



Toowoomba Muslim Newsletter

Vol 2, Issue 8, Sept 2021



Solidarity gathering for Afghan people

Muslims in Toowoomba organised a solidarity gathering of the community in support of the people of Afghanistan. A large number of members of Toowoomba community joined the gathering to support the oppressed people of Afghanistan at the Toowoomba Mosque at 3:00pm on Sunday, 22 August 2021.

Alhamdulillah, many members of the wider community joined the Muslims in the Toowoomba Mosque to express their support and sympathy for the oppressed people of Afghanistan. We explained Islamic position on women and how Prophet Muhammad SWS returned good behaviour in response to abuse and misbehaviour. Among the speakers were Catholic Bishop Robert McGuckin, Dr Mark Copland, Ms Gen Allpass, Sq George Helon, Mr Phil Armit, and from the local Afghans Dr Ataullah Shinwarie, Mr Nasir Haiderzai, and Ms Bibi Zainab Khagyani. Apologies were received from Hon Garth Hamilton MP, Federal Member for Groom (Toowoomba); Professor Geraldine Mackenzie, Vice Chancellor of University of Southern Queensland; and Hon David Janetzki MP, State Member for Toowoomba South.

At the end everyone joined the duwa/supPLICATION led by Professor Shahjahan Khan. May Allah respond to the verse of the Qur'an below reflecting the urge of the people of Afghanistan: An-Nisa (The Women) - 4:75

الظَّالِمُونَ هُذُهُ مِنْ أَحْرَجْنَا رَبَّنَا يَقُولُونَ الَّذِينَ وَالْأُلْدَانَ وَالنِّسَاءَ الرَّجَالَ مِنْ وَالْمُسْتَضْعَفِينَ اللَّهُ سَيِّلَ فِي تُقَاتُلُونَ لَا لَكُمْ وَمَا نَصِيرُ إِلَّا لَنَاكَ مِنْ أَنَا وَاجْعَلْ وَلِيًّا لَنَاكَ مِنْ أَنَا وَاجْعَلْ أَهْنَا

And how could you refuse to fight in the cause of God and of the utterly helpless men and women and children who are crying, "O our Sustainer! Lead us forth [to freedom] out of this land whose people are oppressors, and raise for us, out of Thy grace, a protector, and raise for us, out of Thy grace, one who will bring us succour!"

The meeting endorsed an application of a Toowoomba resident Mr Phil Armit to the Prime Minister and other relevant Ministers of Australia asking the following:

We the undersigned citizens of Toowoomba, call on the government to

- intensify its efforts to evacuate Australian citizens and Afghans who have worked for Australia as direct employees or as contractors, who, as a result of their association face a clear risk to their safety;
- broaden its rescue efforts to include people who face certain persecution and probable death at the hands of the Taliban because they belong to an ethnic minority; and

- approach the new Afghan government to seek negotiations to effect on-going evacuation of these at-risk people

As citizens of a city which has a strong record of resettling refugees, we also ask that

- the government provide, as a matter of urgency, opportunities for all Afghans who are already living in Australia to bring their families here to join them.

In the past when the world was confronted by such crises, we acted swiftly and decisively to bring humanitarian refugees to Australia. We did the right and honourable thing at those times and Toowoomba more than played its part. We ask you to do the same at this crucial moment in history.



Mr Nasir Haiderzai and Ms Bibi Zainab Khagyani



Bishop Robert McGuckin and Sq George Helon



Part of the audience



Dr Ataullah Shinwarie and Prof S Khan



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Afghanistan on Channel 7 News

President of Islamic Society of Toowoomba, Professor Shahjahan Khan appeared on the Channel 7 News on 17 August 2021 expressing his support for the people of Afghanistan and asking Australian Government to help Afghan refugees and increase humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan.

https://twitter.com/7newstoowoomba/status/1427544752635867137?s=21&fbclid=IwAR17ty4N6wH3zd_dI-VZX6UtoRJYfFxN4cAi1elbvqcmFu5bDfzKkEqBzU

Fundraising for Afghanistan

Islamic Society of Toowoomba launched an appeal to correct donations in support of the people of Afghanistan. A total of \$2320.00 were received from various donors from non-Muslims and Muslims in Toowoomba. The money has been sent to Afghanistan via Islamic Relief Australia who are working on the ground with two offices there. May Allah accept the charity and reward them with the best in both worlds, and make it beneficial to the most oppressed people of Afghanistan.

