Position Paper on Girl's Education in Afghanistan

Start of the New Educational Year in Afghanistan without the Presence of Girls

Date: March 24, 2023

It is the third educational year that starts without the presence of girls in Afghanistan. Today marks 550 day that girls in Afghanistan have been forbidden/banned from attending schools and universities. Continued closure of educational institutions for girls is an ultimately unpleasant and shameful act in the 21st century and a historical disgrace. It has been 20 months since the Taliban took over the country and the basis for their claim preventing girls from education is utterly against Islamic teaching, cultural norms, and contrary to the laws and commitment of the Afghans – eventually, it is more similar to a political hostage-taking and leverage.

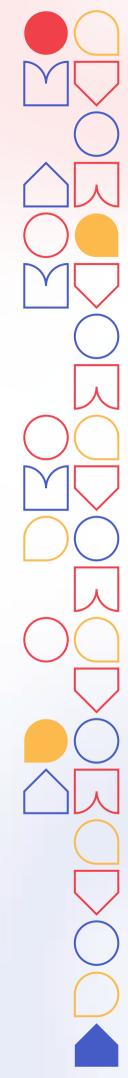
The continued ban on girls' education by the Taliban has disappointed youth and negatively affected their hope for a better future. Afghanistan can progress only when there are equal, better quality, and inclusive educational opportunities for both girls and boys. It is a mere fact that education is one of the powerful tools for reducing or even eradicating poverty and inequality. Education is the basis for economic progress in any country.

In the past 20 years, millions of girls and women received various training and education in Afghanistan. World leaders in support of the Afghan people and civil societies have promised commitment at the regional and international levels to implement the objectives of Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 4. It is time for them to fulfill their promises. It is the responsibility of all the countries and the United Nations who believe in equality, justice, and human rights to stand beside the scores of Afghan girls and their families who are struggling for the reopening of the schools and universities and the urgent reinstatement of the stabilization of the political, social and cultural situation in Afghanistan.

We (as a network of defenders of girls' access to education) urge world leaders, the United Nations, and Regional and International allies to take a courageous and coordinated step toward the reopening of girls' schools and universities in Afghanistan. Our demands are as follows:



Campaign for Girl's Access to Education in Afghanistan



- 1. We expect more than an announcement of solidarity, social media messages, or unfruitful (ceremonial) meetings. Such approaches might happen with good intentions, but they are not enough to hold the Taliban responsible for their policies against women's and girls' rights. Therefore, it is a must that world leaders put urgent and productive pressure through the political and diplomatic channels on the Taliban at the International level and should seriously support the reopening of girls' schools and universities in Afghanistan.
- 2. We demand serious interference by Islamic countries, Islamic Cooperation Organizations, and regional countries to put pressure on the Taliban to remove restrictions and bans they have imposed on women and girls that prevent them from education, work and ensure the safe return of the girls and women to schools, universities, and work. It is the moral responsibility of the political leaders and Islamic scholars to stand by the defenders, advocates, and activists for Girls' education in this harsh situation and make their legitimate voice heard through such organization's support so that there is a path for a progressive future in Afghanistan.
- 3. It is a human catastrophe for Afghan women and girls as the Taliban impose more restrictions on them, takes their freedom and rights, and imposes gender apartheid. To end such tragedy, we request the international community and the United Nations Security Council to interfere from a human rights point of view to secure human rights, especially prevent women's rights violations according to international laws and regulations, and find practical exit strategies.

Any society where women and girls lack freedom of speech and freedom of expression will not progress and ultimately will not achieve sustainable development goals. Educated and empowered women/girls can make our world safer. It is necessary to take urgent and brave steps for a better future for Afghan women and girls.

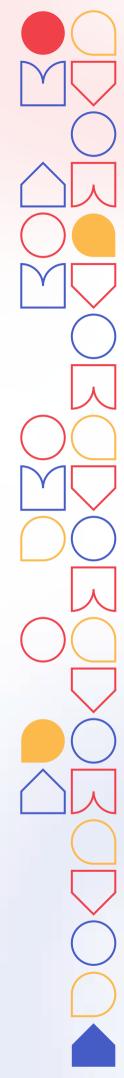


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Organizations:

