



Permanent Mission of Afghanistan to the United Nations

STATEMENT

BY

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Mr. Chair,

Five years after the Taliban's military takeover, Afghan women and girls face an institutionalised system of discrimination, segregation and exclusion. Their rights to education, employment, freedom of movement and participation in public life are being systematically denied. These restrictions are deliberate policies that must be reversed. Neither religion nor culture can justify them.

The consequences extend across generations. UN Women reports that nearly eight in ten young Afghan women are outside education, employment and training. UNICEF warns that, if restrictions persist, Afghanistan risks losing up to 20,000 women teachers and 5,400 female health workers by 2030. Denying girls an education today deprives entire communities of teachers, doctors and midwives tomorrow.

The Taliban are also entrenching discrimination through their decrees. UN experts have warned that the decree on separation of spouses further exposes girls to child marriage and makes it exceedingly difficult for women to escape abusive relationships. The dismantling of protection mechanisms leaves survivors with diminishing access to safety and justice.

Mr. Chair,

Afghan women continue to resist, organise, support their communities and demand their rights. Their courage must be met with concrete international action.

First, we call for the immediate reversal of discriminatory edicts and the restoration of women's and girls' access to education at all levels, including medical training, employment and public life. Restrictions on Afghan women working for the United Nations and humanitarian organisations must end.

Second, women-led organisations need predictable, direct and flexible funding. Survivors of violence, trafficking and exploitation need accessible healthcare, psychosocial support, protection and justice.

Third, accountability must remain central. We urge support for independent investigations, the International Criminal Court and efforts to codify gender apartheid as a crime against humanity. Systematic persecution must not be rewarded with impunity.

International engagement must be principled and tied to measurable, independently verified improvements in women's rights. Afghan women must participate fully, equally and meaningfully in every process concerning their country, including an Afghan-led political process towards legitimate, inclusive and representative governance.

Afghan women's rights are universal and non-negotiable. Their exclusion must never be accepted as the price of engagement, and their oppression must never be normalised. Afghanistan cannot achieve lasting peace or development while half its population is denied its rights and its future. I thank you.