**From**

 **Hindu-Sikh Community**

 **Greater Toronto Area**

**To**

 **Indian Consulate General**
 **Toronto, Canada**

**Sub:- Seeking help in Visa process for Afghanistan Hindu-Sikh community**

Indian consulate under the leadership of our Consulate General, have been doing an incredible job of reaching out to the community and helping every Indian citizen and those traveling to Bharat in their need. We are here submitting this Letter Of Memorandum in hope that the concerns for our brothers and sisters from Afghanistan who are already toiled by the death of loved ones back home and also property loss and more are treated with grace and friendliness that we always show. Here with we are listing some of our requests below.

1. In Canada we get visa for only 3 months if you are not a Canadian citizen yet and up to one year with / without multiple entry if we are a Canadian citizen. Where as in countries like US, it’s up to 1 year for all with multiple entry for non US citizens and up to 10 year multiple entry for US citizens. Please help us to get visa with longer stay and multiple entries like the Indian embassy does in US and other countries.
2. In other countries like US, Applicant with Afghan Passport or Afghans who became US citizens get their Visa in 2 days where as in Canada our Afghan brothers and sisters have to really struggle to get visa in 15 days. Please help us to get the visa in the faster speed with no trouble.
3. Many times, Our Afghan brothers and sisters are asked for proof of relation where as many of us doesn’t have anyone there. We go to Bharat, as it is holy to us and want to show to our family.. Our culture and religious places etc. This is putting lots of stress on many. Please help us in situations like these.
4. Our brothers and sisters from Afghanistan are struggling during the time of Emergency or Sickness in family to visit Bharat. We need special consideration in times like that.
5. Persons of Indian Origin Card (**PIO** Card) was a form of identification issued to a Person of Indian Origin who held a passport in a country other than Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka etc. Can you please advise why Afghanistan is excluded from this and how our Hindu Sikh brothers can utilize this PIO feature for themselves and for families..

Bharat Marg will ever be thankful for helping our Hindu Sikh Brothers and Sisters from Afghanistan. Jai Sia Ram

Yours Truly,

Hindu Sikh Community