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**A Call on The UN  
Security Council to  
Adopt a Stand-Alone  
Resolution to Address  
Gender Segregation in  
Afghanistan**

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## The Taliban Takeover of Afghanistan

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On August 15<sup>th</sup>, the Taliban took control of Kabul, declaring the establishment of Afghanistan as an “Islamic Emirate.” On September 7<sup>th</sup>, the Taliban announced an interim “caretaker government” made up exclusively of male Taliban members. On September 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Taliban added representatives of religious and ethnic minority groups, but no women.

Over the months that followed, Taliban leaders issued decrees specifying acceptable behaviors under their interpretation of sharia, describing them as “guidelines” or “recommendations.” While enforcement varied by province and district, local Taliban representatives enforced decrees on gender segregation, women’s dress and head covering, men’s facial hair, unaccompanied women, and music.

In September 2021, the Taliban closed the Ministry for Women’s Affairs announcing the building would be used to house the reconstituted Ministry of Virtue and Vice, charged with enforcing the Taliban’s interpretation of Sharia. While enforcement was uneven, the Taliban representatives enforced decrees on gender segregation, women’s dress and head covering, unaccompanied women (requiring a male relative to accompany a woman in public), and music.

On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, Taliban Supreme Leader, Mullah Haibatullah Akhunzada, issued a decree stating that women should not be considered property and must consent to marriage. While some applauded the decree; many felt it avoided the rights of women to work or to access education and other public services.

On July 8<sup>th</sup> the UN Human Rights Council adopted a resolution, “Situation of human rights and girls in Afghanistan,” affirming its commitment to equal rights for women in Afghanistan, and calling on the Taliban to establish protective institutions for women and victims of gender-based violence. The UN High Commissioner noted that, “since the Taliban took power, women and girls in Afghanistan were experiencing the most significant and rapid roll-back in enjoyment of their rights,” and as the authority exercising control over the country, the Taliban is legally obligated “to eliminate discrimination against women and ensure women’s right to equal participation in civic and public life.” The rights highlighted in the resolution include, “the right to freedom of movement, the right to education and the right to work,” along with others, for all women and girls in Afghanistan. See [UN Human Rights Council calls for equal rights for women in Taliban-led Afghanistan](#).

In this policy brief, we map the Taliban directives on women and girl's access to education since the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in August 2021. We cross reference these directives with international human rights norms that apply to Afghanistan. We also look at the guarantees made in the Afghanistan National Action Plan under the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda; these guarantees apply until 2024. As part of this preliminary study, we have had the opportunity to interview ten teachers in Afghanistan whose livelihoods and lives have been affected due to the closure of schools for girls. The interviewees have requested anonymity, but we hope to pursue their stories as part of our continuing study of women and girl's education in Afghanistan.

In this policy brief, we present the extant data on women's and girls' education and argue that international institutions such as UN Women, UNESCO, and UNICEF must and can do more to guarantee the rights to education for women and girls in Afghanistan. The primacy of women's and girls' education has been upheld by these international organizations,

but this narrative has increasingly become buried in a host of other pressing conflicts and challenges. Most of all, despite Secretary Blinken's comments in March 2022 on the importance of women's and girls' education little has been done to reverse the harmful Taliban directives.

We draw attention to the ways in which this right is connected to other rights such as women's and girl's freedom of movement and right to economic participation. The Taliban directives which call for a Mahram or male guardian to accompany women who are travelling more than 48 miles and guardianship laws which call for a male relative to accompany a woman to medical appointments, travelling in a taxi or accessing a government building has a damaging impact on girls' access to school and women's access to higher education. The capricious and arbitrary application of these directives also create uncertainty and anxiety among women and curtail their participation in public life.

### At a glance

- Unfinished Business
- Taliban Policies Restricting Women's Rights since August 2021
- Questionnaire to Teachers in Afghanistan
- Summary of Important International Human Rights Norms Impacted by Taliban
- Concluding Observations of the CEDAW Committee to the Last Afghan Report, 2020

#### **The US Department of State: Press Statement on Women and Girls' Education in Afghanistan – Anthony J. Blinken, Secretary of State, March 23, 2022**

“Education is a human right, and the United States rejects the Taliban’s excuses for reversing their commitment to the people of Afghanistan that all Afghans would be able to return to school at all levels today. As many girls and women were returning to secondary classrooms across the country, they were told to go home until further notice. We stand with Afghan girls and their families, who see education as a path to realizing the full potential of Afghanistan society and economy.

This decision by the Taliban, if it is not swiftly reversed, will profoundly harm the Afghan people, the country’s prospects for economic growth, and the Taliban’s ambition to improve their relations with the international community.”

## Unfinished Business

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On August 31, 2021, the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) called on the Taliban to honor their pledge to protect the rights of Afghan women and girls, and to respect the international Conventions of CEDAW and CRC. They urged the Taliban to take measures to consider the human rights of women and children as international troops withdrew from Afghanistan. These Committees recognized that the intolerance of women and girls and the restrictions on their basic rights went against the principals of non-discrimination. Further, the Committees noted that the CEDAW and CRC are binding on Afghanistan as they urged the Taliban to follow the basic human rights imbedded in international law. The two Committees called on the Taliban to respect and protect the rights of women and children, and were looking forward to engaging with Afghanistan on the implementation of the recommendations detailed in the Concluding Observations of Afghanistan's third periodic report to CEDAW.

