

Resolution of the Church Synod of the Protestant Church in Hesse and Nassau Afghanistan: Help for and reception of refugees are the order of the day.

The developments in and around Afghanistan frighten and terrify us. Following the Taliban takeover and the completion of evacuations by Western military forces at the end of August, countless people are left in acute danger: including local staff who worked for Western alliance military forces or their subcontractors, employees of development organizations and Afghans who have helped to build a democratic state based on the rule of law, worked for equal rights for women and human rights.

Keeping open or opening up escape routes to and via Afghanistan's neighboring states remains a high priority in this situation. This requires humanitarian aid, currently mainly through the United Nations, and reliable support for refugee reception in the region. But it also needs commitments to take in refugees from the region in Europe.

In addition to the continued need to work for the safe departure of local and vulnerable, humanitarian assistance in Afghanistan and support for refugee reception in neighboring countries, the Synod of the EKHN appeals to the Federal Government,

- to provide a quota for the resettlement of Afghan refugees in need of special protection;
- to support the federal states and municipalities that have spoken out in favor of resettlement programs or have already decided to implement them to support them in doing so;
- establish humanitarian admission programs that allow more families to take in their relatives;
- to facilitate and accelerate the administrative process of family reunification.

The Synod of the EKHN requests the state governments in Rhineland-Palatinate and Hesse,

- to offer Afghans already living in Germany a secure residence perspective and to quickly grant family members the right to join them;
- to transfer Afghans living here as well as new arrivals quickly from the initial reception centers to the municipalities and to provide access to the necessary psychosocial support.

We assume that it will be necessary to take in an estimated 50,000 local staff and about 20,000 to 30,000 more people in need of protection this year. This would mean that even the upper limit described by the Federal Government would not be reached.

In the EKHN, many congregations are prepared to support and accompany the integration of refugees from Afghanistan.

During their 12th session On 11th of September 2021 the delegates of the 12th Synod of EKHN accepted the resolution with a high majority of 111 votes out of 117.