

# Leader's Column

October-November 2021

The tragic scenes we have witnessed in Afghanistan over the last couple of months have been truly horrendous. We have been both shocked and appalled by events as thousands flee for their lives.

Most terrifying, is the risk and uncertainty the takeover of the country by the new regime brings to the future of many millions.

It's been particularly heart-breaking to hear and see the desperation felt by many, particularly women, girls, LGBT+ people, civil rights activists and those who have worked alongside Britain and other NATO countries as their rights and lives come under threat.

Haringey has an incredibly proud history of being a place that welcomes people from all over the world who have chosen to make our communities their home. Migrants enrich our borough and our daily lives.

We continue to send a message of solidarity to all those affected, including Haringey residents who are concerned for friends and family in Afghanistan.

I have met with several members of the Afghan community to give them my personal reassurance that they are welcome in our borough, and I ask our residents to show compassion and kindness to those fleeing this tragedy.

In these very worrying times, we want our friends and neighbours to know that we stand with them and share their pain.

It is easy to feel powerless in these situations but there are practical things that we can do play a small part in finding solutions.

In line with our values, we will proudly play our part in settling some of those families here in our borough. We have already committed to welcoming eight families under the government's resettlement schemes.

We have developed a support package that includes furnished accommodation, as well as access to services such as benefits, finding employment, mental health support and provision of childcare and education.

We stand ready, and have the skills and desire in our borough, to do more if we are sure that the necessary resources will be made available to support us.

Finally, October is Black History Month, an important opportunity to recognise the tremendous contribution black people have made, and continue to make, to our community, our city and our nation. I'm proud that we continue to celebrate this part of our collective legacy.

This month, we are delivering an extensive range of events, activities and much more to promote knowledge and understanding of our rich black heritage and culture, and to demonstrate our commitment to equality, diversity, and inclusion.

Keep an eye on @haringeycouncil on Twitter and our Facebook pages for a range of content during Black History Month, or [check our listings on the website](#).

**Cllr Peray Ahmet**  
**Leader, Haringey Council**

## Contact details

Councillor Ahmet's ward surgery and contact details are shown on her [councillor web page](#).

