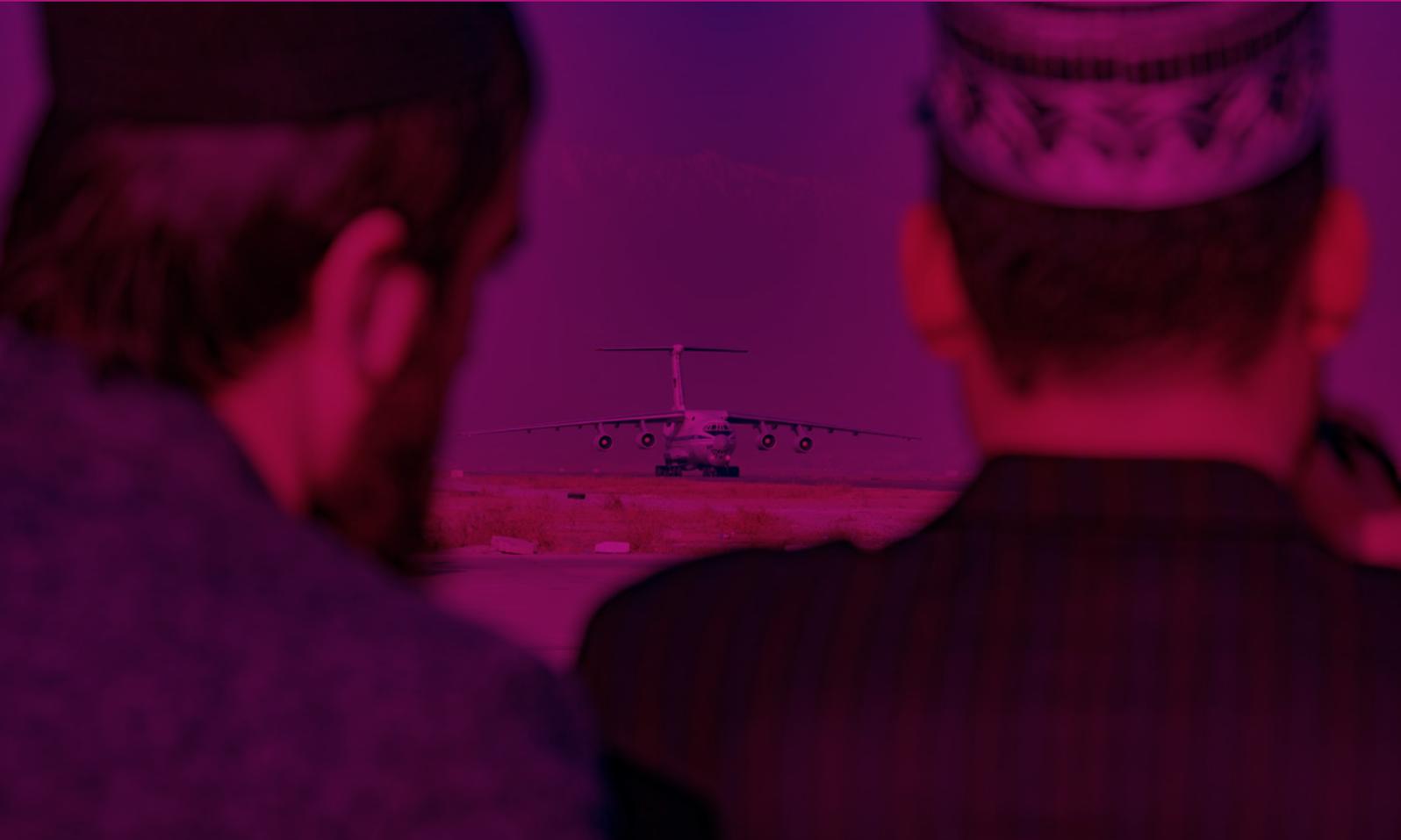




SUPPORTING AND
EMPOWERING
REFUGEES



Afghan refugees: What happened to the warm welcome?

