

As Australia's borders reopened, we've seen tearful scenes as families reunite.

For refugees from Afghanistan and elsewhere, living in Australia, they have been separated from their families for more than 9 years.

Stuck on temporary visas, refugees in Australia face extreme uncertainty of their future. People have missed their children growing up, and have been unable to farewell loved ones who have died. The time they have lost can never be returned.

Ali* is among the more than 5000 refugees from Afghanistan living on temporary visas in Australia. At just 17, he fled his homeland. As a member of the persecuted Hazara community, the Taliban had taken Ali's father and uncle and Ali had been threatened with death.

Ali finally made his way to Australia, surviving a harrowing boat journey, dreaming of finding safety for himself and his family. Instead, Ali has spent nine years stuck on a temporary visa, unable to reunite with his mother, brothers and sisters, and now terrified for their safety in an Afghanistan under renewed Taliban rule.

The emotional and psychological toll of the prolonged uncertainty and fear that people are living under is immense. For some, it is unbearable and some have taken their lives.

These people are our friends, our neighbours, and our workmates. They are part of our communities. But they are unable to really be safe, to be with their loved ones and to put down solid roots in Australia.

Add your voice to the call for permanent visas and family reunion for refugees living on temporary visas in Australia. Contact your elected representatives and urge them to end this cruelty.

If you can, join us on the Parliament House lawn on Feb 8, 2022, as we rally in solidarity with refugees from Afghanistan^.

*Name changed.

^Covid safe measures applied

