

23 July 2021

Senator the Hon Marise Payne  
Minister for Foreign Affairs  
PO Box 1420  
PARRAMATTA NSW 2150

By email: [senator.payne@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.payne@aph.gov.au)

Dear Minister,

**RE: Translators for Australia in Afghanistan**

The Council for Civil Liberties is aware of and applauds the efforts that the Government is making to rescue translators and others that were employed by Australia in Afghanistan before the Taliban can get to them and their families. We are disturbed, however, by comments from you and others that those who worked through subcontractors (and so not directly by Australia) are not eligible for our support.

We are even more disturbed by the remarks by the Prime Minister that the Government is following rules drawn up by the previous Labor Government. Such an attempt to shift responsibility for leaving people to be killed for helping our soldiers is distressing.

I am writing to urge you to change your approach; to join those who are pressing for all those who assisted to be rescued, and for that to be done without long delays checking on health, security and character. Security matters are one thing, but in the current circumstances where time is of the essence for the preservation of human life, lengthy checks on health and concerns about character are inappropriate. The rules of the past were not made for a situation like this.

Yours sincerely,



Pauline Wright  
President  
NSW Council for Civil Liberties