of Justice Ireland, Immigration notice on the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, 19 August 2021, available at: <https://www.irishimmigration.ie/immigration-notice-on-the-humanitarian-situation-in-afghanistan/>

188. Information shared by JRS.

189. Information note on Afghanistan, Irish Refugee Council, 26 August 2021.

ITALY

Examination of asylum applications from Afghans

It is not known whether there has been an acceleration or a second evaluation of the asylum applications of Afghan citizens. However, the Prefectures, if requested, will issue a *nulla osta* for family reunification to Afghan citizens much faster; whereas previously, the public administration did not respond.¹⁹⁰

Treatment of previously rejected asylum cases

Due to the change in circumstances, there should not be problems in presenting a subsequent application.¹⁹¹

Suspension of returns to Afghanistan

There has been no official communication, but no returns to Afghanistan have taken place.¹⁹²

Detention

There is no detention of asylum seekers unless there is a security threat.¹⁹³

LITHUANIA

Suspension of returns to Afghanistan

Lithuania suspended forced deportations to Afghanistan in September 2021.¹⁹⁴

Access to asylum

On 9 September 2021, five Afghan migrants were pushed back to Belarus shortly after they had crossed the border, despite the European Court of Human Rights earlier establishing they should be allowed to stay. The Interior Minister Agne Bilotaite declared: "Lithuania is ready to help Afghanistan citizens if they arrive legally. But we will not allow anyone to abuse our asylum system and to turn Lithuania into a thoroughfare for illegal migration".¹⁹⁵

Examination of asylum applications from Afghans

On 29 November 2021, it has been reported that Afghans whose asylum applications have been rejected will be provided with temporary humanitarian residence permits which will be valid for a year. After the year, asylum requests can be resubmitted.¹⁹⁶

LUXEMBOURG

Examination of asylum applications from Afghans

The Luxembourgish administration has suspended the processing of all claims from Afghan nationals, on the

190. Information shared by ASGI, 16 November 2021.

191. Information shared by ASGI, 21 September 2021.

192. Information shared by ASGI, 21 September 2021.

193. Information shared by ASGI, 21 September 2021.

194. BNS, Rejected Afghan Asylum seekers get temporary humanitarian permits, 29 November 2021, available at: <https://www.delfi.lt/en/politics/rejected-afghan-asylum-seekers-get-temporary-humanitarian-permits.d?id=88806093>

195. Reuters, Lithuania expels Afghanistan migrants despite European Court stand, 9 September 2021, available at: <https://www.reuters.com/world/lithuania-expels-afghanistan-migrants-despite-european-court-stand-2021-09-09>

196. BNS, Rejected Afghan Asylum seekers get temporary humanitarian permits, 29 November 2021, available at: <https://www.delfi.lt/en/politics/rejected-afghan-asylum-seekers-get-temporary-humanitarian-permits.d?id=88806093>

basis that it is awaiting an update from EASO.¹⁹⁷

Treatment of previously rejected asylum cases

Several Afghan applicants, including those whose applications had been rejected in the administrative phase and whose cases are pending before the court, received notice that their files are being reexamined and that they had until the end of November 2021 to submit additional information or evidence.

For all Afghan protection claims pending before the administrative courts, the government has extended the usual one-month time frame for filing its written submissions until the end of January 2022.

Proceedings in court concerning applications which had been rejected in the administrative phase have now been halted at the request of the government. The Minister of Foreign Affairs recently stated in a meeting with NGOs that the administration and several judges had met to discuss this course of action before the government asked for the suspension of each individual case.

