

DIGEST

News from the Executive Committee



source: <https://www.dvidshub.net/image/6795412/evacuation-hamid-karzai-international-airport>

AIIC'S WORK TO SUPPORT INTERPRETERS IN CONFLICT ZONES

If the job of the interpreter is to facilitate communication, not to take sides or support political ideologies, then we must be free to work wherever we are needed without facing any repercussions or threats. Working in conflict zones, especially with the military, makes remaining impartial very difficult. It also means that those who employ interpreters in these situations must be very aware of the threat that may hang over these local support personnel.

Over the last month, the speed with which cities across Afghanistan have fallen to the Taliban has left the fate of civilian interpreters in peril. While AIIC hopes that governments around the world will step up and keep their promises to help relocate the interpreters who worked with their forces to safety, action is not coming quickly enough.

Cont...

What is AICC doing to help?

The [Interpreters in Conflict Zones group \(ICZ\)](#) was formed in 2009 in reaction to the situation interpreters were facing in Iraq and Afghanistan. Under the coordination of Linda Fitchett, the group has worked tirelessly over the last 13 years, trying to raise awareness around the world by accepting speaking engagements, [producing material](#) to help the military work with their interpreters who are usually untrained and learning our profession in the field and, with Maya Hess of [Red T](#), bringing together an international coalition of linguists and humanitarians to advocate for interpreters who are unable on their own to get the attention of world leaders. So far AICC and their partners have signed [26 open letters](#) encouraging countries to protect the interpreters who have worked with them.

5 ways you can make a difference

#1 Every time we sign a letter, we post a copy on AICC's social media and [ICZ's Facebook page](#). Make sure you follow us and share our posts to help us raise awareness.

#2 Support organisations like [Patenschaftsnetzwerk Afghanische Ortskräfte](#), which offer practical assistance to interpreters as they are relocated. Most of the interpreters in Iraq and Afghanistan were working into English, regardless of who they were working for, so they may find themselves in a new country where they don't speak the local language.

#3 In many countries, the soldiers who relied on their interpreters to help them do their jobs are trying to help get them to safety. One example is the [Sulha Alliance](#) in the UK, which was set up by, among others, an academic and a group of former army officers to advocate for interpreters trying to apply for relocation. Find out what is happening in your country and how you can support them.

#4 If you belong to other organisations, invite the members of ICZ to speak at your conferences, so we can continue raising awareness.

#5 [Sign our petition](#) to urge the UN to protect linguists.

GET SNAPPY!

In response to the increasing number of members who feel that the photos on the website do not represent AIIC, ExCo plans to create a photo library that better reflects our association and do away with the necessity of having to buy stock images. To this end, we need your photography skills!

This month we are launching a competition for images that show what modern conference interpreting means for you. The winning image will be featured as the website banner image and the winner will receive a €400 hotel gift voucher. Full details of the competition can be found on the [website](#).



PORTAL CHANGES

Prefer not to use your AIIC email address in the online directory? The Secretariat is constantly working to respond to your requests and the portal can now support 2 email addresses. [Log into the portal](#) and update your information to ensure you are receiving the information you need, in the right place for you.

CACL CHALLENGES

Please note that the CACL deadline to register any challenges is September 30th, 2021.

You can find the full lists of new candidates and pre-candidates [here](#).

DON'T GET A SHOCK!

If you haven't had a chance to pay your dues yet, make sure to do it before the 3rd reminders are sent out on September 1st and penalties start to be applied. Additionally, anyone with dues outstanding on October 15th will be suspended until the fees and the fines have been paid. If you haven't done so yet, [log into the portal](#) and pay your fees today!





ASSEMBLY NEWS

Following the successful result of the Written Consultation last month, 2022 will see AIC's first hybrid assembly. To make travel easier for those members who want to attend in person, ExCo has also made the decision to move the location of the assembly from Istanbul to Geneva.

- All information about the Assembly will be posted [here](#) as it becomes available. This will include the venue once the contract is signed next month and regular updates about the COVID situation.
- The Assembly module will open on September 1st. Here active members can propose and support amendments, resolutions, candidatures and modifications to the draft agenda until 5th October. Click [here](#) for more details.
- Registration for the Assembly, in person or remotely, will open in early October.

MESSAGE FROM THE AB

[Here](#) are the minutes of the Advisory Board meeting that took place 8-11 July 2021. Some sections refer to discussions that have been underway for some time which may make them rather self-referenced, but we believe that most of the content is clear. The consequences of Covid loomed large at the meeting, as did the January 2022 Assembly.

At the end of its meeting the AB appointed a new Steering Committee: [Andrew Constable](#) (TFDI), [Camille Mercier-Sanders](#) (France), [Felix Ordeig](#) (Spain) and [Phil Smith](#) (Switzerland). Because of prior commitments, this group will take up the task jointly as of next January.