



Forced Deportations Of Afghan Migrants From Iran And Pakistan

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I. Abstract

Forced expulsion of Afghan people from Iran and Pakistan has emerged as a critical humanitarian issue with far-reaching consequences. This article delves into the many facets of this dilemma, offering light on the motivations for deportations, the legal frameworks involved, and the socioeconomic ramifications for impacted individuals and their home nation. The deportation of Afghan migrants is a complicated and long-standing issue. Afghan refugees and migrants have long sought asylum in Iran and Pakistan as a result of violence, instability, and economic hardship in Afghanistan. Recent geopolitical upheavals and internal concerns, however, have resulted in an upsurge in deportations. This article delves into the geopolitical context, examining the political dynamics that influence these decisions, such as strained international relations, security concerns, and internal political pressures, Iran's and Pakistan's economic downturns, and the rise of anti-immigrant sentiment in both countries.

The socioeconomic impact on deported individuals and Afghanistan as a whole is investigated. The influx of Afghan people affects the country's already precarious infrastructure and resources. A comparison of the measures used by Iran and Pakistan in dealing with Afghan refugees sheds light on the differences between the two nations. Understanding the differences in their policies and practises reveals potential paths to more compassionate and sustainable solutions. The international world has been sluggish to respond to Afghan migrants' forcible expulsion. There has been considerable criticism of Iran and Pakistan for their treatment of Afghan migrants, but little actual action has been taken to alleviate the problem also There is a tendency in Pakistan to take advantage of the refugees from Afghanistan, and this tendency may be abused. How can we stop this negative trend?

The purpose of this article is to provide a full knowledge of the forcible expulsion of Afghans from Iran and Pakistan. It strives to create educated debates on the humanitarian repercussions of such measures and advocate for more humane and rights-based approaches to refugee and migrant challenges in the area by exploring the geopolitical, legal, and socioeconomic components.

II. Key words: Forced deportation, Afghan migrants, Iran, Pakistan, and international human rights legislation are some of the terms used to describe this situation.

III. Introduction

Millions of Afghans were compelled to flee their country and take asylum in neighbouring countries as a result of decades of civil conflict and grave violations of their human rights. Because of their terrible living conditions, more than 8.2 million Afghans have left their nation since the Soviet Union invaded it in 1979. A major migration of people to neighbouring countries, mainly Pakistan and Iran, where they live in fear of deportation, is caused by the destruction of schools, hospitals, lands, and properties, as well as the lack of basic necessities. Iran and Pakistan adopted distinct policies in disparate circumstances, disregarding the 1951 Conventions on Refugees and the 1967 Protocol. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), "a total of 1,000,000 Afghans have fled to Iran, resulting in an upsurge in international protection needs," millions of Afghans fled Afghanistan to its neighbours in August 2021 after the Taliban took power. According to official figures, 6, 00,000 to 8, 00,000 Afghan migrants have entered Pakistan since the takeover. Despite the negative effects of this forced deportation, there has been a sharp upsurge in the mass deportations from Pakistan and Iran in recent times. The

article explores the many facets of the forcible deportations of Afghan migrants from Iran and Pakistan in an effort to clarify the nuances of this problem and promote a nuanced understanding that cuts beyond national boundaries. And the textual analyse of understanding afghan migrants in Iran and Pakistan.

IV. Literature review

The literature review provides a comprehensive analysis of the challenges faced by Afghan refugees in Iran and Pakistan and the ill effects of forced deportation. The study examines the existing literature on Afghan refugees in Iran and Pakistan. The literature review highlights the various challenges faced by Afghan refugees when deported from Iran and Pakistan, including social, economic, political aspects. The paper will also review about the failure of international organizations in providing security and humanitarian support to the Afghan refugees.

Millions of people find themselves forcefully displaced, torn from their homes and nations in a time marked by violent wars, socioeconomic instability, and an increasing number of natural catastrophes. These upheavals push men, women, and especially children into the bumpy route of becoming refugees or internally displaced individuals, whether driven by the horrors of conflict, the stresses of economic instability, or the merciless power of natural catastrophes. The unifying goal of the displaced is to find a sanctuary where their fundamental needs may be satisfied and their innate human dignity restored, regardless of whether they are fleeing across dangerous terrain on land, confronting the unknowns of the open sea, or navigating the skies in final attempts to reach safety.