For those whose protection claim applications were rejected and then the rejection confirmed by the courts, the picture is currently unclear.¹⁹⁸

NETHERLANDS

Suspension of returns to Afghanistan

The Netherlands suspended forced deportations in the second week of August.¹⁹⁹

Examination of asylum applications from Afghans

Since 11 August 2021 there has been a moratorium (i.e., the postponement of decision and postponement of departure) effective for 6 months in cases of Afghan asylum seekers.²⁰⁰ The decision time of ongoing applications and applications submitted from 26 August 2021 is extended to 18 months in principle. The expectation is that after this period there will be decisions on a new policy or extension of the moratorium. During the moratorium it is still possible to give an asylum status in evident cases (for example interpreters have been given a status after the moratorium started).²⁰¹

Treatment of previously rejected asylum cases

There are no problems in presenting a subsequent application, as the Aliens Act does not limit this possibility. However, there is no specific information available on how many subsequent applications, or the reconsideration of Afghan cases within this context, have been made since August 2021.

Detention

Afghans have been released from administrative detention.²⁰²

197. Information provided by Passarelle, 10 November 2021; see also [Chronicle.lu](https://chronicle.lu), Jean Asselborn Defends Decisions re. International Protection of Afghan Applicants, available at: <https://chronicle.lu/category/abroad/37918-jean-asselborn-defends-decisions-re-international-protection-of-afghan-applicants>

198. Information provided by Passarelle, 10 November 2021.

199. EU Observer, Germany and Netherlands halt returns of Afghans, 12 August 2021, available at: <https://euobserver.com/migration/152640>

200. Riksoverleid, Kamerbrief over instellen besluiten vertrek moratorium Afghanistan, available in Dutch at: <https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/kamerstukken/2021/08/11/tk-instellen-besluit-en-vertrek-moratorium-afghanistan>

201. Information shared by Dutch Refugee Council, 27 September 2021.

202. Information shared by Dutch Refugee Council, 27 September 2021.

NORWAY

Suspension of returns to Afghanistan

Norway decided to temporarily suspend decisions to return applicants to Afghanistan who received a rejection of their application for a residence permit.²⁰³ The suspension, initially set until 15 September 2021, has been extended and is currently in place until 31 January 2022.²⁰⁴

Detention

No official information has been given, but the conditions for detention will likely no longer be present.²⁰⁵

Treatment of previously rejected asylum cases

Reconsideration requests may be made, but usually will not be processed when the situation is unclear, as it is currently.²⁰⁶

SLOVENIA

Suspension of returns to Afghanistan

There is no official communication regarding returns. Slovenia depends on other countries, mainly Austria and Germany, to deport Afghan nationals, so this is not currently a possibility.

Slovenia returns a very small number of Afghan nationals, and in addition there is a very small number of people who stay in Slovenia after getting a negative decision.²⁰⁷

Examination of asylum applications from Afghans

There has been an administrative court decision that the Ministry needs to evaluate the new security situation while deciding on requests for subsequent applications. However, no decision on such a case was made. Slovenia does not have a large number of cases.

Treatment of previously rejected asylum cases

According to available information, the country is not expected to review old cases, but rejected Afghan asylum seekers may submit a request for a subsequent application based on the new security situation.²⁰⁸

Detention

Only those who are a security threat, including Afghan nationals, will be detained.²⁰⁹

203. Norwegian Immigration Appeals Board (UNE), UNE suspends returns to Afghanistan, 22 July 2021, available at: <https://www.une.no/en/see-more-news/archive/2021/une-suspends-returns-to-afghanistan/>

204. Norwegian Immigration Appeals Board (UNE), UNE extends return stop to Afghanistan, 8 September 2021, available at: <https://www.une.no/aktuelt/arkiv/2021/forlenger-returstopp-til-afghanistan/>

205. Information shared by Andersen & Bache-Wiig, 22 September 2021.

206. Information shared by Andersen & Bache-Wiig, 22 September 2021.

207. Information shared by Legal-Informational Centre for NGOs (PIC), 16 September 2021.

208. Information shared by Legal-Informational Centre for NGOs (PIC), 07 September 2021.

209. Information shared by Legal-Informational Centre for NGOs (PIC), 16 September 2021.

SWEDEN

Suspension of returns to Afghanistan

Sweden stopped all deportations to Afghanistan in mid-July, citing the deteriorating security situation in the country.²¹⁰