In 2015, Afghanistan adopted its first National action Plan (NAP). This plan, set to be implemented in two phases from 2015-2018 and 2019-2022, was developed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs along with several others. As a UN Member State, Afghanistan is committed to observing principles of the UN Charter, and the NAP was developed around the four pillars of the UNSCR 1325: participation, protection, prevention, and relief and recovery. Women in Afghanistan have faced the brunt of more than three decades of conflict and insecurity, and the NAP focuses on addressing the issue of the vulnerability of women during this time.

The constitutional and legal provisions imbedded in Afghanistan's government are preserved and are complementary to the NAP.

There are key objectives that the NAP sets to achieve, the first being an increased participation of women in decision-making processes. At the civil service level, this objective requires an assessment and review of laws and policies for strengthening women's participation, and the amendment of any laws necessary. To ensure increased representation in government, the plan suggests quotas and the development of policy of mutual respect in the workplace. At the security level, the objective is to have an increased number of positions in the security sector for women, one method suggested by establishing women-only training facilities.

In terms of peace and reintegration, the NAP emphasizes the importance of women's role in negotiations, drafting strategies, and their overall involvement in the peace process. By training women and developing programmes for women negotiators, the NAP details methods for integrating women in these sectors. The next objective of protection of women is to be carried out by implementing and monitoring laws such as EAW and anti-human trafficking. Enhancing the legal system by increasing women's access to justice and establishing a group of female experts allows for this objective to be achieved. The important role that prevention plays is critical in the enactment of the NAP. The elimination of the culture of impunity surrounding sexual violence against women, and increased awareness among society to protect women from violence, is necessary for this objective. Relief and recovery call for increased employment of women in all sectors and allocating the proper resources to secure women in Afghanistan.

# Taliban Policies Restricting Women's Rights since August 2021

Last updated 22 Jun 2022

\*N/A – information related to the decree is not mentioned

Date	Policy	Source	Treaty Violated	Treaty Ratification Status	Afghan Reports to CEDAW, CRC, ICESRC	Afghan National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security	Human Rights Council Resolutions and Security Council Resolution – 6 July 2022
1 13 Aug 2021	Decree ordering imams to compile lists of unmarried women between 12-45 for Taliban fighters to marry	<a href="#">Daily Mail</a> , “Advancing Taliban go door-to-door and forcibly take girls as young as twelve to be sex slave 'wives' for their fighters as they sweep across country following NATO withdrawal”	<a href="#">Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women</a> – Article 16 (b), “The same right freely to choose a spouse and to enter into a marriage only with their free and full consent”; <a href="#">International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights</a> – Article 10 section 1, “Marriage must be entered into with the free consent of the intending spouses”	Signed on 14 Aug 1980 and ratified on 5 Mar 2003; not signed but ratified on 24 Jan 1983	<a href="#">CRC State Report 2019</a> – section 33, “The marriage age for girls... is 16... The marriage of a girl under 15 is not permitted”	“The laws of Afghanistan guarantee the protection of women’s rights and freedom... [against] offences including forced marriage”	N/A
2 25 Aug 2021	Temporary advisory for working women to stay at home “for their safety”	<a href="#">CNN</a> , “Taliban tell Afghan women to stay home from work because soldiers are 'not trained' to respect them”	<a href="#">Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women</a> – Article 11 (a), “The right to work as an inalienable right of all human	Signed on 14 Aug 1980 and ratified on 5 Mar 2003; not signed but ratified on 24 Jan 1983	<a href="#">ICESRC Concluding Observations 2010</a> – “The Committee notes with concern that the principle of equal remuneration for men and women workers for	“There are increased numbers of women in the police, military, civil service but still not enough in order to respond to emerging needs of women. Women in the	“Reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights by all women, girls and children... including...the right to work”

				beings”; <a href="#">International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights</a> – Article 6 section 1, “...the right of everyone to the opportunity to gain his living by work which he freely chooses”		work of equal value is not guaranteed in the State party”	security sector is an encouraging force for more women to join the security forces”	
3	30 Aug 2021	Ban on co-education, men prohibited from teaching girls	<a href="#">Republic World</a> , “Taliban declare ban on co-education in Afghanistan, prohibit men from teaching girls”	<a href="#">Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women</a> – Article 10 (a), “The same conditions for...access to studies,” (b), “Access to the same... teaching staff,” (c), “elimination of any stereotyped concept of the roles of men and women at all levels”; <a href="#">Safe Schools Declaration</a> – “Education is fundamental to development”	Signed on 14 Aug 1980 and ratified on 5 Mar 2003; <a href="#">Endorsed</a> in May 2015	<a href="#">CRC State Report 2019</a> – section 116, “...all children are entitled to enjoy free education... the Government is obliged to provide compulsory primary education for all children”	“[the Government of Afghanistan has developed this National Action Plan to achieve... increase access to education and higher education for girls and women”	“...bilateral and regional efforts to promote the rights of women...in particular the right to education,” “...the right to education for all is an essential condition for achieving sustainable development”
4	8 Sept 2021	Announcement of caretaker government without women	<a href="#">CNN</a> , “Taliban name ex-Guantanamo detainees and wanted man to new caretaker government”	<a href="#">Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women</a> – Article 7 (b), “[ensure to women, on	Signed on 14 Aug 1980 and ratified on 5 Mar 2003	<a href="#">ICESRC Concluding Observations 2010</a> – “The Committee... remains concerned at the low level of women’s representation	“[the Government of Afghanistan has developed this National Action Plan to achieve...participation of women in the decision	“ <i>Recognizing</i> that the full, equal, effective and meaningful participation, inclusion and empowerment of all women and girls...is essential for

