

Clark University

Clark Digital Commons

Webinars & Events

Integration and Belonging Hub

2-1-2023

Presentation slides, "Afghan Refugee Voices: What Does Belonging Look Like in Host Countries?"

Gaisu Yari

Integration and Belonging Hub

Follow this and additional works at: https://commons.clarku.edu/hub_events



Part of the [Migration Studies Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Yari, Gaisu and Integration and Belonging Hub, "Presentation slides, "Afghan Refugee Voices: What Does Belonging Look Like in Host Countries?"" (2023). *Webinars & Events*. 6.

https://commons.clarku.edu/hub_events/6

This Presentation is brought to you for free and open access by the Integration and Belonging Hub at Clark Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Webinars & Events by an authorized administrator of Clark Digital Commons. For more information, please contact larobinson@clarku.edu, cstebbins@clarku.edu.

Afghan Refugee Voices: What does belonging look like in host countries?

August 2021 – October 2023

**Afghan Voices
of Hope** روایت‌ام را بشنو



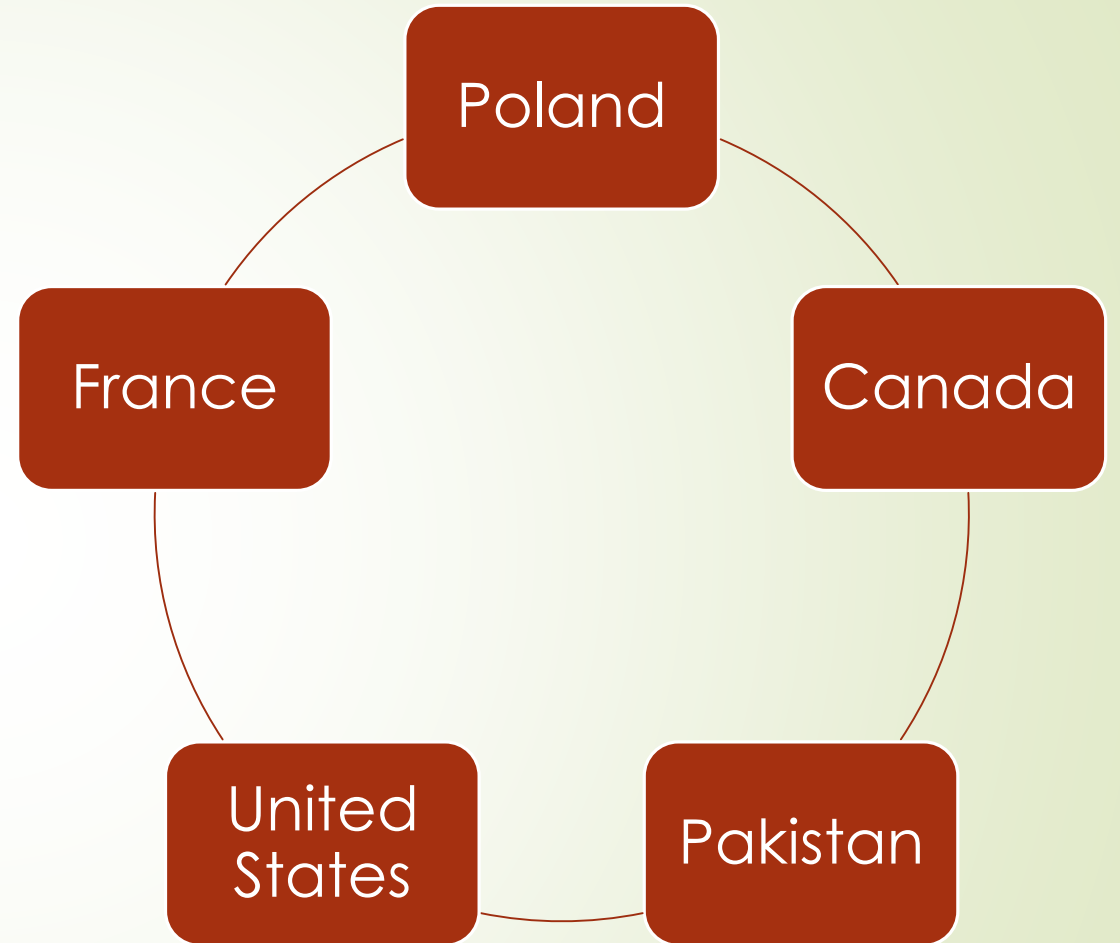
Afghan Voices
of Hope روایت‌ام را بشنو

Evacuation and Poland's Refugee Camp



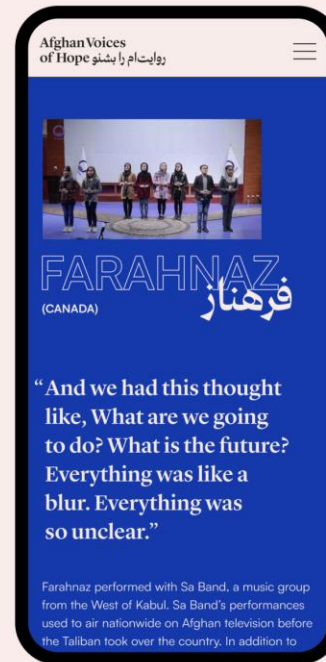
Countries & Number of Stories

- Three refugee camps in Poland
- Four France cities
- Toronto, Canada
- Islamabad, Pakistan
- United States includes
 - DMC area
 - California
 - Florida
 - Kansas City



Objectives

- ▶ To create a dynamic, accessible, participatory **living archive**
- ▶ To create a **space of solidarity** among the people who find themselves in similar situations
- ▶ To proactively **share these voices and stories**—with attention to security and privacy—to a wide variety of audiences, including policymakers, journalists, scholars, researchers, filmmakers, and others who are seeking to understand this historical moment
- ▶ Over time, to **analyze the qualitative data** collected during this project and disseminate findings in ways that will help the world learn from these experience



What did belonging means to Afghans in different countries?

- “No one was involved in my decision to leave, but it was a very difficult decision. Leaving behind your career, reputation, family, and friends and coming to a city where nothing is familiar—it takes a strong person to cope with all of this.” Mina - France
- “I wanted to bring eleven years of my professional life with me. Could anyone give this back to me? I sacrificed eleven years of my life, beginning at a young age, to achieve success in my cinematic career. My youth is gone now, my childhood is gone, and my career is over.” Farzana – France
- “I want them to say, ‘Come back!’ I want them to call us back and that’s it. Tell us it is time to come back!” Shafiq – France





How Farzana sees her future in France?

- “We want you to understand that it was not in our hands. Whoever reads or listens to this story, I want you to understand that I take my phone, put on my headphones, black coat, and glasses and go here and there. I do not understand the language, have no money, no job, no higher education in France. I have nothing. It is as if I was born in my 20s.”
- “I wanted to bring eleven years of my professional life with me. Could anyone give this back to me? I sacrificed eleven years of my life, beginning at a young age, to achieve success in my cinematic career. My youth is gone now, my childhood is gone, and my career is over.”

How Maryam sees herself in the United States?

- ▶ “My mom believes in me and when we were together, I would say, ‘Mom, one day I will visit the U.S.—I will make it to Harvard, and then the UN. I will be a good politician.’ My mom would reply, ‘Yes, you can do it, my dear. And, Inshallah, one day I will see you in the UN.’ That was such a beautiful moment for me. Even right now, it makes me very emotional.” Maryam – U.S.”

