

Free information sheet, please take one

# Andy Barnham and Sara de Jong: We Are Here, Because You Were There Afghan Interpreters in the UK

16 february to 4 May 2024

*We Are Here, Because You Were There: Afghan Interpreters in the UK* is a collaborative project by photographer and British Army veteran Andy Barnham and Professor Sara de Jong. It documents the experiences of Afghan interpreters who were employed by the British Army in Afghanistan, and recently resettled to the UK. The exhibition centres the interpreters' own stories and invites us to engage with the individuals, their families, and the human stories behind the headlines.

Barnham uses strategies of blurring and pixelating to help anonymise the interpreters who are still considered at risk and have family in Afghanistan under threat. The quotes are extracts from interviews conducted by de Jong. They cover the interpreters' motivations for working with the British Army, and the threats they faced in Afghanistan. They also address their evacuation, their early experiences in the UK, and their hopes for the future.

The exhibition premieres five portraits of leading veteran activists who, through a sense of moral duty to the interpreters they worked alongside, have become political advocates for the protection and rights of their former colleagues.

A slideshow of photographs by Barnham, when on duty in Afghanistan, offer a diaristic insider perspective on military operations deployed by NATO. This completes the title *We Are Here, Because You Were There*, indicating the reason why the Afghan refugees are here in the first place.

**To find out more**, pick up an information sheet, read the exhibition guide, browse the reading table, or come along to the *In-conversation* with Andy Barnham, Sara de Jong, and two Afghan interpreters on Saturday 27 April 2024 2pm to 3.30pm.

A fully illustrated self-published hardback book is available to buy in our bookshop for £10, with all proceeds going to the charity Sulha Alliance.

The exhibition has been co-produced by Andy Barnham and Sara de Jong with the support of Ffotogallery, Impressions Gallery, Department of Politics & International Relations at the University of York and Sulha Alliance.