AUGUST 2023



Introduction

Two years ago, men, women, and children from Afghanistan, many of whom stood alongside British forces in conflict, were evacuated as Kabul fell to the Taliban. The British Government offered them safety and called this ‘Operation Warm Welcome’.

The Prime Minister at the time, Boris Johnson, said “*I am determined that we welcome them (Afghans) with open arms and that my Government puts in place the support they need to rebuild their lives. We will never forget the brave sacrifice made by Afghans who chose to work with us, at great risk to themselves. We owe them, and their families, a huge debt*”.¹

This promise has not yet been met. While the initial effort had good intentions, the plans to welcome Afghan refugees are slowly being abandoned.

Afghans fleeing the Taliban now make up the largest number of people crossing the Channel in small boats² – the government’s new legislation³ demonises them, prohibiting all Afghans crossing in small boats from ever claiming asylum in the UK and earmarking them for detention and removal.

To underline the failure of the scheme set up to resettle Afghans, figures show that in the year ending March 2023, **8,429** Afghans crossed the Channel while only **96** have been newly resettled to the UK⁴ through the various Government resettlement schemes. And now thousands of Afghans who have been stuck in temporary accommodation hotels, face eviction with nowhere to go and the prospect of being left homeless this summer.

This report uses published Home Office data alongside policy analysis and testimonies to set out the failures of the UK Government to fulfil its promise to protect and house Afghans fleeing danger and persecution.

¹ homeofficemedia.blog.gov.uk/2021/10/29/factsheet-operation-warm-welcome-in-action

² Afghans made up the highest number of channel crossings between January and March 2023. Refugee Council analysis of Home Office statistics year ending March 2023, Irregular Migration – Detailed tables, table Irr_D01 irregular-migration-to-the-UK-detailed-dataset-year-ending-march-2023.xlsx

³ Illegal Migration Act 2023 (legislation.gov.uk)

⁴ The statistics used for resettlement in this briefing capture those resettled under ACRS pathway 2 and 3 and the wider existing resettlement schemes. It excludes ACRS pathway 1 because those under ACRS pathway 1 arrived in the UK as part of the evacuation before the ACRS resettlement schemes were launched. They were then subsequently transferred onto the schemes after their arrival in the UK. The briefing also excludes statistics from those under ARAP because ARAP is not a refugee protection programme; it was a scheme to provide safety to Afghans who had worked for or with the UK Government or armed forces in Afghanistan.

In the year ending March 2023,

8,429 Afghans

crossed the Channel.

Only **96** have been newly resettled to the UK.²



Afghan schemes

AFGHAN RELOCATIONS & ASSISTANCE POLICY (ARAP)

Afghan Relocations & Assistance Policy (ARAP) scheme is for people who worked for or with the UK Government or armed forces in Afghanistan. ARAP has transferred thousands of Afghans since August 2021 ⁵

AFGHAN CITIZEN RESETTLEMENT SCHEMES (ACRS) SINCE THE TALIBAN TAKEOVER IN AUGUST 2021

1. ACRS Pathway 1 includes those who came to the UK via evacuation flights in the midst of the withdrawal under Operation Pitting and have subsequently been granted Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR) in the UK. Operation Pitting evacuated about **15,000** Afghans.⁶
2. ACRS Pathway 2 resettles Afghans via the UNHCR resettlement programme, supporting vulnerable refugees and family members currently residing in countries neighbouring Afghanistan. **Only 40** people have been resettled on this pathway so far.⁷
3. ACRS Pathway 3 focuses on particular at-risk groups still in Afghanistan. **Only 14** people have been resettled on this pathway so far.⁸

*The statistics used for resettlement in this briefing capture those resettled under ACRS pathway 2 and 3 and the wider existing resettlement schemes⁹.

