



**Navendu Mishra MP**  
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The Rt Hon Dominic Raab MP  
Secretary of State  
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office  
King Charles Street  
Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2AH

13 August 2021

*Via email*

Dear Secretary of State,

We are writing with concern about the developments in Afghanistan.

Following the news that the Taliban have taken the 10th provincial capital in a week and the obvious implications of Taliban rule, we are hoping to seek assurances from the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office that all refugees at risk from direct persecution by the Taliban will be given support from the UK Government.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has stated that there are almost 2.5 million registered refugees from Afghanistan, who comprise the largest protracted refugee population in Asia, and the second largest refugee population in the world. With the recent resurgence of the Taliban, this number will inevitably rise in the coming months.

As we already know, minority communities, including Sikhs, Hindus and Hazara Muslims, have faced persecution in Afghanistan. In 2018, a delegation of Hindus and Sikhs were killed in a suicide bomb attack on their way to meet the Afghan President, and more recently, international bodies have warned that Hindus and Sikhs are facing extinction in the country.<sup>1</sup> We know that in the past, Hindus were expected to wear yellow badges to identify themselves, a move which rightly provoked international criticism at the time.<sup>2</sup> The persecution of Hazara people is also well-documented and as recently as 2020, there was the Bamyán bombing, which targeted civilians.<sup>3</sup>

The UN has warned of possible war crimes currently taking place and have urged all sides to return to the negotiating table and reach a peaceful settlement. However, in lieu of this, we urge the Government to outline how they will protect and support refugees from the country.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-44677823>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2001/may/24/lukeharding>

<sup>3</sup> <https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/officials-roadside-bomb-attack-afghanistan-kills-14-74378862>



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We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Navendu Mishra MP

*CC: Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP, Prime Minister*

Co-signed:

Tahir Ali MP  
Paula Barker MP  
Baroness Christine Blower  
Kevin Brennan MP  
Deidre Brock MP  
Alyn Brown MP  
Ian Byrne MP  
Dan Carden MP  
Baroness Shami  
Chakrabarti  
Wendy Chamberlain MP  
Sarah Champion MP  
Daisy Cooper MP  
Rt Hon Jeremy Corbyn  
MP  
Stella Creasy MP  
Tan Dhesi MP  
Allan Dorans MP  
Rosie Duffield MP  
Stephen Farry MP

Mary Foy MP  
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Patrick Grady MP  
Lord John Hendy  
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Kim Johnson MP  
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Ben Lake MP  
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Chris Law MP  
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Tony Lloyd MP  
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Lord Jonathan Oates  
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Andrew Slaughter MP  
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