

# THE GATES OF FRIENDSHIP



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Source: [Gulabuddin Amiri/AP Photo](#)

## DE DOSTI DARWAZA

### THE GATES OF FRIENDSHIP

**LOGLINE:** The harrowing journey of Afghani translators who risked everything to serve with U.S. troops but were left behind in the aftermath, along with the veterans and volunteers working to get them out alive.

**SYNOPSIS:** On August 15, 2021, the Taliban seized the Afghan capital in a bloody show of power, creating panic and chaos as they ousted the Afghan government and abruptly ended the American presence in the country. Afghans who served with U.S. troops were instantly in danger, branded as traitors and marked for execution. The Gates of Friendship is the compelling story of the Afghan translators and their families left behind as the United States withdrew, forcing them to flee for their lives.



Source: Rob Schmitz/NPR



Source: Rob Schmitz/NPR



Source: Olivier Douliery/Pool/AFP via Getty Images



Source: Rob Schmitz/NPR

The Gates of Friendship is a story born of the disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan by the United States, but ultimately it is the tale of the translators and families forced to stand in courage once more.

Beyond the nameless masses shown hanging from aircraft and sprinting down runways to escape, this is a story of individuals, forced to flee their homeland, desperate for safety and the promise of a new life.

The film weaves the individual stories of asylum seekers and their family with the government policies (or lack thereof) managing the influx of refugees, historical precedent, and the work of the NGOs and individuals who leapt into the gap in the immediate aftermath, putting a rescue pipeline into place and conducting extraordinary operations.



Source: Olivier Douliery/AFP via Getty Images



Source: Marisa Peñaloza/NPR



Source: Barbara Davidson/AP Photo

## “No one leaves home unless home is the mouth of a shark.”

Faced with unimaginable danger as US allies and translators, the film follows each person’s story from the heartbreaking decision to leave home, the harrowing, dangerous journey out of Afghanistan, and their arrival in the West, along with the role that veterans, NGOs, refugee camps, and volunteers played in extracting and supporting the families.



Source: Colby Rabon / Carolina Public Press



**“No one would leave home unless home chased you, fire under feet, hot blood in your belly.”**

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[Source: Defense One](#)



[Source: Good Morning Post](#)



[Source: Reuters](#)



[Source: AP](#)

I want to go home, but home is the mouth of a shark  
 home is the barrel of the gun  
 and no one would leave home  
 unless home chased you to the shore  
 unless home tells you to  
 leave what you could not behind,  
 even if it was human.



No one leaves home until home  
is a damp voice in your ear saying  
leave, run now, I don't know what  
I've become.

-Excerpts from "Home" by Warsan Shire



*World Refugee Day*

**EMPATHY, FIDELITY, ADAPTABILITY:**

Navigating Refugee Resettlement with Compassion and Courage



Source: [1208 Foundation](#)



Source: [Photo by Masuma Azizi](#)

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