This global phenomenon not only highlights the pressing need for all-encompassing humanitarian solutions, but it also demands a shared commitment to tackling the underlying issues that push millions of people to from their familiar environments in search of safety and security.

The advent of one refugee crisis frequently threatens to obscure others in the complex tapestry of global crises, putting vulnerable communities at danger of collective forgetting. The world's focus is currently focused on pressing issues like the situation in Palestine and Ukraine, but the suffering of Afghan refugees also serves as a sobering reminder of how pervasive and permanent displacement is. Many people have been forced to flee Afghanistan due to the recent conflicts and instability there, but it seems that the world community as a whole tends to ignore their suffering.

There is a pressing need to fight the tendency for attention to shift away from the Afghan refugee crisis and towards other issues. This is because understanding the difficulties of displacement and making sure that no community is left to face its struggles alone depend on ongoing awareness and international solidarity.

Since the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan in 1979, the Afghan people have been through an extensive and turbulent journey of fled and hardship. Waves of Afghans have sought safety in neighbouring nations throughout the years, with Pakistan and Iran being the main locations. These migrant waves have happened in a variety of situations, from armed wars to economic hardships, but they have always been met with particular problems.

Unfortunately, Iran and Pakistan have treated Afghan refugees differently in terms of their policies and methods. The absence of a clear and uniform policy on Afghan refugees in both countries has led to different experiences for individuals who are looking for safety. This has made the already difficult situation for the displaced Afghan population even more difficult, underscoring the need for a more thorough and coordinated strategy to alleviate their suffering.

V. Refoulement (Forced deportations)

“Refoulement (forced return) is when a State adopts measures, at its border, that prohibit and actively prevent a foreign person who is not already a legal resident of its territory from entering its national territory.”

“Expulsion is a measure by which the authorities of a State forbid an individual present on its territory to continue his or her stay there and proceed to escort the individual back to the border or send him or her back to its State of origin.” (Francoise Bouchet, 2014)

The 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (Refugee Convention) and other international agreements address the fundamental subject of protecting refugees. These laws highlight how important it is to forbid deporting or turning away refugees in order to prevent people from going back to nations where their lives might be in danger.

The commitment to evaluate each asylum applicant individually to ascertain their status as a refugee is the basis of these assurances. This methodical procedure guarantees the universal observance of the principle of non-refoulement (PNR), which prohibits the return of refugees to dangerous circumstances. The

cornerstone of these protections is found in the basic assurances included in international human rights accords, together with those pertaining to the proscription of torture and cruel treatment. Through observance of these values, the global community strives to furnish a haven for those in need of protection and ensure their safety from impending dangers.

The basic human right of people to apply for and be granted refuge in other nations when they are being persecuted is emphasised in Article 14 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). This idea is reiterated in the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) (art. 12) and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (CFREU) (art. 18), highlighting the universal understanding of the significance of giving asylum to people in need. Concurrently, the freedom to depart from any nation and return to one's home territory is upheld by both the UDHR (Article 13) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) (Article 12).

Although nations are not required to provide asylum or allow admission into their territory, this does not give them unrestricted power to return people home without respecting their rights. One essential element of international protection for those fleeing dangerous circumstances is the Principle of Non-Refoulement (PNR). The rights, safety, and dignity of people being returned must always be respected during the return process, even in cases when a return order is valid.

“The 1967 UN Declaration on Territorial Asylum (art. 3(1)) No Contracting State shall expel or return (“refouler”) a refugee in any manner whatsoever to the frontiers of territories where his life or freedom would be threatened on account of his race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion.” (Francoise Bouchet, 2014)

These international accords are not ratified by Pakistan. Iran is a signatory to both the 1951 Conventions relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, which set forth the legal framework for the protection of refugees and their rights. These documents also specify the obligations of signatory nations with regard to granting asylum and ensuring the safety of individuals escaping persecution. Although Pakistan has chosen not to join these agreements, Iran has made a commitment to these principles, which calls into doubt the consistency of refugee protection throughout the area.

Recently, there has been a concerning trend in which Iran and Pakistan have started major deportations of Afghan migrants and refugees, in spite of the numerous difficulties these groups confront inside their borders. Women, kids, journalists, social activists, and even members of the Afghan security forces who had sought safety are among those who have been arbitrarily removed from their homes. What is also concerning is these governments' seeming indifference to the long-term effects of widespread and violent deportations.

