**Resources for Assisting Afghans Arriving from the US-Mexico Border**

Compiled by Afghan Health Leadership Consortium

**News**

Here is recent news about the U.S. government [ending Title 42](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/53ciCNkGDMtZvGDPuRkLW-?domain=dhs.gov) on May 11 and a controversial [sweeping asylum ban](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/9XHsCOYGlNhNqyzZSPJFrt?domain=lirs.org) announced on May 10, as well as general updated [information on obtaining asylum](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/zxSBCPNGmOU0yk8NurQOc8?domain=uscis.gov) in the U.S.

**Resources**

Here are some resources to assist Afghan clients who have crossed the Southern border:

* **Webinar “Supporting Afghans Who Crossed the Southern Border**”: [Recording](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QNWz7tz5jtw) and [Transcript](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-Tm1kwxkrTM61ieE4-Rh7iJzqfaBtaEV/view)
* **Project ANAR’s One-Page "Know Your Rights" for Afghans Arriving from the Southern Border:** Laila Ayub, immigration attorney and co-founder and director of Project ANAR shares that they have created a Know Your Rights 1-page resource for Afghans arriving via the border. This is intended to be a quick reference document that summarizes some of the most important information folks need to know, such as the 1-year asylum filing deadline, EAD eligibility, checking the EOIR system for a court date, etc. We did our best to balance the amount of information included with what folks need to know, and hope this is useful to anyone who is assisting this population. You will find the resources in English, Dari, and Pashto on [their website](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/InluCQWXJPsXzyMli9ksqo?domain=projectanar.org).
* **Seeking Asylum at the U.S.-Mexican Border:** Frequently Updated [Slides on Seeking Asylum at the U.S.-Mexican Border](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1NqoTUVtjqhtUEkBboC6DZR6kZmF7prs0UQkralgS9ao/edit#slide=id.p1) by attorney Taylor Levy
* **Tarjimly's Live Pashto and Dari Interpretation Services:** [Tarjimly](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/53SnCVOWpXc2ORNkFrkjC4?domain=tarjimly.org) is a nonprofit organization providing live interpreters in Pashto and Dari. Get the translation and interpretation you need, when you need it, for free, with access to the world’s largest group of remote translators and interpreters right from your phone. See the [English Tarjimly flyer](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/YJMvCW61OYC6lWRXfB95yX?domain=drive.google.com) or [Dari Tarjimly flyer](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/p4y5CXDPxZi4pzVDTxHnqm?domain=drive.google.com) or [Pashto Video/Web Page](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/aazACYEZp1tDG4EpsrDbpX?domain=intercom.help).
* **Recommended Health Screenings for New Arrivals:**For individuals who have undergone lengthy migrations, the CA Office of Refugee Health has developed a [letter of recommended health screening guidelines](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/HB_lCZ6gO2C7Opr8UV_pvT?domain=cdph.ca.gov). If you are a service provider who is linking a new arrival to primary care, please provide them with the letter to share upon first visit. It will help ensure screening for conditions that are not normally seen by primary care providers and alert them to possible needs of humanitarian concern.
* **Benefits Available to Undocumented Afghans Who Have Crossed the Southern Border:** Please see the transcript, starting on p. 10, for detailed information and links to various, limited benefits available for undocumented people in California.
* **CBP One Appointment:** Here are[English instructions](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/GAuqC1wM1Xf6v92BfKBbiN?domain=drive.google.com) on how to use the CBP One app to try to get an immigration appointment. (It's complicated!) Here is [updated information about CBP's efforts](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/N0SuC2kX4YtVn9PZCW3jKX?domain=cbp.gov) to expand the number of appointments available and allow additional time to make appointment requests.
* **Free Cell Phones for Income Eligible Households:**The [Affordable Connectivity Program](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/Eb31C313RZfXLE69iPuvEn?domain=assurancewireless.com) offers discounted broadband service and a free cell phone and cell service to income eligible households. [Tag Mobile](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/quV2C4x2m1SzLvM9fQsq-o?domain=tagmobile.com/) offers a free lifeline cell phone to income eligible households (such as for those on Medi-Cal).
* **Free Laptops for Qualifying Individuals:**The5Pillars and Corporate eWaste Solutions (CEWS) have partnered to provide [free, refurbished laptops](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/6LHTC5yMn2HMqD5ptGFr7H?domain=the5ivepillars.org) to qualifying Afghan newcomers.

Here are resources shared by [Project ANAR](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/KKofC68Mo3fPQBj0i3jvpW?domain=projectanar.org)to inform and assist Afghans with applying for asylum.

