



C20 Statement on Afghan women's and girls' rights

The military occupation of Afghanistan after two decades has failed. The Taliban returning to power potentially rolls back the gains of women and girls¹ in Afghanistan. These events have shown the limits of militarized solutions in countries. Yet, there needs to be greater international support for the human rights of Afghan women and girls, whose lives are presently in great danger. We call on G20 leaders and other relevant actors to defend women's and girls' rights in Afghanistan by implementing the following strategy:

1. Organize and charter direct evacuation flights and humanitarian corridors for Afghan women and other vulnerable groups, as well as ensure safe passage to the airport. In particular, support should be provided for single women, pregnant women and women with children, girls and LGBTQI+ people, persons with disabilities, elderly people without a safety net, human rights activists, female journalists and journalists in favour of women's rights, teachers, students, lawyers, health and social workers and those who have worked in humanitarian and development programs with international organizations, as well as women working in women's NGOs and associations.
2. Ensure that people fleeing persecution can effectively access the right to seek asylum with the creation of legal pathways², enforce a ban on forced returns of Afghan nationals, including asylum seekers whose claims were rejected, and the recognition of International Protection or other forms of protection to Afghan nationals who are already outside of the country. Ensure that countries welcoming refugees are adequately prepared for providing post-traumatic support and care, such as for mental and physical health, as well as for their safe integration into the local communities, also including specific support and educational interventions addressed to children, especially girls.
3. Direct adequate funding to support women Afghan refugees and their families, with the objective of assisting the livelihood for women activists who manage to relocate.
4. Establish special parole programs for at-risk Afghan human rights defenders, women's rights activists, politicians, journalists and other highly visible women being targeted for their refusal to conform to Taliban-dictated gender norms.
5. Request the UN and all its agencies to reiterate the imperative of the respect of women's and children's rights, especially girls remaining in Afghanistan, free from any form of physical threat, discrimination, persecution, and criminalization. Also, request that they allow and do not limit the right to education for girls, female adolescents and women and their access to jobs.
6. Implement UN Security Council Resolution 1820 on sexual violence during wars.
7. Encourage the UN Security Council to create a Resolution for Peace in Afghanistan to free all women and girls, allow a peaceful government to form, and allow women and girls to enjoy their rights.

Today, more than ever, the world has to prioritize gender equality. Every minute that passes, the Taliban are gaining more power, attacking women, not allowing girls and female students to attend school, persecuting and killing women leaders, and committing other violations of human rights. We are running out of time. Please act Now!

¹ With the term "girl", we follow the definition of "child" presented in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

² More specifically, we call for the creation of a visa waiver for Afghan people due to the current suspension of visa services in the country and the risk of document destruction at checkpoints by Taliban forces.