



Tuesday, August 17, 2021

Content Warning: Mention of death, terrorism, war, and violence.

Statement on Recent Attacks in Afghanistan

There has been a rampant increase of mass destruction and violence in Afghanistan, following the withdrawal of United States (US) forces. Over the last few decades, Afghanistan has been negatively impacted by a long lasting proxy war, terrorism, and US imperialism. Afghan women and children have faced the brunt of the violence ensued by US forces, North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) allies and the Taliban. In the last few months, Taliban forces have captured all major districts and cities in Afghanistan; this has led to increased internal displacement, extreme damage to existing infrastructure, and a downward spiraling of public health systems coupled with a major pandemic.

Since the beginning of 2021, more than 400,000 Afghans were forced to leave their homes, adding to the 2.9 million Afghans already displaced internally across the country. We are reminded yet again that US imperialism and occupation overseas has detrimental impacts. External forces who recognize the Taliban as the official head of state are making an inherently violent decision against Afghans' democratic rights.

The University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union (UTMSU) would like to extend its full support and reaffirm its solidarity to the people of Afghanistan, on and off campus, who have faced various forms of oppression, displacement, and pain. The University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union (UTMSU) and Afghan Students' Association UTM (ASA) would like to make a donation of \$500.00 to support internally displaced Afghan families.

The UTMSU understands how difficult this time is and encourages all students and community allies to actively support the Afghan community by educating yourself, your communities, and amplifying the Afghan voices. Here are some additional actions you can take:

Donate:

- https://www.launchgood.com/campaign/afghanistan_is_under_a_state_of_emergency
- <https://childrenwithoutborders.ca>
- <https://www.islamicreliefcanada.org/emergencies/afghanistan-emergency/>

Volunteer:

- <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/refugees/afghanistan/volunteer-donate.html>

Sign Petitions:

- <https://saveafghanistan.good.do/contact/mp/>



- <https://www.change.org/p/uk-parliament-protect-the-freedom-and-safety-of-afghan-women-and-girls>

Read:

- Kite Runner
- Above Us The Milky Way
- Hard Damage
- Afghanistan in the age of Empires
- A Thousand Rooms of Dreams
- 99 Nights in Logar
- Sher
- No Good Men Among the Living
- The storyteller's Daughter
- The Pearl that Broke Its Shell
- A Thousand Splendid Suns

In solidarity,

Afghan Students' Association (ASA)
University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union (UTMSU)

For additional support and resources please contact Tarwah Afrah at vpcampuslife@utmsu.ca.