				equal terms with men] To participate in the formulation of government policy... and to hold public office...at all levels of government”		in decision-making position in Afghanistan”	making and executive levels of the Civil Service”	sustainable peace”
5	17 Sept 2021	Ban on girls’ secondary education (secondary schools to reopen only for male teachers and students)	<a href="#">The Guardian</a> , “Taliban ban girls from secondary education in Afghanistan”	<a href="#">Convention on the Rights of the Child</a> – Article 28 section 1 (b), “Encourage the development of different forms of secondary education... make them available...to every child”; <a href="#">Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women</a> – Article 10 (a), “The same conditions for...access to studies,” (b), “Access to the same... teaching staff,” (c), “elimination of any stereotyped concept of the roles of men and women at all levels”; <a href="#">Safe Schools Declaration</a> – “Education is fundamental	Signed on 27 Sep 1990 and ratified on 28 Mar 1994; Signed on 14 Aug 1980 and ratified on 5 Mar 2003; <a href="#">Endorsed</a> in May 2015	<a href="#">CRC State Report 2019</a> – section 116, “...all children are entitled to enjoy free education up to the undergraduate level... the Government is obliged to provide compulsory primary education for all children,” section 122, “To promote the right of girls to education”	“[the Government of Afghanistan has developed this National Action Plan to achieve... increase access to education and higher education for girls and women”	“...bilateral and regional efforts to promote the rights of women...in particular the right to education,” “...the right to education for all is an essential condition for achieving sustainable development”

				to development”				
6	17 Sept 2021	Removal of Ministry of Women’s Affairs	<a href="#">Reuters</a> , “Taliban replaces women’s ministry with ministry of virtue and vice”	<a href="#">International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights</a> – Article 3, “...ensure the equal right of men and women to the enjoyment of all civil and political rights”	Not Signed but ratified on 24 Jan 1983	<a href="#">ICESRC Concluding Observations 2010</a> – “The Committee... remains concerned at the low level of women’s representation in decision-making position in Afghanistan”	“[the Government of Afghanistan has developed this National Action Plan to achieve... participation of women in the decision making and executive levels of the Civil Service”	“Calls for measures to ensure that local women’s rights organizations and local organizations led by women can continue to carry out their work all over Afghanistan”
7	20 Sept 2021	Effective ban on women in the workplace	<a href="#">CBS News</a> , “Taliban tells women and girls to stay home from work and school”	<a href="#">Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women</a> – Article 11 (a), “The right to work as an inalienable right of all human beings”; <a href="#">International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights</a> – Article 6 section 1, “...the right of everyone to the opportunity to gain his living by work which he freely chooses”	Signed on 14 Aug 1980 and ratified on 5 Mar 2003; not signed but ratified on 24 Jan 1983	<a href="#">CEDAW Third State Report</a> – section 146, “Various government institutions... have launched public awareness raising programmes on women’s rights including their right to work”	“Create enabling environment for women’s participation in the civil service through development of policy of mutual respect in the workplace”	“Reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights by all women, girls and children... including...the right to work”
8	29 Sept 2021	Ban on women teaching or studying at public universities until they can be segregated from men	<a href="#">Washington Post</a> , “Kabul University shuts down as Taliban government bans women from campus, for now”	<a href="#">International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights</a> – Article 6 section 1, “...the right of everyone to the	Not signed but ratified on 24 Jan 1983; Signed on 14 Aug 1980, ratified	<a href="#">CRC State Report 2019</a> – section 116, “The Government is obliged to provide compulsory primary education for	“Create enabling environment for women’s participation in the civil service through development of policy of mutual respect	“Reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights by all women, girls and children...”



				<p>opportunity to gain his living by work which he freely chooses”;</p> <p><a href="#">Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women</a> – Article 10 (a), “The same conditions for...access to studies,” (b), “Access to the same...teaching staff,” (c), “elimination of any stereotyped concept of the roles of men and women at all levels”;</p> <p><a href="#">Safe Schools Declaration</a> – “Education is fundamental to development, ” “...places of education are places of safety”</p>	<p>on 5 Mar 2003;</p> <p><a href="#">Endorsed</a> in May 2015</p>	<p>all children,” section 122, “To promote the right of girls to education”;</p> <p><a href="#">CEDAW Third State Report</a> – section 146, “Various government institutions...have launched public awareness raising programmes on women’s rights including their right to work”</p>	<p>in the workplace”</p>	<p>including...the right to work,” “...the right to...meaningfully participate in the...transformative potential of education”</p>
9	22 Nov 2021	<p>Ban on dramas, soap operas, entertainment shows broadcasting women; women news presenters required to wear headscarves</p>	<p><a href="#">CNN</a>, “Women banned from Afghan television dramas under new Taliban media rules”</p>	<p><a href="#">Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women</a> – Article 11 (b), “The right to the same employment opportunities,” and (c), “The right to free choice of profession and employment”;</p>	<p>Signed on 14 Aug 1980, ratified on 5 Mar 2003; not signed but ratified on 24 Jan 1983</p>	<p><a href="#">CEDAW Third State Report</a> – section 146, “Various government institutions...have launched public awareness raising programmes on women’s rights including their right to work”</p>	<p>“Create enabling environment for women’s participation in the civil service through development of policy of mutual respect in the workplace”</p>	<p>“<i>Stressing</i> the importance of regarding Afghan women as active agents over their own lives,” “<i>Deeply concerned</i> at the situation of women journalists and media workers... underlining [their] important role...to carry out essential work”</p>