While reconstruction of burnt Toowoomba Mosque needs more money to complete the project, we believe that we also have priority obligation to serve the weak and oppressed people. Our community has shown support for many humanitarian and welfare causes in the past as part of our commitment to humanity at large.

Interested people could still contribute to the appeal via direct debit to the Commonwealth Bank Account of Islamic Society of Toowoomba (BSB: 064459 A/C: 1000 3579, ref: Afghan Support).

Shahada of Sr Tina

Alhamdulillah, we have a new revert Muslim who took Shahadah in Toowoomba Masjid on Saturday, 21 August 2021 in the presence of Associate Professor Mainul Islam, Eng Waqar Butt and Br Nedzad Izmirlic among others. Professor Khan welcomed Toowoomba woman Sister Tina to the community of Muslims in Toowoomba and as a member of the global Ummah. Please make duwa for her so that Allah make it easy for her to become a good Muslim and bless her with successes in both worlds.



Call for quotations for Mosque's carparking

As the reconstruction of Toowoomba Mosque moves to the Final Stage, we are looking for quotations from the interested parties for 42 sealed carparks, two driveways, retaining walls etc. If you are interested in the job or you know anyone who may be interested in submitting quotations, please contact the Project Coordinator, Eng Waqar Butt by emailing on wbutt123@gmail.com

Rainwater tank and stormwater management

Plumber has installed 22,500 litres underground rainwater tank for Toowoomba Mosque. This will minimise the use of town water as part of our plan to make the Mosque environmentally sustainable. A large size manhole has also been placed for stormwater management of the property.



22,500 litres underground rainwater tank



Manhole for stormwater management

Skirting work finished

Br Muhidin Hadzich and Br Nur Abdulrahman have completed skirting job of the new Mosque building. Like other works completed by the two brothers, this job will be done for free, and the Mosque will only have to pay for the material cost. Thus the community will save significant amount of money for the rebuilding project Inshaa Allah.

They are also planning to put the railing on the stairs for the mezzanine level for women prayer area soon.



New skirting at the new Mosque building



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Cleaning of old swimming pool

On Sunday, 8 August the volunteers were able to clean the old decommissioned swimming pool in the Mosque property and remove all the rubbish to make room for new carparking for the Mosque. Jazak Allah Khair to the hardworking volunteers who did a great job to help our Masjid and save thousands of dollars for the community. We were very impressed by the dedication of young Muslims to work for the house of Allah.



Chronicle story on Afghanistan

<https://www.thechronicle.com.au/news/toowoomba/toowoomba-unites-to-help-afghan-families-fleeing-the-taliban/news-story/3d1e3dd72df69a0b6dfad5b9b50690f0>

Toowoomba unites to help Afghan families fleeing the Taliban

Images of desperate refugees flooding the Kabul Airport play on repeat on the television, but a small group of Toowoomba residents have decided to act, to help families in the Taliban's firing line.



Michael Nolan

August 17, 2021 - 10:40AM

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Toowoomba Chronicle

Thousands of Afghans rush to the Hamid Karzai International Airport as they try to flee the Afghan capital of Kabul, Afghanistan, on August 16, 2021. (Photo by Haroon Sabawoon/Anadolu Agency via Getty Images)



As the world comes to grips with the frantic scenes of Afghan families fleeing ahead of the Taliban's advance, the Toowoomba Muslim community wants to help.

Islamic Society president Professor Shahjahan Khan has launched an appeal and asked the wider community to contribute.

