

Several NGOs have expressed concern about the [‘Joint Way Forward on migration issues between Afghanistan and the EU’](#), an agreement the EU and Afghanistan reached on October 6.

In an open letter to the European Parliament, the NGOs noted they are worried that “the EU plans to return, on the basis of a back-door agreement, thousands of women, men and children to Afghanistan.”

The NGOs noted that:

- The agreement may violate the principle of [non-refoulement](#), and may hinder the protection against collective expulsions and the right to asylum;
- The deal between EU and Afghanistan may cause an increase in returns of children with their families and unaccompanied minors;
- The EU is wrongly presenting Afghanistan as a ‘safe country’ for return, whereas the situation on the ground is still dangerous, “as provinces such as Helmand and Kunduz fall into the hands of armed groups yet again.”

The open letter was signed, among others, by Médecins du monde, Save the Children, International Federation for Human Rights, Amnesty International, European Council on Refugees and Exiles, Emergency, Terre des Hommes, Pro Asyl.