It excludes ACRS pathway 1 because those under ACRS pathway 1 arrived in the UK as part of the evacuation before the ACRS resettlement schemes were launched. They were then subsequently transferred onto the schemes after their arrival in the UK.

The briefing also excludes statistics from those under ARAP because ARAP is not a refugee protection programme; it was a scheme to provide safety to Afghans who had worked for or with the UK Government or armed forces in Afghanistan.

⁵ See note 1.

⁶ See note 1.

⁷ Refugee Council analysis of Home Office statistics year ending March 2023, Asylum - Detailed Tables, table Asy_D02, [asylum-applications-datasets-mar-2023.xlsx](#) (live.com)

⁸ See note 7.

⁹ Community Sponsorship Scheme, Gateway Protection Programme, UK Resettlement Scheme and Vulnerable Children Resettlement Scheme

Key findings

- At the end of March 2023 there were almost **9,000** Afghan men, women and children who had been evacuated from Afghanistan still being accommodated in temporary hotel accommodation. These people face being evicted from hotels by the end of August. With no policy in place for what will happen at this point, Afghan families are facing the risk of being street homeless after being evicted.
- In January 2022 the Government formally opened the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS), promising to resettle **5,000** Afghan refugees in the first year and **20,000** over the coming years.¹⁰ Despite these Government promises, since this announcement **only 54** Afghans have been newly resettled in the UK on ACRS.¹¹
- Despite assurances, after two years there is still no mechanism for the majority of Afghan refugees to reunite with family members who were left behind in the evacuation.
- Channel crossings by Afghan refugees have increased 100-fold over the last four years. In the year ending March 2023, **8,429** Afghans crossed the Channel while **only 96** have been newly resettled despite the Government's promises to ensure thousands would be resettled in the first year after the fall of Kabul. This **96** figure includes arrivals through the ACRS, UK resettlement schemes and Community Sponsorship.¹²
- **19%** of Channel crossings made in the year ending March 2023 were made by Afghan nationals.
- For every Afghan who newly arrived on a resettlement scheme in the year ending March 2023, **almost 90** crossed the Channel in a small boat.¹³
- Those Afghans crossing by small boat after leaving their homes in Afghanistan will now under the Government's new legislation¹⁴ be prohibited from ever claiming asylum in the UK and be subject to detention and removal.

¹⁰ [gov.uk/guidance/afghan-citizens-resettlement-scheme](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/afghan-citizens-resettlement-scheme)

¹¹ This statistic excludes ACRS pathway 1 because those under ACRS pathway 1 arrived in the UK as part of the evacuation before the ACRS resettlement schemes were launched. They were then subsequently transferred onto the schemes after their arrival in the UK. Therefore they were not newly resettled. Refugee Council analysis of Home Office statistics year ending March 2023, Asylum - Detailed Tables, table Asy_D02, [asylum-applications-datasets-mar-2023.xlsx](#) (live.com)

¹² See note 11.

¹³ Refugee Council analysis of Home Office statistics year ending March 2023, Irregular Migration – Detailed tables, table Irr_D01 [irregular-migration-to-the-UK-detailed-dataset-year-ending-march-2023.xlsx](#) (live.com) Asylum - Detailed Tables, table Asy_D02, [asylum-applications-datasets-mar-2023.xlsx](#) (live.com)

¹⁴ [Illegal Migration Act 2023](#) (legislation.gov.uk)

Temporary hotel accommodation

Following the evacuation of men, women and children from Afghanistan in August 2021 by the British Government, those who didn't have accommodation in the UK were mostly housed in hotels. The use of hotel accommodation was supposed to be a short-term measure while longer-term housing was secured. However, many people, including many families, have found themselves living in hotels for very long periods of time.

During this time, people have started to settle into their local communities – their children attend local schools, some have found jobs. All those in hotels were initially told by the Home Office that if they found their own accommodation, they wouldn't receive the additional support offered by the Government. Afghan men, women and children followed this advice and waited. In this time not nearly enough offers of housing were made.

