



نماینده دایمی جمهوری اسلامی افغانستان در سازمان ملل متحد

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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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S T A T E M E N T

On the Occasion of

International Women's Day

8 March 2026

The Situation of Women and Girls in Afghanistan

As we mark International Women's Day, in Afghanistan, womanhood has effectively been criminalized.

Under the Taliban's rule, girls are barred from attending school beyond the sixth grade. Women are prohibited from working. They cannot visit a park, a gym, or even seek medical care without a male guardian. Taliban decrees have gone so far as to criminalize the sound of a woman's voice in public.

Afghan women have rightly called this system gender apartheid, and the United Nations has increasingly recognized it for what it is: gender persecution, a crime against humanity. Yet declarations alone are insufficient. The international community must move from condemnation to consequence, ensuring that those responsible for these systematic abuses are held accountable under international law.

On this day, we honor the courage of Afghan women who risk everything simply to read, to teach, and to live on their own terms. Their struggle is a powerful reminder that gender equality is not a milestone already achieved; for millions of women and girls, it remains a matter of survival.