"Within the community we are talking with our brothers and sisters who are still in Afghanistan to offer our sympathy and support," he said.

Part of the money raised through the appeal will go to international aid organisations, like the Red Crescent, to provide emergency food, shelter and medicine within Afghanistan. The rest will be distributed to Afghan refugees living in Toowoomba so they can send it directly to their families back home.

"They are very shocked that it all fell apart so quickly," Prof Khan said.

"They are worried because their families are not leaving their homes for fear of being attacked or having their homes looted."

"They can still communicate with their relatives in Afghanistan so they are very stressed."

Professor Dr Shahjahan Khan has launched an appeal to support families fleeing the advance of Afghan forces.

Afghanistan has descended into chaos after the US, Australian and coalition forces started their withdrawal from the country in March. This led to the rapid advance of





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Taliban forces who claimed the capital – Kabul – at the weekend. It signalled a despairing end to the 20 year occupation that was launched to oust the repressive government.

Prof Khan said there was a series of failings that led to the humanitarian crisis

"We were hoping something would happen in Qatar peace talks, for a peaceful transition of power but it is very unfortunate that this did not happen," he said.

"Then the president (Ashraf Ghani) left the country and that was another unexpected thing."



"I would have thought the government would work with the Taliban to rebuild Afghanistan."

A volunteer helps an injured man along a road near the Kabul airport in Kabul on August 16, 2021, after a stunningly swift end to Afghanistan's 20-year war, as thousands of people mobbed the city's airport trying to flee the group's feared hard line brand of Islamist rule. (Photo by Wakil Kohsar / AFP). Afghans have suffered through more than 50 years of conflict that started with the Soviet Invasion in 1979. Prof Khan said he held out slim hope that the Afghan people could finally find peace.

"In this chaos we have seen many people lose their lives but we have not seen any large scale massacres," he said

"The people within the Taliban who have the upper hand appear to have the respect for life, they appear to be respecting the lives of their people."

"We hope that will further strengthen their position as future leaders of their country."

How you can help

Islamic Society of Toowoomba is collecting donations to help the people of Afghanistan. Transfer your contribution to the Commonwealth Bank Account of Islamic Society of Toowoomba (BSB: 064459 A/C: 1000 3579, ref: Afghan Support)

We ask everyone to offer special prayers individually and collectively in the places of worship, especially in the Mosques on Friday, for the people of Afghanistan," Prof Khan said.

Islamic Society of Toowoomba will host a public gathering at the Toowoomba Mosque, 3pm on Sunday to express our solidarity and support for our brothers and sisters in Afghanistan. Everyone is welcome.

Toowoomba Mosque Madrasa and Language Class Timetable

The classes on Islam and Basic Arabic are held from 4:00pm until after Magrib (40 minutes each lesson) every week from Monday to Thursday. For details, please contact Br Abdu Mohamed on 0469026540.

The Arabic Language classes are held from 4:00pm on every Friday and Saturday. For details, please contact Br Omar AlSakit on 0434284241.

Bangla Language classes are held on Saturdays at 11:00am. For details, please contact Br Kabir Ahmad on 0424591316.

Community Services

- Halal Meat Delivery – Contact Br Murad on 04 0669 1749
- Toowoomba Police Contact Officer Tony Rehn 04 1269 7555
- 1800 RESPECT www.1800respect.org.au
Support for people impacted by sexual assault, domestic or family violence and abuse. Interpreter 13 14 50
- Business advertisement contact: Shahjahan.Khan@usq.edu.au

Communication with Mosque via Technology

Sharing your story:	Shahjahan.Khan@usq.edu.au (If you have a story to be included in the Muslim Community Newsletter please contact Prof Shahjahan Khan)
General contact email:	admin@toowombamosque.com.au
Website:	www.toowombamosque.com.au
Facebook:	www.facebook.com/ToowoombaMosque
WhatsApp:	Toowoomba Mosque Matters / MSA Toowoomba
Madrasah:	via Zoom, Meeting ID: 379 889 2083