According to the Government's latest statistics, at the end of March there were **8,799** people, around half of whom were children, living in hotel accommodation.¹⁵ **9,968** people had moved into longer-term accommodation and a further **468** had been matched with a home.¹⁶ Since then, we understand a further **3,000** have found accommodation leaving around **5,500** still in hotels.

In March 2023, the Government announced that the use of these hotels would end in the coming months. All those Afghans still in hotels would receive eviction notices, with most people being required to move out by the end of August 2023, but some as early as the end of July.

The Government said that some people would still receive offers of alternative accommodation from local authorities, while others were expected to source their own accommodation. This included finding properties through the private rented market.

On the 18th of July the Government announced they would introduce a time limited interim accommodation for a very small group of people between the end of their notice period for eviction from hotels and confirmed accommodation.¹⁷

Only providing a temporary solution to such a limited number of people will fail to solve the serious issue of needing long-term accommodation for all. Furthermore, the small number – many of whom were families – that received offers of a new home, were met with the prospect of moving to a place far away from the communities they had integrated into. This change can retraumatise an already vulnerable group of people.

Speaking in the Commons on the 18th of July 2023, the Minister of State for Veterans' Affairs Johnny Mercer said, "*I see no reason why anybody living in a hotel today should not be able to make use of their right to work and access to benefits and the flexible funding available to local authorities to find suitable, settled accommodation and live independently of central Government support*".¹⁸

However, it is widely known how challenging the housing crisis is, with local authorities under huge pressure, operating with stretched resources.

¹⁵ [gov.uk/Government/publications/afghan-resettlement-programme-operational-data](https://www.gov.uk/Government/publications/afghan-resettlement-programme-operational-data)

¹⁶ See note 15

¹⁷ Interim accommodation will also be provided in cases of medical need where a family member requires continued attendance at a specific hospital. [Written statements - Written questions, answers and statements - UK Parliament](#)

¹⁸ Hansard, Volume 736: debated on Tuesday 18 July 2023. [Afghan Resettlement Update - Hansard - UK Parliament](#)



The current Government funding for housing needs, allocated to local authorities, lacks sufficient clarity in its guidelines, making it difficult for all councils to access and utilise the funds properly. Furthermore, evidence from the Refugee Council's frontline staff indicates that many Afghans are experiencing discrimination from landlords.

A significant number of people are highly likely not to have found somewhere else to live at the time they're due to be evicted from the hotel they've been accommodated in. The priority must be ensuring that everyone is supported to find permanent housing before they leave their hotel.

If the Government does not act urgently, the failure of '*Operation Warm Welcome*' will be responsible for leaving Afghan men, women and children on the streets as homeless. The Home Office should not evict any Afghan from a hotel before they have found permanent accommodation as a priority.

The Government's guidance on funding for local authorities needs to be significantly clearer and more concise. This will ensure a better understanding of how to access and utilise these funds effectively across all councils. The Government should have a national strategy to coordinate housing issues across all local authorities to understand what the needs are for all Afghans of concern.

This should include the Government supporting and facilitating a multi-sector approach to housing solutions which would involve funding opportunities for local authorities, private sector and community sponsorship groups in order to open up more housing stock. The strategy should be part of an overall refugee integration plan with a single funding stream to meet the integration and housing needs of all refugees.

In the eventuality that people are unable to secure alternative accommodation, the Government must make it clear how people will be supported to make homelessness applications with local authorities in advance of their evictions so they can access emergency accommodation and support.

Testimonies

Below are testimonies from Afghans who were evacuated to the UK and have been living in hotels. Some names have been changed.

Amina is an Afghan woman who fled to the UK in August 2021 and has been living in a hotel in Yorkshire with her mother and other family members for the past two years. Now the family has been told they must leave the hotel by August 16th with nowhere else to go.

