

# Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon

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## *Media Release*

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### **Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon statement on the developments in Afghanistan, reception of refugees in Oregon**

As we join the Afghan community in Oregon in monitoring the dramatic developments in Afghanistan, we echo the message of the World Council of Churches and faith communities throughout the world for the Taliban to respect the dignity and rights of all people and to ensure the safety and security of all Afghani people, including those who are fleeing the country in fear of violence, oppression and persecution.

In recent years, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees (SOAR) has relocated and supported hundreds of Afghani families who fled armed conflict, disruption of their daily lives and displacement.

We recognize the urgency for a wider humanitarian response to all people wishing to leave that country, and we remain poised with our faith community and resettlement partners to receive them here.

*Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon is a statewide association of faith partners working together to improve the lives of Oregonians through direct service programs, ecumenical and interreligious dialogue, creation justice and public policy advocacy.*