- 1. Education Defenders Network (EDN)
- 2. Civil Society Joint Working Group (CSJWG)
- 3. Civil society and Human Rights Network (CSHRN)
- 4. Afghanistan Democracy and Development Organization (ADDO)
- 5. Digital Civil Society institute-Azadi
- 6. Women and Children Legal Rights Foundation (WCLRF)
- 7. Civil society and Human Rights Activist Network
- 8. National Advocacy Committee for Public Policy
- 9. Afghan Human Rights Defender in Exile (AHRDE)
- 10. Women Journalists Coordination Center (WJCC)
- 11. Mashal youth and civil society Institute Logar province
- 12. Civil Society Development Organization
- 13. Family support and welfare organization
- 14. Afghan Women Educational and Vocational Services organization
- 15. Khawar Zameen Social Association
- 16. Efaf weekly newsletter
- 17. Sar Pul Youth Social Council
- 18. Reshad Rehabilitation Association
- 19. Heela Helping Afghan Women
- 20. Shana News
- 21. Peace weekly newsletter
- 22. Afghanistan Youth National Development and Social Organization (AYNDS)
- 23. Green Waves Civil Institute
- 24. Nimroz Youth Civil Society Forum
- 25. Social Change for Afghan Women Organization SCAWO



Activists:

- 1. Dr. Humaira Qadiri- University Professor and Human Rights Defender
- 2. Dr. Alima- Human Rights Defender and Girls Education Advocate
- 3. Zarqa Yaftali- Director of Women and Children Legal Rights Foundation
- 4. Abdullah Ahmadi- Facilitator of Civil Society Joint Working Group
- 5. Hussain Anosh- Executive Director of Civil Society and Human Rights Network
- 6. Roshan Mashal- Women Human Rights Defender
- 7. Jan Mohammad Ahmadyan- Education Advocate
- 8. Roshan Seran- Human Rights Defender and Girls Education Advocate
- 9. Abdul Mujeeb Khelwatgar- Journalist
- 10. Hamidullah Zazai- Human Rights Defender and Civil Society Activist
- 11. Karima Rahimyar- Executive Director of Afghan Women Educational and Vocational Services organization
- 12. Dr. Farhanaz Nawabi- Human Rights Defender
- 13. Salima Sharifi- Director of Afghan Women's Social Security Organization
- 14. Habiba Amini- Human Rights Defender and Education Advocate
- 15. Rohullah Samon- Civil Society Activist and Journalist
- 16. Abdul Rahim Amani- Director of Sar Pul Youth Social Council
- 17. Abdul Hai Haqbeen- Deputy Director of Rishad Rehabilitation Organization
- 18. Khatera Rasikh- Deputy Director of Lemar Social Service
- 19. Ahmad Shaheer Anil- Education Defender and Civil Society Activist
- 20. Arman Darwesh- Human Rights Defender and Civil Society Activist
- 21. Najla Ali- Human Rights Defender and Civil Society Activist
- 22. Enayat Ullah Mahr- Human Rights Defender and Civil Society Activist
- 23. Sakhedad Nasiri- Human Rights Defender and Civil Society Activist
- 24. Din Mohammad Shakib- Executive Director of AYNDSO and Human Rights Defender
- 25. Zalmai Wafayar- University Professor and Human Rights Defender
- 26. Nabila Jami- Human Rights Defender and Journalist
- 27. Parwez Rukhshani- Executive Director of Green Wave Organization
- 28. Shakera Barish- Women's Rights and Education Defender
- 29. Marwa Safi- Education Defender
- 30. Sidiq Andarabi- Girls Education Defender
- 31. Safiullah Mantiq- Journalist
- 32. Najibullah Habibi- Executive Director of Civil Society and Human Rights Network



