*On 7 September the Taliban announced a new government for Afghanistan, reiterating their intention to rule according to sharia (Islamic law). As converts from Islam, Christians who remain in Afghanistan are at risk of being executed for apostasy. Barnabas Fund has helped hundreds of Afghan Christians to flee the immediate danger – but now they need somewhere to settle and rebuild their lives.*

*Could you write to your MP asking the government to allow persecuted Afghan Christians to settle here in New Zealand?*

*It is more effective to send a letter written in your own words – it should be polite but it does not need to be long. If you prefer, however, you can download this letter and insert your name and address and your MP’s name.*

[Your address]

[Name here] MP

Parliament Buildings

Private Bag 18041

Wellington 6160

New Zealand

dd / mm/ 2021

Dear Mr / Mrs / Ms / etc

**Dangers facing Afghan Christians**

I am writing about the ongoing situation in Afghanistan, where the Taliban is now in effective control of the country. While the return of the Taliban to power threatens the safety and wellbeing of all Afghan people, Christians have particular reason to be fearful.

The Taliban has announced that it intends to rule Afghanistan by sharia (Islamic law), and also that Christians must convert back to Islam, leave Afghanistan, or be killed. Afghan Christians are converts from Islam and their children – it is certain therefore that the Taliban will execute them, in accordance with sharia. There have been reports of Taliban fighters searching people’s phones to check for Bible apps and other Christian content.

There are thought to have been about 5,000 Afghan Christians in the country when the Taliban took over Afghanistan. Some hundreds of individuals have recently escaped into neighbouring countries, but all of them need a permanent place of security.

Christian NGO Barnabas Fund is in direct contact with many hundreds of Afghan Christian families. They are supporting the living costs of Christians in hiding in Afghanistan as well as the living costs of Christians who have recently escaped to neighbouring countries. They are also funding flights for Christians to travel from the region to safer countries and will need to fund them for a period as they

settle into their new safe countries.

May I ask you to write to Kris Faafoi MP, the Minister of Justice, and Phil Twyford, the Associate Minister of Immigration, urging him to allow some Afghan Christians, as a vulnerable minority, to be given safe refuge here. Please also raise this matter in Parliament at the earliest opportunity. I would be grateful if you could write back to update me on this situation and the minister’s reply.

Yours sincerely,

[Your name]