“For two years they didn't offer us anything like housing. I never got anything offered in two years. I didn't see any community, any help for Afghan people in this country, the way they treat us. Now they're just saying that we sign a paper on the 16th. We have to leave this hotel. So we don't have any accommodation. So on 16th August, when we wake up, we have nowhere to go.”

We waited for two years, and at the end we don't have anywhere to go in, just the street. They didn't find any accommodation to go and live in there. We just want a good life here to start work, to find accommodation. Accommodation is more important than everything.”

Please welcome us. We have a problem in our country, and we deserve a good life as well. We are human like you. So we want to be like you, have our life, and you have yours. Why not? We can live the same as you. ”

- Amina

Abdul fled Afghanistan in 2021 after working as an interpreter for the British Army and facing threats from the Taliban. His family was able to join him in the UK after months of separation.

“And for the Afghans who are here... I know many of my friends are in hotels and different areas out of London, they are going to be evicted and they cannot find a house. You can't have a normal life in a hotel, no one wants to stay there by choice.

The Government shouldn't force the families to leave. They were supporters in Afghanistan, they helped them. That's why they are here. So they should find the solution for this problem. They should listen to those who are still stuck in the hotel. They should find an alternate way to find accommodation. ”

- Abdul



Resettlement failure

In August 2021 when the Taliban took over Kabul, the British Government managed to evacuate **15,000** Afghans under Operation Pitting.¹⁹ Upon arrival in the UK many of these people were subsequently transferred on the ACRS Pathway 1 scheme. This initial evacuation effort by the Government was commendable and saved many lives.

In January 2022 the Government formally opened the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS), promising to resettle **5,000** Afghan refugees in the first year and **20,000** over the coming years.²⁰ Like many others, the Refugee Council welcomed this commitment. However, what we have seen since then is a failure to live up to those promises. Despite these Government assurances, since this announcement **only 54 Afghans** have been newly resettled in the UK on ACRS pathways.²¹

The failure of this resettlement has resulted in hundreds being stuck in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Many have been accepted for UK resettlement but are unable to travel, with a large number held in very precarious conditions in British Government funded hotels in Pakistan. It has been reported that the hotels have already cost £17m²² supporting at least **2,000** people.²³

Many of those who were given temporary visas by the Pakistani authorities while they were waiting to travel to the UK have had their visas expire. As a result, they face the threat of being sent back to Afghanistan if they leave the hotel.

The delay in people being able to travel to the UK is mainly due to the Government only permitting travel if there is accommodation available in the UK. People have been encouraged to find that accommodation themselves. While the challenges in securing housing are recognised, expecting men, women and children who have fled the Taliban to find their own accommodation in the UK while stuck in a hotel in Islamabad is unrealistic.

The Cabinet Office, Department for Levelling-Up, Housing and Communities and the Home Office must continue working with local authorities and communities in line with this report's recommendations and provide the correct funding and support to guarantee that housing is available for the thousands of Afghans waiting to be brought to the UK. Afghans who are currently stuck in Pakistan in hotels should be given assurances that their status in Pakistan while waiting to be resettled to the UK is safe.

The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office must as a priority open up appropriate channels of communication with the Pakistani Government to ensure the safety of this cohort.

19 homeofficemedia.blog.gov.uk/2021/10/29/factsheet-operation-warm-welcome-in-action

20 gov.uk/guidance/afghan-citizens-resettlement-scheme

21 This statistic excludes ACRS pathway 1 because those under ACRS pathway 1 arrived in the UK as part of the evacuation before the ACRS resettlement schemes were launched. They were then subsequently transferred onto the schemes after their arrival in the UK. Therefore they were not newly resettled. Refugee Council analysis of Home Office statistics year ending March 2023, Asylum - Detailed Tables, table Asy_D02, [asylum-applications-datasets-mar-2023.xlsx](#) (live.com)

22 The total cost for the British Government in keeping people in Pakistani hotels between April 2022 and March 2023. [Just two Afghans promised safe haven by UK army brought from Pakistan in past three months | The Independent](#)

23 See note 22.

Barriers to family reunion

For those Afghans who have managed to arrive here, a large number face the extreme pain of being separated from family members. Many of them were separated from each other at the last minute in the rush of departure.

