



## Letter to the Agudas Community

September 1, 2021

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"In a place where there are no upstanders, strive to be an upstander."

*-Ethics of our Sages 2:5*

"We have a moral obligation to help those who helped us."

*-Lloyd Austin, Secretary of Defense*

AAC Family,

We are all shocked by the images we see coming out of Afghanistan where our military has bravely risked their lives to evacuate as many American citizens and Afghans as possible. Many of you have reached out to the Board and the Social Action Committee to ask how you can help.

As this dynamic situation unfolds and we obtain a clearer picture of what options will be available in our community, AAC is determined to take meaningful action to support those who have supported our country over the last 20 years of conflict in Afghanistan. To that end, the Social Action Committee has created a steering committee, chaired by Ben Kraut and Gabriela Tannenbaum, to organize and streamline our congregational effort.

In the coming days, we will be updating the congregation on short- and longer-term initiatives to support the incoming refugees from Afghanistan. This may include furnishing an apartment and possibly providing longer-term assistance to a specific family or families.

In the meantime, a number of organizations are responding to the immediate needs of refugees arriving each day. Please consider supporting one or more initiatives, which will be noted on our new webpage. Keep an eye on this webpage which will be updated soon: [www.agudasachim-va.org/refugee.html](http://www.agudasachim-va.org/refugee.html)

Sincerely,

[Ben Kraut](#)