

Ali is a Hazara from a small community in Afghanistan...

The Hazaras are one of the four main ethnic groups of Afghanistan and they have a long history as victims of oppression and prejudice. However the worst anti Hazara movement began with the rise of the Taliban. Under this violent regime the Hazara people were given three options; leave the country, convert to the Sunni sect of Islam or be prepared to die.

Ali married young and had 3 children. Like many in his community, the family suffered because the area was not stable politically. After the Taliban took control of the area, violence increased towards Hazaras. The family suffered a tragedy when, in 1998, the local Wahdat Party headquarters was bombed by the Taliban, and many of his family were killed. As a result of the deaths he became responsible for his orphaned nephews as well as his younger brother.

In 2000 Ali was arrested by the Taliban. He was severely tortured and still bears the physical and psychological scars. After his release the family borrowed money to get him out of Afghanistan. He made it to Australia in 2000, arriving by boat, and was granted a Temporary Protection Visa in 2001 and within 5 months was employed and has worked ever since.

Ali registered with CASE and was assisted with his application for a Permanent Protection Visa (PPV). This was granted in late 2004. In this respect he was fortunate: he did not have to prolong the wait by going through the Refugee Review Tribunal.

Several years after he arrived in Australia he located his family who had all fled to Iran. When he established contact, he immediately started to support them by sending money. With help from CASE his immediate family members were eventually granted visas, and years later his wife and sons arrived in Perth, followed by a younger nephew a few days later.

The change in Ali himself since his family arrived is remarkable. He is transformed. He looks younger, seems happy and relaxed, and despite the cost involved in new family sponsor applications for his other relatives, he is prepared to face the long slow process and the possible disappointments that it may bring for the sake of bringing all his family together again. Ali's case is a work in progress. Thanks to CASE he has a PPV, family members have arrived and he has hope for the future.