* **Afghan One-Year Asylum Filing Deadline:**Afghans who have entered the United States need to apply for asylum within one year of their last entry. See the flyer created by HIAS and the Washington College of Law in [English](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/VKJnC73M8giz3J4Vfyiw64?domain=static1.squarespace.com), [Dari](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/CoEVC82g8jtXnKDPiXuHDz?domain=static1.squarespace.com), or [Pashto](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/cLJOC9rj6kfzopLNfWKzXs?domain=static1.squarespace.com).
* **How to Create a MyUSCIS Account:**USCIS published YouTube videos in [Dari](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/mIJ7C0RMqWSk6LqgilkfvP?domain=youtube.com)and [Pashto](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/iqlxCgJyYwfqV7OwSQSZ1r?domain=youtube.com) on how to create a MyUSCIS account. Your online account can be used to file certain types of cases and track them using the receipt numbers.

Please find below resources for helping Afghans find legal services.

* **Human Rights First (HRF): Request for Legal Assistance Form:**Go [here](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/DRlkCjRBQzSYpvKGCVaKHr?domain=hrfoi.legalserver.org), read the page, scroll to the bottom of the page, and click "next" to be taken to a form to request help in finding legal assistance if you are from Afghanistan, are physically present in the United States, and require legal assistance with your immigration status in the United States.
* **Project ANAR:** [Project ANAR](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/KKofC68Mo3fPQBj0i3jvpW?domain=projectanar.org)is an Afghan community immigration justice organization. We offer direct legal services, community education, and advocacy. We started out of necessity as an emergency response project and we are working to sustainably assist newly arrived Afghans and those who continue to seek refuge.
* **Immigration Advocates Network Pro Bono Legal Services Directory:**Go [here](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/srwWCkRgQASkmp8XiXrM_K?domain=immigrationadvocates.org/) and enter your zip code to find local legal service providers to contact directly, either free or low cost.
* **AILA Low Bono Directory:**The American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) has compiled this [directory of lower cost immigration lawyers](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/EnMjClY0QBh1gv0PS0qLSV?domain=static1.squarespace.com) taking Afghan asylum cases.
* **Find an AILA Immigration Attorney:**Use the [AILA directory](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/hbYiCmZkRDSpErBPC2U19W?domain=ailalawyer.com) to find an AILA immigration lawyer (not necessarily free or low cost services).
* **Human Rights First PALA:** [Resource page](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/GmurCn5lQECXMYA3i8XP7X?domain=humanrightsfirst.org/) for Afghans in the U.S.
* **IRAP Legal Help:** The International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP) provides free legal help to some refugees and displaced people, not necessarily specific to removal defense proceedings. See their [English](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/n1nDCo2mRGtDx0jPsltmu2?domain=support.iraplegalinfo.org), [Pashto](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/xhTGCpYnwJh9XB1OCoOJg9?domain=support.iraplegalinfo.org), or [Dari](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/ehfqCqxoRKS1moKkSA3-Md?domain=support.iraplegalinfo.org)web pages.
* **The5Pillars:**[Resource list](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/fHmSCrkpZLtrLGPnUpPZth?domain=the5ivepillars.org) for finding immigration and legal service providers across Northern California.
* **JDC's Free Legal Advice and Referral Clinics for SF Bay Area Clients:**Does your client need a confidential consultation with an attorney but cannot afford it? The Justice and Diversity Center's (JDC's) Legal Advice and Referral Clinic (LARC) provides [three free legal clinics](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/dTiQCv2wqPtEM3pLU60o8d?domain=bing.com) every month for low-income Bay Area residents. The clinics offer free, limited legal advice and referrals.
* **IJP's Assistance for San Diego Clients:**In San Diego, the [Immigration Justice Project (IJP)](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/L17iCwpx9QfvYWJVuMJ_tQ?domain=americanbar.org/) works to assist detained individuals.
* **IRC Turlock and IRC Oakland Provide Limited Assistance:**The International Rescue Committee (IRC) in [Turlock](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/7ZyrCxkyqRtLr3nRurRsFn?domain=rescue.org) and [Oakland](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/YgovCyPzlVS79Rq2UjuA6L?domain=rescue.org) provide some legal pro-bono deportation defense, but no consolidated, comprehensive case management services for Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) ineligible populations.
* **JFCS East Bay Legal Assistance:**[Jewish Family and Community Services (JFCS) East Bay](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/PoLjCzpAPWfGJAQwik7Bxm?domain=jfcs-eastbay.org/) can provide some removal defense legal services at a lower cost for Afghans being threatened with deportation.
* **San Francisco Immigration Court Consultation:**A [free phone consultation](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/xBOkCADrqviZ7zLluEnFNA?domain=sfbar.org/) is available to people with cases before the San Francisco Immigration Court provided by the Justice and Diversity Center's (JDC's) Attorney of the Day Program.