- 33. Muzhgan Faraji- Human Rights Defender and Journalist
- 34. Mohammad Rasol Haba- Human Rights Defender and Civil Society Activist
- 35. Wudod Pidram- Executive Director of Human Rights and Eradication of Violence Organization- Canada
- 36. Kamal Udin Koshan- Reporter and Human Rights Defender
- 37. Hamidullah Muazim- Human Rights and Education Defender
- 38. Fahim Farwak- Human Rights and Civil Society Activists
- 39. Karim Sorosh- Human Rights Defender and Girls Education Advocate
- 40. Ali Farhang- Human Rights Defender and Girls Education Advocate
- 41. Suhaila Momin- Director of Farahi Women's Society Organization
- 42. Wahid Tokhi- Human Rights Defender and Girls Education Advocate
- 43. Sami Daraye- Civil Society and Human Rights Defender
- 44. Mohammad Faisal Sehat- Human Rights Activist and Journalist
- 45. Sayed Abdullah Sadat- Human Rights Activist and Journalist
- 46. Sidiqa Nawrozyan- Human Rights Defender and Girls Education Advocate
- 47. Robina Azizi- Human Rights Defender and Girls Education Advocate
- 48. Najla Rahel- Deputy Director of Afghanistan Bar Association
- 49. Mehrullah Mehrdad- Human Rights Activist and Journalist
- 50. Kristina Azizi- Human Rights Defender and Civil Society Activist
- 51. Sheila Sakhizada- Journalist and Girls Education Advocate
- 52. Basira Ibrahimzada- Journalist and Girls Education Advocate
- 53. Tamana Ferahmand- Executive Director of SCAWO and Girls Education Advocate
- 54. Dost Mohammad- Deputy Director of Afghan Women Educational and Vocational Services organization
- 55. Lima Anwari Human Right Defender
- 56. Sohrab- Human Rights Defender
- 57. Mohammad Rafi Baktash- Human Rights Defender and Girls Education Advocate
- 58. Bibi Karima Rahimi- Human Rights Defender and Civil Society Activist
- 59. Abdul Wasi Helaman- Founder member of Afghanistan Rights Watch
- 60. Safiullah Sultani- Director of Support Network
- 61. Abulullah Rasooli- Human Rights Defender and Girls Education Advocate
- 62. Hamid Sarfarazi- Human Rights Defender
- 63. Masood Saad- Civil Society and Human Rights Defender
- 64. Mohammad Mosa Mohmoodi- Human Rights Defender and Girls Education Advocate



- 65. Abdul Basir Mujadadi- University professor and Human Rights Defender
- 66. Shekiba Negah- Women's Rights Defender
- 67. Parina Jahed- Women's Rights Defender
- 68. Mohammad Naheem Azghari- Civil Society and Human Rights Defender
- 69. Palwasha Wali- Member of Civil Society Joint Working Group
- 70. Niamatullah Rahi- Civil Society Activist
- 71. Sadaf Ahmadzai- Human Rights Defender and Journalist
- 72. Murtaza Sarem- Civil Society Activist
- 73. Mohammad Mehdi Mohebbi- Human Rights Defender
- 74. Najibuallah Amiri- Journalist
- 75. Yousuf Musawer- Civil Society Activist
- 76. Nilofar Sayar- Civil Society Activist
- 77. Mohammad Sohrab Nekzad- Head of the Shahrak Aria's people and Social Council
- 78. Hashmatullah Eshaqzada- Head of Civil Society network in Kapisa province
- 79. Junidullah Ashkani- Human Rights Defender and Girls Education Advocate
- 80. Freshta Ramin- Human Rights Defender and Girls Education Advocate
- 81. Makia Munir- Journalist and Girls Education Advocate
- 82. Mohammad Masoom Janan Abdul Rahimzai- Executive Director of Civil Society Development
- 83. Krishma Jawhari- Human Rights Defender and Girls Education Advocate
- 84. Shela Dawrzada- Human Rights Defender and Girls Education Advocate
- 85. Sadia Ahmadi- Women's Rights Defender
- 86. Soma Aman- Civil Society Activist
- 87. Ejazulhaq Hairan- Civil Society and Human Rights Defender
- 88. Sakina Sakhi- Human Rights Defender and Girls Education Advocate
- 89. Khalil Rawofi- Member of Secretariat at the Civil Society Joint Working Group
- 90. Abdul Ghafar Nazari- Civil Society and Human Rights Defender
- 91. Yalda Sadat- Women Justice Seeker in Logar Province
- 92. Waisudin Muradi- Human Rights Defender and Defense Lawyer
- 93. Mohammad Gul Ahmadi- Human Rights Defender
- 94. Nargis Azizi Shahab- Journalist and Member of Afghan Women Rights Network
- 95. Dr. Urfanullah Hemat- Executive Director of United Afghan in Canada
- 96. Mastora Ghafori- Civil Society and Human Rights Defender
- 97. Dr. Mohammad Naseer Azizi- Member of Afghanistan Masters and PHDs Association