The Government guidance for ACRS includes a clear commitment to resettle the family members of those evacuated under ACRS Pathway 1.²⁴ Unlike those on Pathway 2 of the ACRS, Afghans on Pathway 1 have been granted Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR) without refugee status. This means that they cannot access Refugee Family Reunion. Home Office family reunion guidance updated on 9th November 2023 confirms this position.²⁵ Afghan evacuees are therefore wholly reliant on the Government to fulfil its commitment to reunite them with their close family members.

Two years since the fall of Kabul, and as the humanitarian situation has deteriorated, the Home Office has failed to design or implement a mechanism to reunite these evacuees with their closest family members. There is currently no way for people in the UK on ACRS pathway 1 to even register their interest in reunion. Similarly, there is no information for how someone who arrives on ACRS pathway 3 and who has been separated from close family can apply to be reunited with them in the future.

Prolonged separation from loved ones is causing huge misery. For those waiting in the UK, integration becomes much harder when every day is consumed with worry about family members who are left in Afghanistan with no route to reunite.

While the accommodation issues in the UK and the complex situation of evacuating people out of Afghanistan are both understandable, the failure of the Home Office to create a clear process for family reunion is inexcusable. All Afghan evacuees should be able to be reunited in the UK with their families. There must be urgent clarity on how many Afghan evacuees require family reunion and where these family members are.

The Home Office must build a functional mechanism for those who have been resettled under ACRS pathways 1 and 3 to be able to be reunited with their family members.

²⁴ Home Office, 'factsheet: ACRS and other routes', homeofficemedia.blog.gov.uk/2021/09/13/acrs-other-routes

²⁵ Home Office, 'Family reunion: for refugees and those with humanitarian protection', assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/Government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1114144/Family_reunion.pdf



Testimony

Below is a testimony from Zulikha, a 20-year-old girl who fled to the UK from Afghanistan with her two younger siblings in August 2021. During the chaos inside Kabul airport, as Afghans were trying to board a plane to safety, Zulikha and her younger siblings lost their parents in the crowd.

“ When we arrived in the UK we were in a quarantine hotel, we had no idea where our parents were and we were extremely sad. We had nothing to do all day apart from worry about our parents.

My parents are not safe in Afghanistan. My mum is not allowed out of the house. We speak to them every day before school in the morning. The Taliban have been questioning my parents, they confiscated my parents' phones. They found our numbers mine and my brother's in their phones and they keep asking my parents where we are. My dad has had to change his phone number 10 times.

I have taken on the responsibility for looking after my brother and sister... My Auntie and Uncle are now helping me. My little sister is crying always in the morning saying she doesn't want to go to school because she wants her mum and dad. I say don't worry our mum and dad are coming. One day they are coming don't worry. My sister needs her mother, I am not her mother. We don't have another choice we need them to come here.

When I ask the housing people, the Home Office, the lawyer... they just say “just wait”. They are not thinking about the waiting time, how long it is for our families. No one thinks about this. They are saying “just wait”. How much time can I wait? That's nearly two years! I don't want any Government support for my mum and dad. I just need a visa. If they want me to pay for a visa, for the ticket, for the house, for everything, I'm ready for that. Just give me a visa for my mum and dad. Because my mum and dad have three children here... ”

