Research release – April 26, 2021
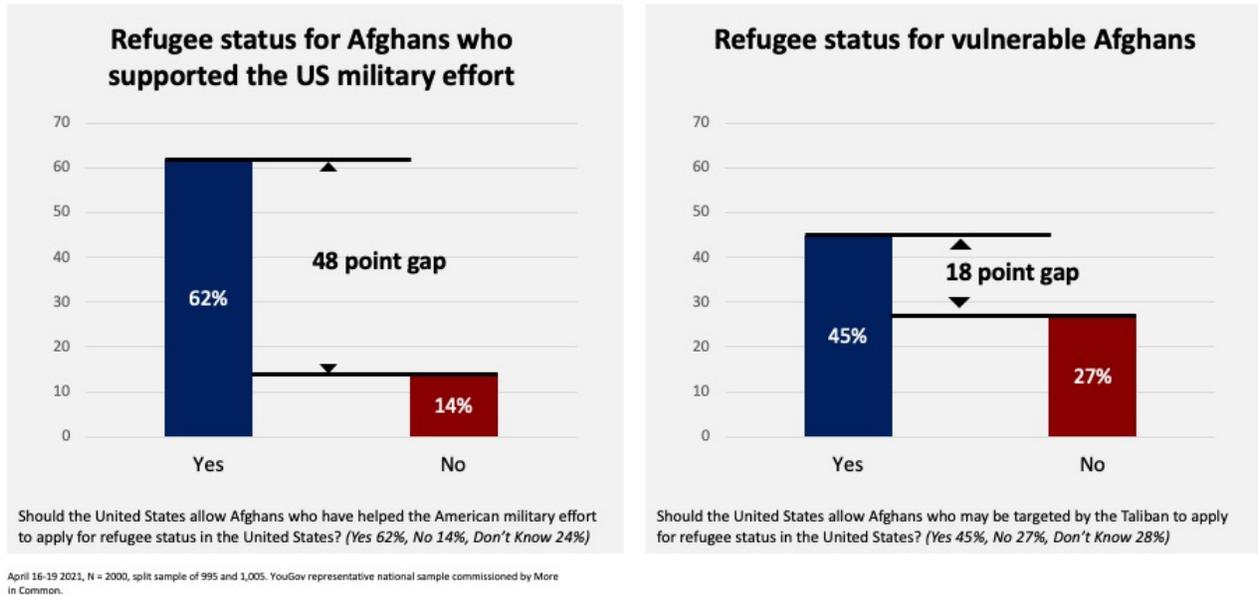
Strong public support for ending restrictions barring Afghans from refugee status

Refugee status for Afghans who supported the US military effort

48 point gap

62% Yes · 14% No

Should the United States allow Afghans who have helped the American military effort to apply for refugee status in the United States? *(Yes 62%, No 14%, Don't Know 24%)*

April 16-19 2021, N = 2000, split sample of 995 and 1,005. YouGov representative national sample commissioned by More in Common.

Refugee status for vulnerable Afghans

18 point gap

45% Yes · 27% No

Should the United States allow Afghans who may be targeted by the Taliban to apply for refugee status in the United States? *(Yes 45%, No 27%, Don't Know 28%)*

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The American public strongly supports Afghans being able to apply for refugee status in the United States, with four times as much support as opposition for Afghans who have helped the American military effort.

This proposition is supported by a margin of 62 per cent of Americans and opposed by just 14 per cent, according to a national YouGov poll commissioned by nonprofit More in Common last weekend.

The broader proposition of allowing refugee status for Afghans who may be targeted by the Taliban also has more public support than opposition. However, support for those who helped the US military is much higher (62 per cent) than for those vulnerable to the Taliban for other reasons (45 per cent). Further analysis shows that:

- Suburban women, a key electoral demographic, are slightly stronger supporters of both propositions: 67 per cent support and 11 per cent oppose the first proposition, while 46 per cent support and 21 per cent oppose the second.

- Differences across partisan identities are large, with Democrats supporting the propositions by margins of 76-4 per cent, and 63-13 per cent respectively. In contrast, Republicans support the first proposition by a margin of 48-23 per cent, but oppose the second proposition 39-30 per cent.

- Differences across racial groups are generally small, while education accounts for many feeling unsure – "Don't Know" was the most common response from those who had not completed high school.

Details

More in Common commissioned YouGov to test public attitudes from April 16-19, with two groups comprising a representative sample of 995 and 1,005 adults respectively (total 2,000). More in Common is a nonpartisan nonprofit group that works to build a more united America that is resilient against division and polarization. For enquiries: Stephen Hawkins, Research Director: stephen@moreincommon.com

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