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the situation of Afghan refugees in Iran and Pakistan has gotten to a catastrophic point. Since 2021, an enormous 1.6 million Afghans have fled to these nearby nations, bringing the total number of Afghans living in Iran and Pakistan to an incredible 8 million. Interestingly, as of 2023, Iran officially surpassed all other countries in the world in terms of the number of refugees it hosts. Over 1 million Afghans have come since 2021, out of the astonishing 3.4 million refugees and those living in conditions similar to those of refugees, including 2.6 million "head counted" Afghans. Iran is ultimately in charge of providing housing for 4.5 million Afghans. At the same time, Pakistan has to deal with an estimated 3.7 million Afghan refugees; however, Pakistani officials indicate that the real number might be as high as 4.4 million. Due to the enormous burden this demographic explosion is placing on both countries, it is imperative that the humanitarian issues and complicated issues arising from large numbers of refugees be addressed immediately.



1 Fig.1 the total number of afghan refugees in Iran and Pakistan

Registered Refugees & Refugee-like Afghans by country

Location name	Source	Data date	Population
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Various	30 Jun 2023	62.0% 3,431,680
Pakistan (Islamic Republic of)	Various	30 Jun 2023	37.6% 2,079,989
Uzbekistan	Various	30 Jun 2023	0.2% 13,025
Tajikistan	Various	30 Jun 2023	0.1% 8,164
Turkmenistan	Various	30 Jun 2023	0.0% 9

Newly arrived Afghans by country

Location name	Source	Data date	Population
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Government	31 Jul 2022	61.8% 1,000,000
Pakistan (Islamic Republic of)	Government	31 Jan 2023	37.1% 600,000
Uzbekistan	Government	30 Nov 2021	0.8% 13,020
Tajikistan	UNHCR	30 Jun 2023	0.4% 6,125

2 Fig. 2 registered and non-registered afghan refugees in Iran and Pakistan (UNHCR)

In the first half of 2023, over 328,000 Afghan migrants faced deportation from Iran, as reported by Khaama Press. Remarkably, a testament from Afghans who were forced to return home reveal that even those with legitimate resident licences were arrested and deported. Last week, as reported by TOLO News, the situation worsened as Afghan refugees in Iran voiced increasing concerns about an increase in arrests, deportations, and police harassment. As a result, the Taliban, who now control Afghanistan, appealed to Pakistan and Iran in particular to desist from forcefully deporting Afghan migrants. The Taliban spokesperson, Zabihullah Mujahid, called for an end to harsh policies and persecution of migrants and stressed the significance of treating them with tolerance and legitimacy. The appeal highlights the complex humanitarian issues that the displaced Afghan communities are facing and the need for sympathetic reactions from neighbouring countries. At the same time, the recent decision by Pakistan to begin repatriations has raised worries about what would happen to the millions of Afghans who could have to return to their unstable country. On October

3, Pakistan's caretaker government announced its preparations for mass deportations, which are officially known as the repatriation of illegal foreigners under local law.

The Afghan community living in Pakistan is concerned about this move because of the unstable state of affairs in Afghanistan as a result of continuous hostilities and humanitarian issues. The idea of forced repatriation raises serious concerns for security and humanitarian reasons, complicating an already difficult situation in the region. The world community is keeping a cautious and compassionate eye on the events and advocating for a thoughtful response to the needs and vulnerabilities of the displaced Afghans.

Viewed through the prism of the UN and other international organisations, Pakistan's recent immigration policies indicate that Islamabad is making a concerted effort to repatriate all illegal Afghans, with the possibility of expanding to larger groups as the plan takes shape. Phase 1, which began on November 1st, is mainly concerned with those who are considered to be "illegal," which includes people who do not have the required identification, who have fake Pakistani documents, or who have overstayed their visa. Phase 2 targets holders of Afghan Citizen Cards, suggesting a wider reach even though the government has not yet released a clear schedule, which raises worries about the possible increase in deportations. Phase 3 may see the repatriation of persons in possession of Proof of Registration cards, even if these cards expire in June.

The difficult talks that may take place between Afghanistan, Pakistan, and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) are highlighted by the uncertainty surrounding the renewal of cardholders' status. The way this scenario is developing raises worries about the humanitarian ramifications and possible difficulties in finding a middle ground between protecting vulnerable communities and national security considerations.