and Human Rights Defender

- 98. Nasibullah Ehsas- Director of Youth United Social Foundation
- 99. Farzana Ayubi- Economic Development and Welfare Organization
- 100. Zohra Wahidi Akhtari- Executive Director of Women without boarder in Pakistan
- 101. Lutfullah Nawrozi- Human Rights Defender
- 102. Bibi Danyar Sherzad- Head of operation of Young Women Development Organization
- 103. Marzia Hussani- Journalist
- 104. Zabi Asadi- Journalist and Human Rights Defender
- 105. Seyar Hamidi- Human Rights Defender
- 106. Abdullah Gheyasi- Human Rights Defender
- 107. Mohmooda Taqwa- University professor, Journalist, and Human Rights Defender
- 108. Maliha Noori-Founder of the online academy for Girls in Afghanistan
- 109. Shah Wali Hamidi- Hamnawa Youth Social Institution
- 110. Jahanzeb Weesa- Human Rights Defender
- 111. Khwaja Abdul Sami Amiri- Human Rights Defender and Civil Society Activist
- 112. Zia Sadr- Journalist and Human Rights Defender
- 113. Mohammad Ismaiel Qarizada- Girls Education Advocate
- 114. Masood Rahmani- University Professor and Human Rights Defender
- 115. Shamela Sahibzada- Women's Rights Defender
- 116. Habiba Gulstani- Provincial coordinator of Women Peace and Security organization
- 117. Ahmad Fawad Frotan- Human Rights Defender and Girls Education Advocate
- 118. Sediq Zaleeq- University Professor and Human Rights Defender
- 119. Nooryali Masudi- Human Rights Defender and Journalist
- 120. Khushqadam Osmani- University Professor
- 121. Nazifa Jalali- Community Relief and Care organization
- 122. Abubakr Masoomi- Human Rights Defender
- 123. Gulnaz Arabzada- Defense Lawyer
- 124. Habibullah Sajid- University Professor
- 125. Zahra Seper- Human Rights Defender
- 126. Wais Ullah Mohammad- Human Rights Defender
- 127. Moqbel Ghiasi- Activist
- 128. Farahnaz Saboori- Head of Youth Council in Kabul and Human Rights Defender
- 129. Dr. Faranaz Ayubi Rozi- Human Rights Defender



- 130. Asadullah Khalez- Human Rights Defender and Civil Society Activist
- 131. Ajmal Afghan- Human Rights Defender
- 132. Mohammad Fahim Mirzai- Human Rights Defender and Civil Society Activist
- 133. Freba Faizi- Human Rights Defender
- 134. Hakim Hakimi- Director of Civil Society in Panjsher province
- 135. Halima Zarif- Human Rights Defender
- 136. Shaima Rahimi- Human Rights Defender and Civil Society Activist
- 137. Qazi Sayed Mohammad Samai- Human Rights Defender
- 138. Masooda Wahizi- Civil Society Activist
- 139. Nabila Wahizi- Civil Society Activist
- 140. Gulfroz Ghafori Fitrat- Women's Rights Defender
- 141. Mirwais Sadiqi- Human Rights Defender
- 142. Maryam Parwani- Senior Advisor in Kahkashan Civil Society and Media organization
- 143. Frohar Nadiman- Women's Rights Defender
- 144. Ajmal Omari- Journalist and Human Rights Defender
- 145. Mukhtar Mirzaye- Human Rights Defender
- 146. Bahman Qadiri- Human Rights Defender
- 147. Mohammad Akbar Hotal- Human Rights Defender
- 148. Ghulam Rabani Sakhizada- Director of Afghanistan National and Social organization
- 149. Tahmina Nazari- Human Rights Defender
- 150. Qandi Hamki- Human Rights Defender
- 151. Gulabi Nezami- Human Rights Defender and Girls Education Advocate
- 152. Dr. Sayed Haidar Ahmadi Belandi- University Professor and Human Rights Defender
- 153. Hussain Tajik- Human Rights Defender
- 154. Hameed Safwat Human Rights Defender and Girls Education Advocate
- 155. Soma Ayubi Human Rights Defender
- 156. Samiullah Saraji Human Rights Defender
- 157. Zabi Ullah Esar Omari In-charge of Civil Society joint working group Secretariat in Balkh province and Director of Khana Organization
- 158. Maria Mutmayen Human Rights Defender
- 159. Ahmad Zaki Mones Human Rights Defender