				<a href="#">International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights</a> – Article 2 section 2, “...the rights...in the present Covenant will be exercised without discrimination of any kind as to...religion”				
10	3 Dec 2021	Decree on women’s rights exclusively on marriage, with no mention of access to education or work	<a href="#">Reuters</a> , “Taliban release decree saying women must consent to marriage”	<a href="#">Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women</a> – Article 16 (b), “The same right freely to choose a spouse and to enter into a marriage only with their free and full consent”; <a href="#">International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights</a> – Article 10 section 1, “Marriage must be entered into with the free consent of the intending spouses”	Signed on 14 Aug 1980 and ratified on 5 Mar 2003; Not signed but ratified on 24 Jan 1983	<a href="#">CEDAW Concluding Observations of Third State Report</a> – “The practices of child and forced marriage... continue and that perpetrators enjoy impunity for such crimes,” “Women...who try to escape from child or forced marriage...are revictimized”	“The laws of Afghanistan guarantee the protection of women’s rights and freedom... [against] offences including forced marriage”	N/A
11	26 Dec 2021	Ban on cab drivers from accepting women passengers without hijab	<a href="#">Republic World</a> , “Taliban Ban Drivers From Playing Music In Cars, Having Women	<a href="#">International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights</a> – Article 2 section 2,	Not signed but ratified on 24 Jan 1983; Not signed	<a href="#">ICESRC Concluding Observations 2010</a> – “It is particularly concerned at the fact that	N/A	“Recognizing that limiting women’s freedom of movement has a negative impact on their lives,”

			Passengers Without Hijab”	“...the rights...in the present Covenant will be exercised without discrimination of any kind as to...religion”; <a href="#">International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights</a> – Article section 2, “no one shall be subject to coercion which would impair his freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice”	but ratified on 24 Jan 1983	some provisions of the Shia Personal Status Law remain discriminatory against women, including...limitation on movements outside the home”		“ <i>Reaffirms</i> its unwavering commitment to the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights by all women, girls and children... including the right to freedom of movement”
12	29 Dec 2021	Ban on women taking long-distance road trips alone (male relative required to accompany them for distances beyond 45 miles)	<a href="#">CNN</a> , “Taliban bans women from solo, long-distance road trips in Afghanistan”	<a href="#">International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights</a> – Article 12 section 1, “...the right to liberty of movement,” and section 2, “everyone shall be free to leave any country”	Not signed but ratified on 24 Jan 1983	<a href="#">ICESRC Concluding Observations 2010</a> – “It is particularly concerned at the fact that some provisions of the Shia Personal Status Law remain discriminatory against women, including... limitation on movements outside the home”	N/A	“ <i>Recognizing</i> that limiting women’s freedom of movement has a negative impact on their lives,” “ <i>Reaffirms</i> its unwavering commitment to the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights by all women, girls and children... including the right to freedom of movement”
13	29 Dec 2021	Closure of public baths for women	<a href="#">Etilaatroz</a> , “The Taliban-shut down women’s baths in Mazar-e-Sharif”	<a href="#">Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women</a> – Article 13 (c), “The right to	Signed on 14 Aug 1980 and ratified on 5 Mar 2003	<a href="#">ICESRC Concluding Observations 2010</a> – “The Committee regrets the discrepancy between the legal	N/A	“ <i>Deeply concerned</i> about the increasing erosion of respect for the human rights of women and girls in Afghanistan

				participate in recreational activities, sports and all aspects of cultural life”		framework and the inequality in practice in sectors such as work, public life, education, and health”		by the Taliban, including... women’s full, equal, effective and meaningful participation in public life”
14	5 Jan 2022	Ban on women entering cafes without mahram in Herat	<a href="#">Rukshana Media</a> , “Taliban bans women without Mahram from entering Cafes in Herat”	<a href="#">Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women</a> – Article 13 (c), “The right to participate in recreational activities, sports and all aspects of cultural life”; <a href="#">International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights</a> – Article 12 section 1, “...the right to liberty of movement”	Signed on 14 Aug 1980 and ratified on 5 Mar 2003; Not Signed but ratified on 24 Jan 1983	<a href="#">ICESRC Concluding Observations 2010</a> – “It is particularly concerned at the fact that some provisions of the Shia Personal Status Law remain discriminatory against women, including... limitation on movements outside the home”	N/A	“ <i>Stressing</i> the importance of regarding Afghan women as active agents over their own lives”
15	2 Feb 2022	Ban on women government employees from entering government offices without hijab	<a href="#">Rukshana Media</a> , “Taliban: Female government employees aren’t allowed to go to work without hijab”	<a href="#">International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights</a> – Article 2 section 2, “...the rights...in the present Covenant will be exercised without discrimination of any kind as to...religion,” and Article 3, “...ensure the equal right of men and women to the enjoyment of all civil and political	Not signed but ratified on 24 Jan 1983; Not signed but ratified on 24 Jan 1983	<a href="#">CEDAW Concluding Observations of Third State Report</a> – section 26 (h), “[the Committee urges the state party] to address cultural norms and discriminatory stereotypes that lead to social stigma associated with gender-based violence against women and girls through...	“Men and women must possess equal access to opportunities and resources to achieve [increased women’s participation in peace processes”	“ <i>Stressing</i> the importance of regarding Afghan women as active agents over their own lives,” “ <i>Recognizing</i> that limiting women’s freedom of movement has a negative impact on their...ability to generate income”