Afghanistan and Pakistan borders

VI. Research methodology:

Secondary data provides the foundation for this research, allowing for the construction of thorough understandings of the forcible deportations of Afghan migrants from Iran and Pakistan. This research synthesises current information and viewpoints by drawing on a wide range of sources, such as books, academic publications, respected journals, and news reports. The research is further enhanced by the use of reports from international organisations, which offer a prism through which to see the global context and larger ramifications of forced deportations. Through the use of this varied collection of secondary sources, the study seeks to extract complex viewpoints that illuminate the issue's humanitarian, legal, and geopolitical aspects. This methodology guarantees a comprehensive investigation, firmly establishing the research on a solid basis of data extracted from reliable and varied source.

VII. Nonconformity in the policy toward Afghan refugees in IRAN and PAKISTAN

A coherent and well-defined strategy is lacking as a result of Iran and Pakistan's conflicting policies towards Afghan migrants and refugees since 1979. For the Afghan migrants and refugees living in various nations, the lack of a unified policy framework has had a significant and negative impact.

Widespread human rights challenges and breaches are the result of this policy's nonconformity. Uncertainty surrounds Afghan migrants' legal status, access to basic services, and safety from exploitation, placing them in a perilous situation. A coordinated and comprehensive regional plan that prioritises the rights and well-being of Afghan migrants and refugees across borders is desperately needed, since the policy differences not only make these people more vulnerable but also make it more crucial.

Both Iran and Pakistan, which were formerly known for their warm welcome and open doors, offered assistance and friendship to Afghan migrants and refugees who were fleeing the violence in their country. But this altruistic position, characterised by a humanitarian mentality, changed in a comparatively short period of time. Both countries adopted stricter rules in response to changing geopolitical pressures, security concerns, and internal issues. The early goodwill gave way to a more difficult strategy, with Pakistan and Iran both enacting policies including border closures and deportations.

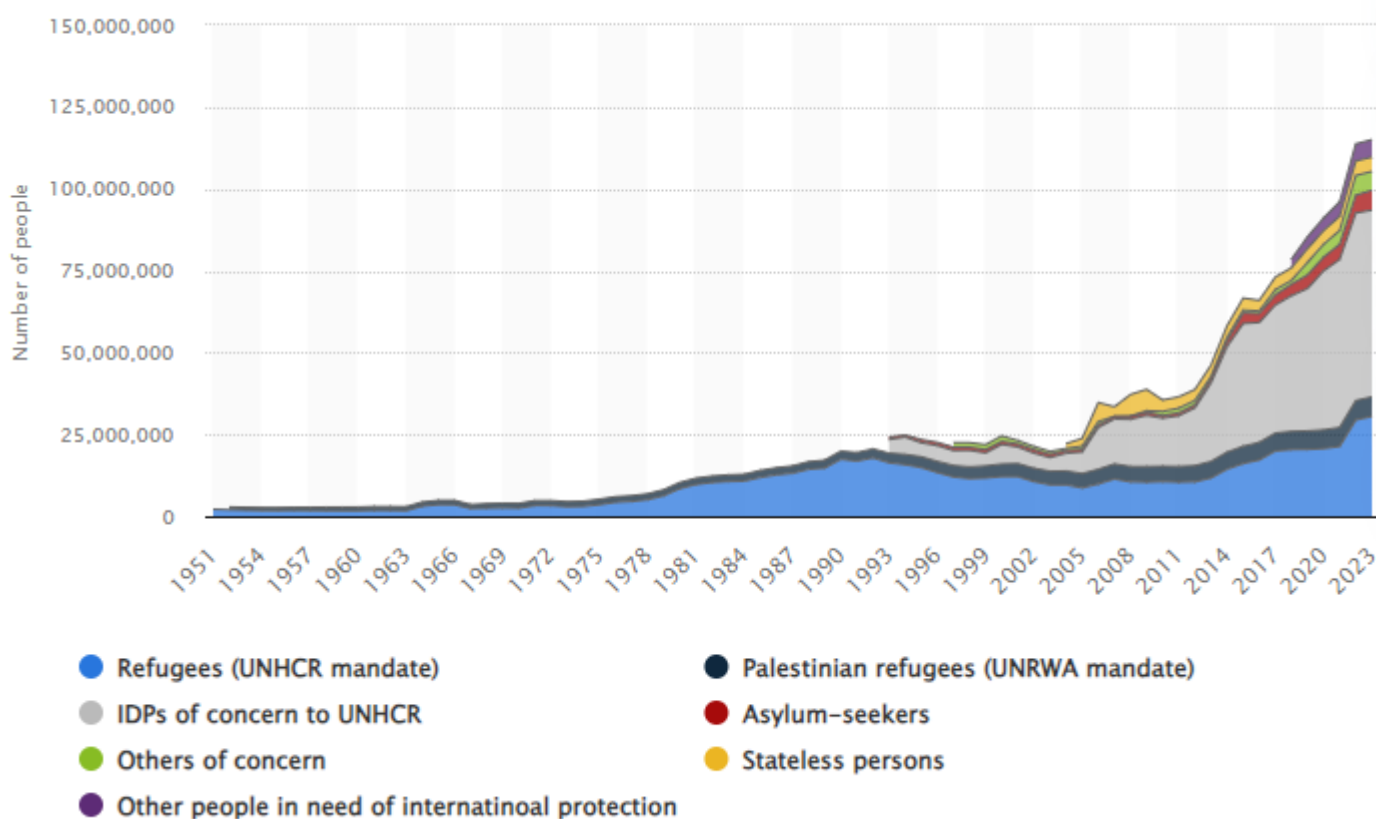
This change not only signalled a break from the original hospitality but also brought in a number of constraints and limits that had a big effect on the lives of migrants and refugees. The shifting policies are a reflection of the delicate balance these countries are managing while juggling the challenges of accommodating displaced populations and their own internal issues.

