



Canadian Association of University Teachers
Association canadienne des professeures et professeurs d'université

Memorandum 21:70

Date: November 30, 2021

To: Presidents and Administrative Officers;
Local, Provincial and Federated Associations

From: David Robinson, Executive Director

Re: **Urgent Appeal: CAUT Refugee Foundation and Afghanistan**

The current humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan has prompted the Executive Committee to reactivate the CAUT Refugee Foundation. The Foundation was initially created in the 1970s to offer support to refugees fleeing Vietnam for Canada. The Foundation is a registered charity with the Canada Revenue Agency, allowing it to issue tax receipts.

The Executive Committee is encouraging academic staff associations and their members to donate to the Foundation to support refugee relief and resettlement efforts for at-risk Afghan academic and human rights refugees.

As the Taliban moves swiftly to target activists, journalists, civil society leaders, and academics – with women, ethnic and religious minorities, and those from the LGBTQ community most at risk – hundreds upon hundreds of fellow scholars, trade unionists, and human rights defenders are at imminent risk of persecution and death.

CAUT continues to liaise with the federal government, [Education International](#), and [Scholars at Risk](#) to monitor the situation and identify areas for support.

Online donations can be made through Canada Helps [here](#). Cheques can be made to the order of the CAUT Refugee Foundation and sent to:

CAUT Refugee Foundation
2705 Queensview Drive
Ottawa, Ontario
K2B 8K2

Please share our appeal for funds widely among your members and networks. If you have any questions, or wish to engage more on this issue, please contact Justine De Jaegher, Director of Political Action & Communications, at dejaegher@caut.ca.