– Zulikha

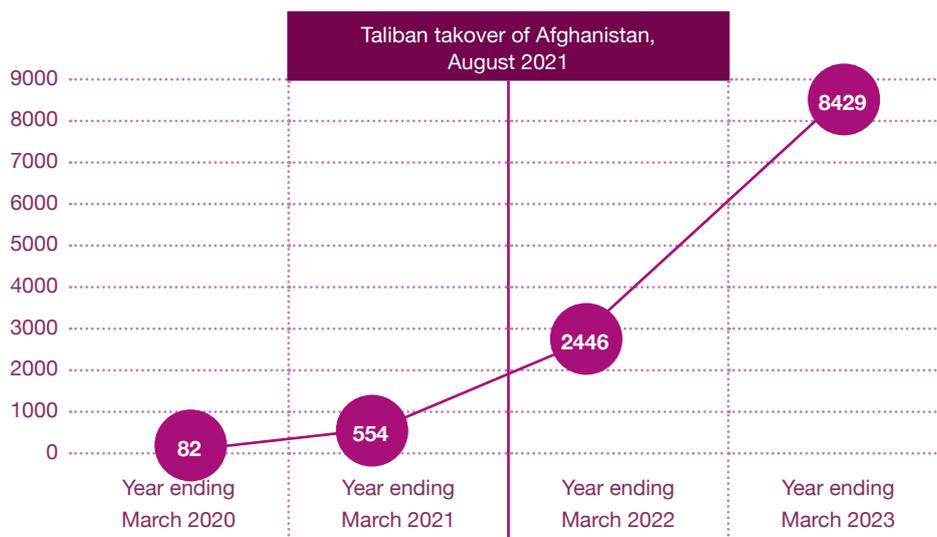
Channel crossings

The failures of the UK Government in resettlement and family reunion means that most Afghan men, women and children make their own way across the Channel. This is the only method to reunite with family or find safety.

Channel crossings by Afghan refugees have increased 100-fold over the last four years. In the year ending March 2023, **19 per cent** of all Channel crossings were made by Afghan nationals, **8,429** Afghans crossed the Channel while **only 96** have been newly resettled. This 96 figure includes arrivals through the ACRS, UK resettlement schemes and Community Sponsorship.²⁶ For every Afghan who arrived on a resettlement scheme in the year ending March 2023, **almost 90** crossed the Channel in a small boat.²⁷

Channel Crossings versus resettlement for Afghan refugees over the last four years				
	Year ending March 2020	Year ending March 2021	Year ending March 2022	Year ending March 2023
Recorded Channel crossings	82	554	2446	8429
Resettlement	98	0	39	96

Number of Afghans recorded crossing the Channel in small boats over the last four years



Source: Refugee Council analysis of Home Office statistics year ending March 2023, Irregular Migration – Detailed tables, table Irr_D01 irregular-migration-to-the-UK-detailed-dataset-year-ending-march-2023.xlsx (live.com) Asylum - Detailed Tables, table Asy_D02, asylum-applications-datasets-mar-2023.xlsx (live.com)

²⁶ This statistic excludes ACRS pathway 1 because those under ACRS pathway 1 arrived in the UK as part of the evacuation before the ACRS resettlement schemes were launched. They were then subsequently transferred onto the schemes after their arrival in the UK. Therefore they were not newly resettled. Refugee Council analysis of Home Office statistics year ending March 2023, Asylum - Detailed Tables, table Asy_D02, asylum-applications-datasets-mar-2023.xlsx (live.com), Irregular Migration – Detailed tables, table Irr_D01 irregular-migration-to-the-UK-detailed-dataset-year-ending-march-2023.xlsx (live.com)

²⁷ See note 26.



Taking the dangerous journey across the Channel puts people at great risk of exploitation with people smugglers but also poses the potential further risk of trafficking. The dramatic rise in Channel crossings versus the tiny number of arrivals via resettlement demonstrates that Afghan refugees who make this treacherous crossing have no choice: they do not have access to safe routes to reach the UK despite the Government's promises.

The Government's new Illegal Migration Act received Royal Assent on the 20th July 2023.²⁸

Its stated intention is stopping people crossing the Channel in small boats. The Act prohibits anyone who has travelled through another 'safe country' and arrived irregularly (including crossing the Channel) from gaining protection in the UK. Asylum claims from such people will be deemed inadmissible, and they will most likely be detained pending their removal to either their country of origin or a 'safe' third country. Furthermore, the Government won't be able to remove the many thousands who are expected to come from places like Afghanistan. Yet the Act won't process their claims either.