				rights”; <a href="#">International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights</a> – Article section 2, “no one shall be subject to coercion which would impair his freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice”		information and communication campaigns”		
16	2 Mar 2022	Ban on women’s access to health centers without a mahram	<a href="#">Foreign Policy</a> , “The Taliban Are Harming Afghan Women’s Health”	<a href="#">Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women</a> – Article 12 section 1, “...equality of men and women, access to health care services”	Signed on 14 Aug 1980, ratified on 5 Mar 2003	<a href="#">ICESRC Concluding Observations 2010</a> – “The Committee regrets the discrepancy between the legal framework and the inequality in practice in sectors such as work, public life, education, and health”; <a href="#">CEDAW Concluding Observations of Third State Report</a> – section 45 (a), “[it also notes with concern] the limited access that women with disabilities have to health care”	“Women’s human right deteriorated to unprecedented levels during the conflicts and war as they were denied their basic rights, including access to... healthcare”	“ <i>Recognizing</i> that limiting women’s freedom of movement has a negative impact on their lives, including the access of women and their children to health-care services”
17	13 Mar 2022	Segregation of women and men’s offices in the Ministry of Public Health	<a href="#">Azadi Radio</a>	<a href="#">Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women</a> –	Signed on 14 Aug 1980, ratified on 5 Mar 2003	<a href="#">ICESRC Concluding Observations 2010</a> – “The Committee... remains concerned at	“...some of the major areas that require focused attention... women lack proper access	<i>Recognizing</i> that limiting women’s freedom of movement has a negative impact on their lives,

				Article 12 section 1, "...equality of men and women, access to health care services"		the low level of women's representation in decision-making position in Afghanistan"; <a href="#">CEDAW Third State Report</a> – section 146, "Various government institutions... have launched public awareness raising programmes on women's rights including their right to work"	to healthcare services, education, and employment opportunities"	including the access of women and their children to health-care services...as well as women's ability to generate income for their families"
18	24 Mar 2022	Closure of schools for girls above the 6 <sup>th</sup> grade	<a href="#">CNN</a> , "Taliban postpones return to school for Afghan girls above 6th grade"	<a href="#">Convention on the Rights of the Child</a> – Article 28 section 1 (b), "Encourage the development of different forms of secondary education... make them available...to every child," and (c), "Make Higher education accessible to all on the basis of capacity by every appropriate means"; <a href="#">Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women</a> – Article 10 (a),	Signed on 27 Sep 1990 and ratified on 28 Mar 1994; Signed on 14 Aug 1980, ratified 5 Mar 2003; <a href="#">Endorsed</a> in May 2015	<a href="#">CRC State Report 2019</a> – section 116, "The Government is obliged to provide compulsory primary education for all children," section 122, "To promote the right of girls to education"	"[the Government of Afghanistan has developed this National Action Plan to achieve... increase access to education and higher education for girls and women"	"...bilateral and regional efforts to promote the rights of women...in particular the right to education," "...the right to education for all is an essential condition for achieving sustainable development," " <i>Reaffirming</i> the equal right of every child to education without discrimination of any kind"

				<p>“The same conditions for...access to studies,” (c), “elimination of any stereotyped concept of the roles of men and women at all levels”;</p> <p><a href="#">Safe Schools Declaration</a> – “Education is fundamental to development“</p> <p>”...places of education are places of safety,”</p> <p>“Education that is ‘conflict sensitive’...pursues a contribution to peace”</p>				
19	27 Mar 2022	Ban on women’s air travel without a mahram	<p><a href="#">Reuters</a>, “Taliban ban women in Afghanistan from flying without male chaperone”</p>	<p><a href="#">International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights</a> – Article 12 section 1, “...the right to liberty of movement,” and section 2, “everyone shall be free to leave any country”</p>	Not signed but ratified on 24 Jan 1983	<p><a href="#">ICESRC Concluding Observations 2010</a> – “It is particularly concerned at the fact that some provisions of the Shia Personal Status Law remain discriminatory against women, including... limitation on movements outside the home”</p>	N/A	<p>“Recognizing that limiting women’s freedom of movement has a negative impact on their lives,”</p> <p>“Reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights by all women, girls and children... including the right to freedom of movement”</p>
20	6 Apr 2022	Gender segregation in public parks – women only allowed to visit on Sunday-Tuesday	<p><a href="#">Al Jazeera</a>, “Shrinking public space for Afghan women as Taliban expands curbs”; <a href="#">Republic World</a>, “Taliban</p>	<p><a href="#">Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women</a> –</p>	Signed on 14 Aug 1980, ratified on 5 Mar 2003	<p><a href="#">ICESRC Concluding Observations 2010</a> – “The Committee regrets the discrepancy</p>	N/A	<p>“Deeply concerned about the increasing erosion of respect for the human rights of women and girls</p>