Examination of asylum claims from Afghans and treatment of previously rejected claims

Following the publication of EASO Guidance on 11 November 2021, the Swedish Migration Agency has returned to the regular processing of Afghan asylum cases, and has also announced that Afghan asylum seekers who have received a deportation decision may be granted re-examination of their applications.²¹¹

Detention

Afghans in detention have been released and were left without any support in terms of basic services (housing, money for food, etc).²¹²

SWITZERLAND

Examination of asylum applications from Afghans

Where the basis for a positive decision is clear (that is, the case concerns applicants who would have been granted a status before the Taliban took over), decisions are being made. For other cases (mainly persons with a social network in Kabul, Herat or Mazar-i-Sharif), decisions are not being made at the moment. The authorities (SEM) are currently working on analysing the situation and will wait for the new COI findings before making new decisions or a change of practice.²¹³

UNITED KINGDOM

Examination of asylum applications from Afghans

The Quarterly Home Office immigration statistics show that in the year to June 2021, only 489 out of 1,089 Afghans were granted protection, while a major backlog of 50,000 asylum cases is still unresolved in the system. Some of the refusals were issued while the Taliban was taking control of Afghanistan.²¹⁴

Treatment of previously rejected asylum cases

The UK government's policy paper published on 13 September 2021 states that "Those who have previously been refused asylum, who believe their situation has changed, will need to make a further submission to have their case re-considered."²¹⁵

210. Info Migrants, Sweden follows Finland, suspends deportations to Afghanistan, 19 July 2021, available at: <https://www.infomigrants.net/en/post/33684/sweden-follows-finland-suspends-deportations-to-afghanistan>; Migrationsverket – Swedish Migration Agency, Information regarding the situation in Afghanistan, available at: <https://www.migrationsverket.se/English/About-the-Migration-Agency/Information-regarding-the-situation-in-Afghanistan.html>

211. Migrationsverket, New judicial position on Afghanistan, 01 December 2021, available at: <https://www.migrationsverket.se/English/About-the-Migration-Agency/For-press/News-archive/News-archive-2021/2021-12-01-New-judicial-position-on-Afghanistan.html>

212. Information shared by Swedish Network of Refugee Support Groups (FARR), 07 September 2021.

213. Information shared by Swiss Refugee Council, 11 November 2021.

214. Amnesty International UK, UK: Latest figures show around half of Afghan asylum claims rejected by Home Office, 26 August 2021, available at: <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/press-releases/uk-latest-figures-show-around-half-afghan-asylum-claims-rejected-home-office>; UK Home Office, Immigration statistics, year ending June 2021, 26 August 2021, available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-june-2021>

215. UK Home Office, Afghanistan resettlement and immigration policy statement (accessible version), 13 September 2021, available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghanistan-resettlement-and-immigration-policy-statement/afghanistan-resettlement-and-immigration-policy-statement-accessible-version>

Suspension of returns to Afghanistan

The UK Home Office has published general policies on Afghanistan, containing comments on general humanitarian conditions, and a relatively broad approach to defining people who would be at risk from the Taliban. However, overall there is a careful avoidance of any suggestion that there is a policy of not returning to Afghanistan.²¹⁶

The UK Home Office's policy document published on 13 September 2021 states: "[t]he government has suspended enforced returns to Afghanistan and there are currently no commercial flights operating to Afghanistan."²¹⁷

216. UK Home Office Guidance, dated 02 November 2021, available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghanistan-country-policy-and-information-notes>

217. UK Home Office, Afghanistan resettlement and immigration policy statement (accessible version), 13 September 2021, available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghanistan-resettlement-and-immigration-policy-statement/afghanistan-resettlement-and-immigration-policy-statement-accessible-version>