

# Philadelphia's Response to the Afghan Humanitarian Crisis: *Presentation to the Philanthropy Network*

---



# Setting the Stage

---



Yalda receiving recognition in Kabul.



Yalda wearing borka at Herat Project.

# Key Immigration Statuses

---

**Special Immigrant Visa (SIV)** - Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) holders have the right to enter and remain permanently in the US, as recompense for having served the US government in Afghanistan, or having served US military in a particular capacity, for at least 1 year.

**Humanitarian parolees** have been “granted permission to enter the US for humanitarian or public interest reasons.” Humanitarian parole has been extended to SIV applicants who have not yet been approved. If successful in their applications, this group will have met the same criteria as SIV holders. Importantly, the Department of Homeland Security “may revoke” parolee status “at any time,” and a parolee “does not qualify as a refugee.” Humanitarian parole is not a legal status, but rather provides for lawful entry. Humanitarian parole for Afghans will last for up to 2 years.

**Priority 2 refugee status** has been issued to Afghans who served the US effort but do not qualify for SIV’s. This group includes Afghan allies who served less than 1 year, or worked for US-related NGO’s.

*Presented by: Cathryn Miller-Wilson, Executive Director, HIAS PA*

# Available Benefits and Supports

---

## REFUGEE

*Basic Needs:* Eligible for benefits and services including food stamps (SNAP) and other federal benefits

*Medical:* Access to Medicaid or Refugee Medical Assistance

*Legal:* Eligible to apply for lawful permanent resident status after one year

*Employment:* Work authorized; eligible for Office of Refugee Resettlement funded programs to support initial employment

## PAROLEE

*Basic Needs:* Not eligible for federal benefits and services; state option to provide support

*Medical:* Access to coverage through Pennie (ACA); costs for deductibles and co-pays

*Legal:* Must apply for permanent immigration relief (asylum, other)

*Employment:* Eligible for work authorization; not eligible for any current workforce programs

# How You Can Help

---

**Amplify Welcome:** Fund NSC and HIAS PA's efforts to provide welcome. These funds will be used to furnish houses and apartments, cover rent payments, offset grocery costs, buy public transit cards, and provide needed supports related to the direct care of clients.

**Support Legal Remedies:** Support immigration legal representation for asylum applications, applications for humanitarian parole, adjustment of status and other needs.

**Fortify Infrastructure:** Keeping NSC and HIAS PA strong resilient and ready to serve through this crisis and the next.

# Thank You

---

Margaret O'Sullivan

Executive Director

Nationalities Service Center

[mosullivan@nscphila.org](mailto:mosullivan@nscphila.org)

[www.nscphila.org](http://www.nscphila.org)

610-888-4073

Cathryn Miller-Wilson, Esq.

Executive Director

HIAS Pennsylvania

[cmillerwilson@hiaspa.org](mailto:cmillerwilson@hiaspa.org)

[www.hiaspa.org](http://www.hiaspa.org)

215-832-0927