			Issues Segregation Rule For Amusement Parks, Specifies Open Days For Each Gender”	Article 13 (c), “The right to participate in recreational activities, sports and all aspects of cultural life”		between the legal framework and the inequality in practice in sectors such as work, public life, education, and health”		in Afghanistan by the Taliban, including... women’s full, equal, effective and meaningful participation in public life”
21	29 Apr 2022	Gender segregation in academic institutions – working week divided into shifts for only women or only men students	<a href="#">University World News</a> , “Taliban splits university week for gender separation”	<a href="#">Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women</a> – Article 10 (a), “The same conditions for...access to studies,” and (b), “access to the same curricula”	Signed on 14 Aug 1980, ratified on 5 Mar 2003	<a href="#">ICESCR State Report 2009</a> – “The Government of Afghanistan is making efforts to eliminate gender disparities in all levels of education no later than 2020”	“[the Government of Afghanistan has developed this National Action Plan to achieve... increase access to education and higher education for girls and women”	“...bilateral and regional efforts to promote the rights of women...in particular the right to education,” “...the right to education for all is an essential condition for achieving sustainable development”
22	5 May 2022	Ban on issuing of driving licenses for women	<a href="#">Independent</a> , “Taliban regime stops issuing driving licenses to women, reports say”	<a href="#">International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights</a> – Article 12 section 1, “...the right to liberty of movement,” and section 2, “everyone shall be free to leave any country”	Not signed but ratified on 24 Jan 1983	<a href="#">ICESRC Concluding Observations 2010</a> – “It is particularly concerned at the fact that some provisions of the Shia Personal Status Law remain discriminatory against women, including... limitation on movements outside the home”	N/A	“ <i>Recognizing</i> that limiting women’s freedom of movement has a negative impact on their lives,” “ <i>Reaffirms</i> its unwavering commitment to the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights by all women, girls and children... including the right to freedom of movement”
23	7 May 2022	Forced face covering in public for women	<a href="#">CNN</a> , “Taliban decree orders women in Afghanistan to cover their faces”	<a href="#">International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights</a> – Article 2 section 2, “...the rights...in the present Covenant will	Not signed but ratified on 24 Jan 1983; Not signed but ratified on 24 Jan 1983	<a href="#">ICESRC Concluding Observations 2010</a> – “The Committee regrets the discrepancy between the legal framework and the inequality	“[the Government of Afghanistan has developed this National Action Plan to achieve... protection of women from all types of... discrimination”	“ <i>Deeply concerned</i> about the increasing erosion of respect for the human rights of women and girls in Afghanistan by the Taliban, including... ”



				<p>be exercised without discrimination of any kind as to...religion"; <a href="#">International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights</a> – Article section 2, “no one shall be subject to coercion which would impair his freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice”</p>		<p>in practice in sectors such as work, public life, education, and health”</p>		<p>women’s full, equal, effective and meaningful participation in public life”</p>
24	12 May 2022	Ban on women’s access to parks in Herat; gender segregation in restaurants	<p><a href="#">Hasht-e Subh Daily</a>, “New Taliban restrictions in Herat; the gates of the park and restaurant were closed to women”</p>	<p><a href="#">Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women</a> – Article 13 (c), “The right to participate in recreational activities, sports and all aspects of cultural life”</p>	<p>Signed on 14 Aug 1980, ratified on 5 Mar 2003</p>	<p><a href="#">ICESRC Concluding Observations 2010</a> – “The Committee regrets the discrepancy between the legal framework and the inequality in practice in sectors such as work, public life, education, and health”</p>	<p>“[the Government of Afghanistan has developed this National Action Plan to achieve... protection of women from all types of... discrimination”</p>	<p>“<i>Deeply concerned</i> about the increasing erosion of respect for the human rights of women and girls in Afghanistan by the Taliban, including... women’s full, equal, effective and meaningful participation in public life”</p>
25	19 May 2022	Forced face covering for women TV presenters and other women on screen	<p><a href="#">BBC</a>, “Afghanistan’s female TV presenters must cover their faces, say Taliban”</p>	<p><a href="#">International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights</a> – Article 2 section 2, “...the rights...in the present Covenant will be exercised without discrimination of any kind as to...religion”; <a href="#">International</a></p>	<p>Not signed but ratified on 24 Jan 1983; not signed but ratified on 24 Jan 1983</p>	<p><a href="#">ICESRC Concluding Observations 2010</a> – “The Committee regrets the discrepancy between the legal framework and the inequality in practice in sectors such as work, public life, education, and health”</p>	<p>“[the Government of Afghanistan has developed this National Action Plan to achieve...protection of women from all types of... discrimination” “[the Government of Afghanistan has developed this National Action Plan to</p>	<p>“<i>Deeply concerned</i> about the increasing erosion of respect for the human rights of women and girls in Afghanistan by the Taliban, including... women’s full, equal, effective and meaningful participation in public life”</p>