The Act also fails to establish new safe routes. This will mean thousands of Afghan men, women and children who have no other option other than to arrive here via irregular means due to the failed promises of 'Operation Warm Welcome' will be at risk of destitution and homelessness, stuck in limbo and potentially facing long periods of detention.²⁹

Conclusion

Although the initial effort by the British Government to evacuate a large number of Afghan refugees under Operation Pitting was an achievement, overall, the Government has failed to fulfil the promise of 'Operation Warm Welcome'. Thousands of Afghans who have been through unimaginable hardship having to flee their country leaving family behind to live in unsuitable hotels for almost two years are now facing street homelessness instead of being accommodated and supported until they can support themselves.

Thousands more are still risking their lives on small boats to travel to the UK because there is simply no other way. The resettlement schemes are not functioning anywhere near the numbers promised and required and the mechanisms to arrive via family reunion have not even been announced two years on. These people are owed the certainty provided by a secure home in a safe place. It is incumbent on the UK to follow through with their promise of a 'warm welcome' so Afghan men, women and children can rebuild their lives here with dignity.

²⁸ Illegal Migration Act 2023 legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2023/37/contents/enacted

²⁹ Refugee Council, 'Assessment of impact of inadmissibility, removals, detention, accommodation and safe routes' Illegal Migration Bill - Assessment of impact of inadmissibility, removals, detention, accommodation and safe routes - Refugee Council

Key recommendations

The British Government must ensure that all Afghans who have been resettled to the UK are supported to find permanent housing before they leave their hotel.

- The Home Office should not evict any Afghan from a hotel before they have found permanent accommodation as a priority.
- The Government's guidance on funding for local authorities needs to be significantly clearer and more concise. This will ensure a better understanding of how to access and utilise these funds effectively across all councils.
- The Government should have a national strategy to coordinate housing issues across all local authorities to understand what the needs are for all Afghans of concern. This should include the Government supporting and facilitating a multi-sector approach to housing solutions which would involve funding opportunities for local authorities, the private sector and community sponsorship groups in order to open up more housing stock. The strategy should be part of an overall refugee integration plan with a single funding stream to meet the integration and housing needs of all refugees.
- In the eventuality that people are unable to secure alternative accommodation, the Government must make it clear how people will be supported to make homelessness applications with local authorities in advance of their evictions so they can access emergency accommodation and support.

The British Government must fulfil its commitment to safely resettle Afghan refugees to the UK.

- The Cabinet Office, Department for Levelling-Up, Housing and Communities and the Home Office must continue working with local authorities and communities in line with the above recommendations and provide the correct funding and support to guarantee that housing is available for the thousands of Afghans waiting to be brought to the UK.
- Those Afghans who are currently stuck in Pakistan in hotels should be given the assurances that their status in Pakistan while waiting to be resettled to the UK is safe. The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office must as a priority open up appropriate channels of communication with the Pakistani Government to ensure the safety of this cohort.

All Afghan evacuees should be able to be reunited in the UK with their families

- There must be urgent clarity on how many Afghan evacuees require family reunion and where these family members are. Until this happens the detail of any mechanism will remain unclear. The Home Office must design and operationalise a system to understand the nature and scale of the need for family reunion. This can be done by contacting Afghans on Pathway 1 of the ACRS to find out about their situation, and/or by creating a way for people to register with the Home Office and provide their information digitally.
- The Home Office must build a functional mechanism for those who have been resettled under ACRS pathways 1 and 3 to be able to be reunited with their family members. The Home Office should consult the sector, including members of the **Families Together Coalition**³⁰ - who have extensive experience of working to improve family reunion processes for refugees – who can work with the Home Office to design a mechanism that builds on the learnings from their widespread research.

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