

We are deeply saddened by the recent events that took place in Lebanon and Afghanistan.

Lebanon has been struggling with ongoing socio-economic crisis made worse by the global pandemic. More recently, there have been periods of extended loss of electricity and shortage of fuel, food, medication, and medical supplies. On August 15th, a fuel tank exploded in Akkar (northern region of Lebanon) killing at least 28 and leaving 79 injured.

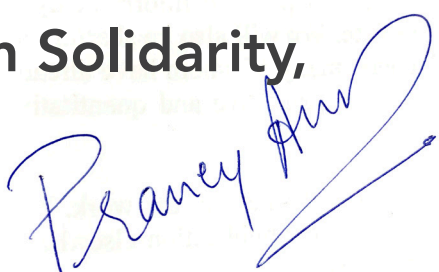
Also on August 15th, the Taliban entered Kabul, the capital city of Afghanistan. The heart-wrenching event on August 16th at Kabul international airport is one example of the oppression and suffering that has resulted from an ongoing state of crisis and war in that region.

People in both these regions have suffered tremendous loss for many years. The impact of violence and oppression is experienced even more by groups of people who are traditionally marginalized. We acknowledge that womxn, trans\* and/or queer individuals, invisible & linguistic minorities, and displaced individuals continue to face additional trauma in times of crisis.

Closer to home, we must continue to examine our role in perpetuating violence through hate, prejudice, and ignorance. We must make an active decision to educate ourselves of global events that impact our fellow Canadians, their families and loved ones back home. We must also focus on dismantling systemic oppression that divides communities.

We also encourage our community members facing distress in light of these events to reach out to our staff members for support. Currently, we are able to offer support in Arabic, Farsi, Hindi, Urdu, Turkish, Nepali, Gujrati, and Punjabi. Please visit [www.asaap.ca/staff](http://www.asaap.ca/staff) to connect with one of our team members.

In Solidarity,



Praney Anand

(he/him/his)

Executive Director

ASAAP