Here are places to volunteer to assist Afghans, especially in the legal arena.

* **VECINA: Afghan Affirmative Asylum Project Volunteer Sign-Up:**[Sign up](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/Ams6CBBvowiDEOpRsmgP_-?domain=vecina.org/) to volunteer with VECINA as an attorney, administrative support person, or interpreter for our Afghan Affirmative Asylum Project, which helps Afghan nationals request asylum in the United States.
* **HIAS Pro-Bono Attorney Volunteer Application:** HIAS (originally the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society) works with a generous network of pro bono attorneys to provide legal services to asylum seekers, asylees, and others who are seeking humanitarian relief. Pro bono attorneys receive ongoing support from HIAS in the form of mentoring and access to a library of resources. [Apply here](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/auEWCDkxNytogkNJUOYevo?domain=airtable.com).
* **Volunteer with LIRS:**The Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service is seeking immigration attorneys, other legal professionals, and volunteers in general to volunteer to assist Afghan refugees. You can volunteer by filling out [this form](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/OgSVCERyOzSlRNV0HgX69T?domain=tfaforms.com). Go [here](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/B1fvCG6AnBCBjQKOSokVw4?domain=lirs.org/) for general ways to help Afghan refugees.

For case management services for Afghans who crossed the Southern border, these organizations in the San Francisco Bay Area and in San Diego region may be able to help or be able to refer your client to an appropriate agency. Most do provide services in Dari and/or Pashto.

Note that a client should not try to get comprehensive case management services at multiple agencies so as not to duplicate efforts, but can work with different agencies if they provide different services.

*San Francisco Bay Area:*

* **Refugee and Immigrant Transitions: Refugee and Immigrant Transitions (RIT):**[Refugee and Immigrant Transitions (RIT)](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/vKW8CJ61D0CB0D3ASVgY3fA?domain=reftrans.org) provides education programs and case management to a lot of Afghans who have come from the bases and through the U.S./Mexican border. Like others, we are struggling to find attorneys, especially for defensive asylum.
* **BRFN:**[Burma Refugee Families and Newcomers (BRFN)](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/mmeoCKrGXJfD3GzMsMMOO6h?domain=brfn.org), serving the Afghan population can provide social adjustment services and connect people to different resources such as education, employment, vital documents (SSN, DMV), and legal service providers depending on availability.
* **Afghan Coalition:**The [Afghan Coalition](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/DI9mCL9G6KfkEZywiBqr-_q?domain=afghancoalition.org/) can provide early Intervention and prevention mental health services, community and social support, job seeking assistance, and other services to undocumented Afghan individuals and families.
* **Partnerships for Trauma Recovery:**[Partnerships for Trauma Recovery](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/3DAhCM8XDLf2EAMkFwJ9nAI?domain=traumapartners.org/) offers mental health care and support for refugees, asylees, asylum seekers, and human trafficking survivors.
* **Family Resource Navigators:**[Family Resource Navigators](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/IUP9CNkGDMtZvGDPumRKGeq?domain=familyresourcenavigators.org/) is helping undocumented Afghans to navigate the system, connect to other Afghans, and use tools to identify if their children are at risk (developmental delays or disability).
* **East Bay Agency for Children:**East Bay Agency for Children (EBAC) [Fremont Healthy Start](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/XvH6COYGlNhNqyzZSEPZGuK?domain=ebac.org) program offers Family Resource Specialists, including speakers of Dari and Pashto, to help local families access the support services available to them so their children and families can thrive.
* **UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital List of Afghan Community Resources:**The UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital provides this list of additional [Afghan Community Resources](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/cjpVCPNGmOU0yk8NuzrpGc2?domain=immigrantchild.ucsf.edu).

*San Diego Region:*

* **Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans:**[Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans (PANA)](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/cTFdCQWXJPsXzyMlix9Ya9r?domain=panasd.org) focuses on civic engagement, advocacy, and policy change to support newcomers, as well as some case management.
* **License to Freedom:** [License to Freedom](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/INL8CR6XYQCG7zj0i90qDK_?domain=licensetofreedom.org) is providing legal advocacy and mental health services to the Afghan community.
* **Somali Family Services:**[Somali Family Services (SFS)](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/Rnr1CVOWpXc2ORNkFGrJfLt?domain=somalifamilyservice.org) is a community-based social service organization that provides culturally and linguistically appropriate programs and services to refugee and immigrant communities of San Diego, including the Afghan population.
* **Immigration Justice Project:** [Immigration Justice Project (IJP)](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/YPZvCW61OYC6lWRXf6BCRHj?domain=bing.com) in San Diego is the main organization that provides support for Afghans being held in detention in San Diego.