Human Rights Challenges: As a result of changing policies and a variety of restrictions and limits, the human rights issues that Afghan refugees in Iran and Pakistan are facing have gotten worse. Strict work limitations are one of the most common obstacles that prevent Afghan refugees from securing stable employment and incomes. Furthermore, restrictions on their freedom of movement make it more difficult for them to take advantage of possibilities, which affects not just their chances of finding work but also their access to education and business opportunities. The difficulties are exacerbated when fundamental rights like healthcare are denied, making Afghan migrants more susceptible to sickness. Rising living expenses compound this predicament and put further burdens on people and families who are fleeing. All of these issues highlight how critical it is to adopt a thorough and rights-based strategy to alleviate the situation of Afghan refugees in Iran and Pakistan.

Human Rights violations: Afghans' human rights are violated in Iran in a startling variety of ways, exposing a disturbing reality for a great number of vulnerable people. Forced deportation is becoming a visible and widespread problem that upends lives and separates people from their communities and social networks. Forced family separations exacerbate the suffering by shredding familial ties and causing people to experience severe emotional misery. Frequent physical abuse reflects a flagrant contempt for the fundamentals of human dignity and exacerbates the suffering. Afghan migrants are made more vulnerable by mistreatment in detention and deportation facilities, where conditions frequently fall short of international norms. Remarkably, the infringement goes as far as coerced enlistment, pushing people to participate in foreign conflicts, putting them in danger of death, and denying them their basic right to self-determination. This complex attack on human rights highlights how urgent it is to address the situation of Afghans in Iran and calls for a united effort to protect their fundamental liberties and dignity. In August 2021, amid the Afghan crisis, Afghan refugees found themselves in Iran and Pakistan, where they faced a grim reality of human rights violations and numerous sorts of discrimination. Both countries' border closures during this crucial time, in violation of UN mandates, made the situation worse for those in need of protection. Human rights abuses against Afghan refugees date back decades, especially since 2001, and long beyond the current crisis. The effectiveness of international accords and the willingness of host nations to protect the rights and dignity of those escaping violence and adversity are called into doubt by this persistent pattern of abuse. The enduring difficulties encountered by Afghan refugees highlight the necessity of adopting a thorough and empathetic strategy to tackle the complex problems related to forced migration and human rights in the area.

Failure of international organizations: Unfortunately, the United Nations and other international organisations are overburdened and ill-prepared to successfully lead and regulate the worldwide migration and refugee crises. An extreme example would be the startlingly high numbers of displaced people in the world and the unsettling treatment they receive in different countries. One of the most devastating testaments to the difficulties experienced by those seeking asylum is the predicament of refugees from nations like Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Afghanistan, Ukraine, and Palestine. There is a marked gap in the

commitment to humanitarian ideals and human rights across the various nations and states, which is reflected in the way that refugees are treated. The ability to help and safeguard vulnerable populations continues to be lacking, notwithstanding the good intentions expressed by international organisations. In light of the severe humanitarian consequences of these crises, it is becoming more and clear that the core causes of displacement must be addressed immediately, and that more international collaboration is required.



