**DRAFT LETTER ….. for use by WILPF members to lobby their local MPs & Senators**

Example for addressee

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| Ms Alicia Payne MPMember for CanberraParliament HouseCanberra ACT 2600Alicia.Payne.MP@aph.gov.au | Senator Katy Gallagher Senator for the Australian Capital TerritoryParliament HouseCanberra ACT 2600senator.katy.gallagher@aph.gov.au |

Dear xxxx

**Calling on the Australian Government and Parliamentarians to Stand in Solidarity with the Afghan People**

I write to you as a member of your electorate (or to you as a Senator for [state/territory] to express my grave concerns over the tragic situation unfolding in Afghanistan right now. Afghanistan is on the brink of a humanitarian crisis.

As a member of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), the oldest women’s peace organisation in the world, and a steadfast supporter of human rights, I am gravely concerned for the well-being and safety of all Afghans, especially women human rights defenders, journalists, and others who are specifically targeted for their work and identity.

Many of these women are known to and have worked closely with the Australian government and Australian organisations, in aiding the people of Afghanistan. As Australians, I believe we all have a responsibility to stand with Afghan citizens by providing protection, support, and shelter to those who are likely to be persecuted by the new regime.

Australia's aid program in Afghanistan has been significantly dedicated to ending violence against women.  Now, the Afghan women who have worked alongside Australian government officials in delivering these programs are in grave danger. As I watch daily news reports of the government’s emergency mission to evacuate Australian citizens and diplomats from Kabul, I can’t help but question where are the women? the women who delivered our Aid program; the women who put their lives at risk to defend human rights for all Afghan women and girls.

I commend the Australian Government’s recent efforts to protect and grant visas to Afghan interpreters and locally engaged employees of the Australian mission in Afghanistan. However, more needs to be done. As a constituent, I am writing to urge you and your fellow Parliamentarians to add to those efforts. Specifically, I urge you to voice your support for the expedited safe passage and asylum for the Afghan women human rights defenders, and others whose lives are at immediate risk. They and their dependents need to be given priority in the issuance of refugee visas.

As an advocate for peace and security, I look to the Australian government to uphold its international human rights obligations, including ensuring safe asylum for all Afghans who have worked ceaselessly over the past 20 years to better human rights for their fellow citizens.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely

Name:

Address:

Phone number:

Date: