

Doras stands in solidarity with Afghan community & urges Ireland to take immediate action on family reunification

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Doras calls on the Government to ensure that families can be reunited in Ireland by taking a flexible and inclusive approach to processing visa applications and by quickly establishing a temporary humanitarian admissions programme for Afghan nationals. We stand in solidarity with the Afghan community, and we remain available to all who require support and assistance.

Doras has been inundated with calls from Afghan nationals living in Ireland and beyond who are seeking information and support with immigration, family reunification and visa applications.

John Lannon, CEO of Doras said: *“The Afghan community in Limerick is well established and Afghan nationals represent the largest group of Doras service-users. Doras hears the frustration and heartbreak that people are enduring and we stand in solidarity with all who are affected by this humanitarian crisis.”*

“Ireland has a restrictive family reunification policy that is currently keeping many Afghan families separated. Doras calls on the Government to take swift action to enable people to apply for their family members to join them in Ireland.”

Doras has written to the Government calling for flexible and inclusive approaches to processing visa applications, as well as the establishment of a new Humanitarian Admissions Programme, to which the Government has recently committed.

Lannon added: *“We cannot overstate the urgency to realise this commitment to establish a temporary humanitarian admissions programme for Afghan nationals, which would enable people to be reunited with their families. We need clarity on the eligibility criteria and for the application process to be quickly commenced.”*

“Doras is aware of visa applications being refused for family members of Afghan nationals in Ireland, with no flexibility or regard for the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, which is incredibly unfair. The Irish-Afghan community, who are going through immense pain and heartbreak, need safe and legal pathways to bring their families here as quickly as possible. We must do everything we can to ensure that families have opportunities to be reunited in Ireland.”

Ireland's leadership is also vitally important in the EU, where we are now witnessing a worrying response to refugee protection. We call on the Government to continue to be a positive force, leading by example and encouraging EU member states to respond appropriately and compassionately to the unfolding crisis in Afghanistan.

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