3 Fig.3 refugees number (UNHCR)

Millions of Afghan refugees have left their country since August 2021 in search of safety in Europe and other nearby nations. These displaced people have been subjected to several human rights issues and violations as a result of their mass migration, which was prompted by the complicated political and security climate in Afghanistan. Notably, the absence of major support and protection from international organisations has left these vulnerable populations battling appalling conditions in nations like Iran and Pakistan, where a considerable number of Afghan refugees have sought asylum.

This position highlights an important difference: compared to refugees from other areas, Afghan refugees appear to be less entitled to the protection of their rights under the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol. The appeal echoes the universal and unbreakable ideals of human rights, calling for fair and humane treatment for all refugees, regardless of where they came from.

VIII. Conclusion

One of the cornerstones of international law defending the rights and protection of refugees is the 1967 UN Declaration on Territorial Asylum, specifically stated in Article 3(1). This clear declaration forbids any Contracting State from expelling or returning refugees—also known as "refoulement"—to areas where their freedom or life would be in danger because of their race, religion, nationality, membership in a specific social group, or political beliefs. This legal protection demonstrates a shared commitment to respecting the core values of human rights, recognising the vulnerabilities that refugees suffer, and highlighting the necessity of protecting them from persecution. The proclamation is an important step towards reaffirming the obligation of the international community to offer refuge to those escaping dangerous situations, putting the safety and inherent dignity of every person seeking asylum ahead of geopolitical boundaries.

With tensions rising, Iran and Pakistan have started deporting large numbers of Afghan migrants and refugees, including women, men, and children, as well as those who are in the public service and the military, putting them in risk. Without any official announcements, this unilateral move has put the impacted people's lives in jeopardy and created a terrible scenario for them. The Afghan people are calling on with the United Nations and other international organisations to step in and put an end to the current deportations, which are being carried out in large numbers and with force, in light of this humanitarian disaster. In favour of a humanitarian and rights-based approach to migratory concerns in the area, this petition emphasises the need for a prompt and coordinated international effort to protect the rights and well-being of people caught in the crossfire of geopolitical upheavals.

The mistreatment of Afghan refugees in Pakistan highlights a worrying trend that needs to be addressed immediately. This sensitive group, which is fleeing violence and unstable economic conditions, is frequently the target of several types of abuse. It needs a multifaceted effort to stop this bad trend and stop its overuse. First and foremost, it is critical that the rules now in place protecting refugees' rights be strictly enforced. This entails holding those responsible who use refugees as labour or for other reasons. In order to promote understanding and empathy, extensive awareness programmes that target both the local populace and Afghan refugees are also required.

Collaborating between governmental and non-governmental organisations may be extremely helpful in giving Afghan refugees access to career training, educational possibilities, and support systems that will enable them to deal with their situation effectively. Furthermore, encouraging communication between the host society and refugees can help to debunk myths and advance an atmosphere that is more welcoming. In the end, combating the negative tendency of Afghan refugees being exploited in Pakistan necessitates a comprehensive and cooperative strategy that places an emphasis on community involvement, knowledge, and legal protections.

Suggestions

- 1: Promote the rigorous observance of international laws safeguarding the rights of refugees and migrants by international organisations, particularly the International Organisation for Migration (IOM). One such concept is non-refoulement, which states that no one should be sent without their will back to a nation where their freedom or life is in jeopardy.
- 2: Encourage diplomatic discussions to resolve the underlying reasons of forced deportations between Pakistan, Iran, and Afghanistan. Encourage candid conversations to identify cooperative solutions that uphold the rights and welfare of migratory Afghans.
- 3: Collaborate together with local communities, NGOs, and governments to bring attention to the predicament of Afghan migrants. Education initiatives have the potential to dispel myths, lessen xenophobia, and cultivate empathy, so fostering a climate that is more welcoming to migrants.
- 4: Organise global assistance for the humanitarian needs of Afghan refugees. It is imperative to guarantee that those slated for deportation have access to basic amenities including housing, healthcare, and education, both while residing in the host nation and after entering Afghanistan.

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