				<a href="#">Covenant on Civil and Political Rights</a> – Article section 2, “no one shall be subject to coercion which would impair his freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice”			achieve...support and provide a capacity building for civil society...on UNSCR 1325 and women, peace, and security”	
26	29 May 2022	Reissuance of ban on women’s access to public transportation without a mahram	<a href="#">Jurist</a> , “Afghanistan dispatch: unaccompanied women now banned from public transport”	<a href="#">International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights</a> – Article 12 section 1, “...the right to liberty of movement”	Not signed but ratified on 24 Jan 1983	<a href="#">ICESRC Concluding Observations 2010</a> – “It is particularly concerned at the fact that some provisions of the Shia Personal Status Law remain discriminatory against women, including... limitation on movements outside the home”	“[the Government of Afghanistan has developed this National Action Plan to achieve... protection of women from all types of... discrimination”	“Recognizing that limiting women’s freedom of movement has a negative impact on their lives,” “Reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights by all women, girls and children... including the right to freedom of movement”
27	2 Jun 2022	Ban on women’s access to music and movies at computer shops unless accompanied by a male family member	<a href="#">Rukshana Media</a> , “Taliban order Kandahar DJs not to transfer music and movies into women’s phones and computers, if they visit their shops alone”	<a href="#">Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women</a> – Article 13 (c), “The right to participate in recreational activities, sports and all aspects of cultural life”	Signed on 14 Aug 1980, ratified on 5 Mar 2003	<a href="#">ICESRC Concluding Observations 2010</a> – “The Committee regrets the discrepancy between the legal framework and the inequality in practice in sectors such as work, public life, education, and health”	“[the Government of Afghanistan has developed this National Action Plan to achieve... support and provide a capacity building for civil society...on UNSCR 1325 and women, peace, and security”	“Deeply concerned about the increasing erosion of respect for the human rights of women and girls in Afghanistan by the Taliban, including... women’s full, equal, effective and meaningful participation in public life”
28	9 Jun 2022	Ban on women taking taxis without a	<a href="#">BBC Afghanistan</a>	<a href="#">Convention on the Elimination of</a>	Signed on 14 Aug 1980,	<a href="#">ICESRC Concluding Observations</a>	N/A	“Recognizing that limiting women’s

		mahram; ban on women sitting next to taxi drivers		<a href="#">All Forms of Discrimination against Women</a> – Article 13 (c), “The right to participate in recreational activities, sports and all aspects of cultural life”	ratified on 5 Mar 2003	<a href="#">2010</a> – “The Committee regrets the discrepancy between the legal framework and the inequality in practice in sectors such as work, public life, education, and health”		freedom of movement has a negative impact on their lives,” <i>“Reaffirms</i> its unwavering commitment to the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights by all women, girls and children... including the right to freedom of movement”
29	10 Jun 2022	Ban on tailors from sewing women’s clothes or taking measurements of women’s bodies	<a href="#">Hasht-e Subh Daily</a> , “Taliban Beat Up Tailors for Allegedly Sewing Women’s Clothing in Herat”; <a href="https://www.afintl.com/202206107050">https://www.afintl.com/202206107050</a>	<a href="#">Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women</a> – Article 13 (c), “The right to participate in recreational activities, sports and all aspects of cultural life”; <a href="#">International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights</a> – Article 3, “...ensure the equal right of men and women to the enjoyment of all civil and political rights”	Signed on 14 Aug 1980, ratified on 5 Mar 2003; Not signed but ratified on 24 Jan 1983	<a href="#">ICESRC Concluding Observations 2010</a> – “The Committee regrets the discrepancy between the legal framework and the inequality in practice in sectors such as work, public life, education, and health”	N/A	<i>“Deeply concerned</i> about the increasing erosion of respect for the human rights of women and girls in Afghanistan by the Taliban, including... women’s full, equal, effective and meaningful participation in public life”
30	16 Jun 2022	Ban on women’s right to sue men in Herat	<a href="#">Hasht-e Subh Daily</a> , “Women have no right to sue men,” says Taliban in Herat	<a href="#">Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women</a> – Article 15 section 1, “States Parties shall accord to	Signed on 14 Aug 1980, ratified on 5 Mar 2003	<a href="#">CEDAW Concluding Observations of Third State Report</a> – section 16 (e), “[the Committee recommends that the State party] Develop	“[the Government of Afghanistan has developed this National Action Plan to achieve... Women’s access to effective, active and	<i>“Stressing</i> the importance of regarding Afghan women as active agents over their own lives,” <i>“Recognizing</i> that the full realization of the right to

				women equality with men before the law,” section 2, “States Parties shall accord to women, in civil matters, a legal capacity identical to that of men,” and section 3, “all contracts and all other private instruments... which is directed at restricting the legal capacity of women shall be deemed null and void”		partnerships with relevant...legal aid organizations... to help women and girls...to navigate parallel justice systems,” (f), “...raise awareness...of the important of addressing violations of women’s rights through the formal justice system”	accountable justice system”	education...is an essential condition for achieving sustainable development...including the right to participate in the conduct of public affairs”
31	17 Jun 2022	Ban on women attending Friday prayers at mosques in Herat	<a href="#">Hasht-e Subh Daily</a> , “The Taliban in Herat prevented women from attending Friday prayers”	<a href="#">International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights</a> – Article 18 section 1, “This right shall include freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice, and freedom...to manifest his religion or belief in worship, observance, practice, and teaching,” and section 2, “no one shall be subject to coercion which would impair his freedom to have or to	Not signed but ratified on 24 Jan 1983	<a href="#">ICESRC Concluding Observations 2010</a> – The Committee regrets the discrepancy between the legal framework and the inequality in practice in sectors such as work, public life, education, and health”	N/A	“ <i>Deeply concerned</i> about the increasing erosion of respect for the human rights of women and girls in Afghanistan by the Taliban, including... women’s full, equal, effective and meaningful participation in public life”

				adopt a religion or belief of his choice”				
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## Methodology

