

Extracts from Full Report

Afghan Citizens' Resettlement Scheme (ACRS): Emerging Trends

The report "[Still Waiting: The Afghans Abandoned by the UK](#)" from the Afghan Pro Bono Initiative (APBI) provides a critical examination of the UK Government's failure to fully deliver on its promises under the ACRS. Despite the scheme's aim to protect vulnerable Afghans, many remain stranded, unable to reunite with their families or find clarity on resettlement. The implementation of Pathway 3 and confusion over family reunion have caused significant difficulties.

Uncertain Future for Pathway 3

While the first phase is [complete](#), it is currently estimated that more than [200 people](#) who are eligible under Pathway 3 are waiting for relocation in Pakistan where Afghans face hostility from the Pakistani authorities. A second phase is promised, but there is no clear timeline or plan for expansion.

Urgent Need for Family Reunion Route

A [Ministerial Statement](#) in September 2023 recommended a pathway for reuniting parents with children under 18, but implementation was delayed for nearly a year. This left vulnerable children to survive alone after separation from their families. The UK Government recently announced [ACRS Pathway 1 Stage 2: Separated Families](#) and the window to make a referral for those who are eligible ends on 30 October 2024.



A homeless woman sat in a rainy street. Pol Shokhta Street, Kabul Afghanistan (2022).
Photo Credit: ©Kayhan

These issues are leaving thousands of Afghans abandoned; the full details of these findings are explored further in the report. Scan the QR Code below or click [here](#) to access the full report.

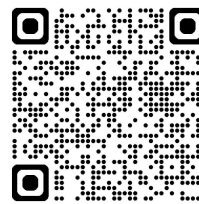
*“It was unclear when we published our report, **Two Years of Empty Promises**, last year what the official advice was for the non-refugee arrivals under Pathway 3 who wanted to bring over additional family members. The Government has since clarified that applicants under Pathway 3 should use Appendix FM for family reunion.*

*Appendix FM has a newly increased **gross salary requirement** of £29,000 per year. Given that the minimum wage for those over 21 in the UK is just £11.44 per hour, it is very unlikely that many recently arrived Afghans will be able to satisfy this requirement. Once again, there is now a mismatch between the routes available under the different Pathways. Harmonising and streamlining the family reunion options for those who arrived under ACRS would go some way to make the system more clear and effective.” (pg27 of the Report)*

“This recommendation of Appendix FM is an oversight in policy making and does not work as a suitable alternative. Appendix FM is an immigration family reunion route and has no regard for the protection reasons that underpin why Afghans are relocated to the UK under ACRS.”

- APBI Supervising Lawyer

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Colourful traditional-style houses on a mountain. Kabul, Afghanistan (2023). Photo Credit: ©Kayhan.