CULTURAL SUMMARY – *Do’s and Don’ts*

**Do’s:**
- *Do* shake hands with the right hand, firmly but gently in greeting and departure.
- *Do* return the gesture of placing the right hand over the heart after shaking hands.
- *Do* try all food offered to acknowledge the hospitality of the host.
- *Do* offer a cigarette to everyone in the group.
- *Do* recognize the nature of Afghan hospitality.
- *Do* expect to spend much of a visit socializing and drinking tea before discussing business.
- *Do* use applicable professional or academic titles, such as “engineer,” “doctor,” and “professor.”
- *Do* expect Afghans to have a different sense of time and punctuality.
- *Do* give a gift in return for one received.
- *Do* sit with your legs under you or tucked away.
- *Do* summon people using you whole hand facing down and motioning inwards.
- *Do* remove your shoes when visiting a home.
- *Do* wait to be seated by the host when dining in a home.
- *Do* wait to speak when spoken to, if elders are present.

**Don’ts:**
- *Don’t* use the left hand for physical contact with others, to eat, or to make gestures.
- *Don’t* sit with the soles of your feet facing someone.
- *Don’t* walk away from someone who is speaking to you.
- *Don’t* show a woman attention by addressing, touching, or staring at her.
- *Don’t* ask men direct questions about their female relatives.
- *Don’t* tell an Afghan he is wrong if he gives incorrect information.
- *Don’t* express emotion in public.
- *Don’t* expect Afghans to be able to read, especially outside urban centers.
- *Don’t* wag or point your finger.
- *Don’t* wear sunglasses indoors.
- *Don’t* offer an Afghan food or drink or publicly consume either during Ramadan.
- *Don’t* ask an Afghan not to smoke.
- *Don’t* use the OK sign or thumbs-up.
- *Don’t* summon people using a crooked finger.
- *Don’t* confront a Muslim on his religious beliefs.
- *Don’t* maintain prolonged eye contact with an Afghan male.
- *Don’t* rush or hurry an Afghan.
- *Don’t* shame an Afghan in public.
- *Don’t* bring a dog into an Afghan’s home.
- *Don’t* force a Muslim’s head to touch the ground.