

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2468 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2433 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**RE: Bicameral, Bipartisan Afghan Adjustment Act**

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Speaker McCarthy, and Leaders McConnell and Jeffries,

We, the undersigned organizations, **write to urge you to support the passage of the bicameral, bipartisan Afghan Adjustment Act (AAA) re-introduced on July 14, 2023 by Senators Klobuchar and Graham and Representatives Blumenauer and Miller-Meeks.** As organizations committed to the safety and well-being of survivors of gender-based violence, including domestic violence and sexual assault, we note that the Act would benefit Afghan survivors and those at risk of gender-based persecution, their families and communities by providing Afghan allies and evacuees, including survivors, a clear path to permanent status, stability and healing.

As you know, an alternative bill, the Ensuring American Security and Protect Afghan Allies Act (S.2324), was introduced on July 14, 2023. While it also outlines a path to citizenship for Afghans, **we urge you to oppose S.2324** as it does not adequately support those left behind or meaningfully expand the SIV program. While our focus should be on protecting and honoring our Afghan allies, S. 2324 instead focuses on unrelated border issues. S. 2324 takes the wrong approach and undercuts years of bi-partisan effort.

**By contrast, the AAA ([S. 2327/H.R. 4627](#) and NDAA amendment #675) will provide effective short and long-term protection for Afghans, including survivors of gender-based violence and persecution.** The AAA recognizes that urgent humanitarian crises require tools that allow the U.S. to quickly respond and protect individuals like our Afghan allies and those vulnerable to gender-based persecution without any means of evacuation save for parole. Abandoning our wartime allies and those depending on the U.S. for safety undermines our national security and leaves lives at risk. Maintaining parole authority ensures we have the strategic tools we need and will save lives.

Afghan women and girls and all survivors of gender-based violence are often in acute need of mental health services to address trauma as well as employment and safe housing so they can get back on their feet, care for their families, and leverage their skills and talents to invest in their new communities. Without parole, women, young girls, and others would languish in Afghanistan with no access to education, independent livelihood, or protection from domestic violence, sexual assault, forced marriage, human trafficking, and gender apartheid.

The AAA also contains rigorous screening and vetting standards for all Afghans requesting legal status in the U.S. And the AAA benefits taxpayers by streamlining immigration and asylum processes for Afghan allies to avoid adding to the crushing asylum backlog. The U.S. Congress

has passed similar bills following previous wartime evacuations including for Iraqi Kurds and people from Southeast Asia and Cuba. Passage of the AAA aligns squarely with such legislative precedent as well as our international humanitarian obligations under the United Nations Refugee Convention and Protocol.

Further, the AAA enjoys broad support across many sectors, including among veterans that advocate for accountability and justice for survivors of sexual, domestic, and other kinds of violence and discrimination that the women and girls of Afghanistan systemically endure. Finally, national organizations such as Veterans of Foreign Wars, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, and the American Legion – those who know best the sacrifices made by our allies and the risks those left behind and their families face now - likewise support the AAA.

We urge the U.S. Congress to provide meaningful access to safety and stability for our Afghan allies, including survivors of gender-based violence, by promptly passing the Afghan Adjustment Act ([S. 2327](#) and [H.R. 4627](#) and NDAA amendment #675).

Respectfully,

**National**

ASISTA Immigration Assistance  
Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence  
Battered Women's Justice Project (BWJP)  
Esperanza United (formerly Casa de Esperanza)  
Futures Without Violence  
Jewish Women International  
Justice for Migrant Women  
Mina's List  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Alliance to End Sexual Violence  
National Network to End Domestic Violence  
National Resource Center on Domestic Violence  
National Survivor Network  
Naila Amin Foundation  
Oxfam America  
Refugees International  
Sexual Violence Prevention Association (SVPA)  
Tahirih Justice Center  
The National Domestic Violence Hotline  
United State of Women (USOW)  
Upwardly Global  
VALOR

**State Based**

Arab-American Family Support Center  
Ashiyanaa  
Crisis Intervention Service  
Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault  
Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
Domestic Violence Intervention Program

Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
Immigration Center for Women and Children (California and Nevada)  
IowaCASA  
Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Inc.  
Jane Doe Inc. (Massachusetts Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence)  
Kentucky Association of Sexual Assault Programs, Inc.  
Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault  
Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault  
Mississippi Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence  
Nevada Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence  
New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence  
New Jersey Coalition to End Domestic Violence  
New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault  
Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence  
Ohio Domestic Violence Network  
Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
Saheli Inc.  
Tennessee Coalition to End Domestic & Sexual Violence  
Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence  
Violence Free Minnesota  
Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault  
Womankind  
Wyoming Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault