

Dear Senators,

In the past month each day I have been mindful of all the people of Afghanistan and how their lives have changed so dramatically. I respectfully request that in the coming days your leadership positions in our Senate will indeed give a true voice to these good people, especially those our country relied upon often in the past 20 years. I remember well as a small child, in post WW11 years how my parents opted to host in our home, people from all parts of Eastern Europe who we displaced persons and my parents taught us to welcome these people and help them to share in our good life..... and we were a family of seven children at the time, but we gained so much from these people and their customs, foods, and way of life. The Immigration Dept of the Commonwealth, post War suggested this program to the Australian people, as Immigrants were coming into us by ship loads, and many families all around Australia took it up....it was a generous and free gesture from which we gained and the new folk gained, a win, win!! all round.

I am not suggesting we replicate this in exactly this form but I do ask that we do open our land more freely and invite the Afghanistan people to a new start with us. We have much to share and as in the past, our lives will be the richer for the welcome.....let's be generous, very generous.

Yours sincerely,
Mary Broderick.