

SIKH ASSEMBLY - URGENT NEED FOR THE UK GOVERNMENT TO PRESS THE US TO EXTEND THE EVACUATION DEADLINE IN AFGHANISTAN

Waheguru ji ka Khalsa, Waheguru ji ki Fateh

Afghanistan has been a historic cauldron of power struggles for centuries but the losers in all the troubles including the latest tragedy that has unfolded in the last few weeks brings sharply into focus the plight of the innocent and helpless local victims and minority communities.

The images of orphaned children and desperate mothers are haunting and an indictment on human conscience. The parliamentary debate in the U.K. and the efforts to create a resettlement scheme for Afghan refugees must be speedily implemented to ensure that for those that do arrive in this country, there is adequate support. The submissions by Preet Gill MP, Hilary Ben and so many politicians of all shades urging the U.K. government to act with haste and conscience towards the vulnerable Sikh and Hindu minority communities as well as other vulnerable locals need urgent practical implementation.

Sikhs in Afghanistan have clung on to their homes and Gurdwaras despite tragic losses and unprovoked deadly attacks. Alongside other minority communities the local Sikhs have fought to keep going in the face of mounting oppressions. Sikh Assembly adds it's plea to the unanimous cry for safe asylum and refugee support from all countries including the U.K.

As military and diplomatic forces abandon the country, their governments including ours must deeply consider the fate of those who will inevitably be left behind. The freedom to practice faith and belief, the right to equality for women, an upholding of justice and transparency only come with fundamental freedom. An oppressed community whether in Afghanistan or the many burning spots in the world highlights the failure of humankind to value all life as equal.

Sikh Assembly urges Prime Minister Johnson and Home Secretary Patel to honour British commitment to our nationals but beyond that to the vulnerable communities like the Sikhs and Hindus as a matter of extreme urgency.

Executive Committee
Sikh Assembly