During the course of a year, Taliban officials have implemented many policies in their role as the de facto authority in Afghanistan. Many of these policies have raised concerns across the international community, particularly those regarding women. Despite claims from the Taliban ensuring their desire to protect and include women in society, the policies they have implemented have reversed much of the progress made for women in Afghanistan over the last twenty years. To emphasize how the Taliban has specifically targeted women’s rights, we highlighted 31 policies from 13 August 2021 to 17 June 2022 that focused on women. After cross referencing and examining treaties signed and ratified by Afghanistan’s former government, these policies were found to violate the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), and the Safe Schools Declaration. We analyzed how each policy violated these previously signed treaties and supported this with evidence. Through analysis, we found specific language from each treaty itself that highlights how the new Taliban policy violates the previously signed treaty. In this table we also included language from the Afghan National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security. This plan, with intentions of being completed from 2015-2022, describes how Afghanistan envisioned the inclusion of women in the peacemaking process and other security endeavors.

## Questionnaire to Teachers in Afghanistan

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### Interview No. One:

No.	Question	Response
1	Name	Anonymous.
2	Age	38.
3	Location/ Province	Herat.
4	Name of School where you taught: Keep anonymous - but need details of the size of school (teachers and students) and the grades in the school?	Unknown.
5	No. of Students and Teachers?	Six hundred students and twenty teachers.
6	What did you teach?	Design, painting, English, calligraphy...
7	What is your educational background?	Fine arts.
8	How much did you earn?	Between fifteen thousand and twenty thousand (-200\$)
9	Have you experienced any direct abuse from the Taliban?	Since the arrival of the Taliban my rights as a woman, mother and female teacher have been abused. I don't have freedom.
10	Since when are you unemployed? - Date	After the arrival of the Taliban on Aug 15, 2021.
11	Since when are schools closed?	Since Aug 15, 2021 All girls' schools are closed.
12	What are you doing now?	I stay at home for now.
13	Are you applying for another job?	Yes, I have decided to apply for another job
14	Who is dependent on you?	I was part of the economy of the family along with my husband.
15	How many children do you have?	I have one child.
16	How many schools are closed in your province? Are they all girls' schools?	All of the elementary and high schools. Yes, all girls!
17	How many girls are without schools in your province? Are only boys going to those schools now?	I don't know but almost all. Yes, boys only!

18	What are your students doing? Are they being home schooled? How old are they?	Nothing, No home schooling is available. They are 14-18 [years old].
19	Do you wear a niqab when you leave the house?	Yes.
20	Do you need a male guardian to leave the house?	Yes, I do.
21	Please tell us some stories of the girls who are deprived of school? What do they do? Do you fear they might be forced into marriage? What is their future? What is your future in a Taliban government?	In the current situation, the future of all girls in Afghanistan is uncertain and if this trend continues, girls will have to get married earlier instead of continuing their education, and some families force their girls to get married because of the difficult economic conditions in Afghanistan. More importantly, all I see is darkness and ignorance against women and girls right in Afghanistan.

#### Interview No. Two:

No	Question	Response
1	Name	Anonymous.
2	Age	Unknown.
3	Location/ Province	Bamyan.
4	Name of School where you taught: Keep anonymous - but need details of the size of school (teachers and students) and the grades in the school?	Unknown.
5	No. of Students and Teachers?	Five hundred students and forty-five teachers.
6	What did you teach?	Mathematics.
7	What is your educational background?	BA in Education.
8	How much did you earn?	Around \$180 per month.
9	Have you met with any direct abuse from the Taliban?	Yes, a Taliban man beat me when I was buying groceries. They abuse all of us including our men because they ignore our religion.
10	Since when are you unemployed? - Date	After Taliban arrival.

11	Since when are schools closed?	Since Aug 15, 2021 all girls' schools are closed.
12	What are you doing now?	I am at home.
13	Are you applying for another job?	I am not going to work under the Taliban. It's too dangerous.
14	Who is dependent on you?	My parents.
15	How many children do you have?	I am single.
16	How many schools are closed in your province? Are they all girls' schools?	All of the elementary and high schools. Girls are abandoned.
17	How many girls are without schools in your province? Are only boys going to those schools now?	Almost all. Elementary school girls also don't attend the school properly because of the security. Boys go to school.
18	What are your students doing? Are they being home schooled? How old are they?	They do nothing, they count days until their freedom. They are high school age (14-18).
19	Do you wear a niqab when you leave the house?	Yes.
20	Do you need a male guardian to leave the house	Yes.
21	Please tell us some stories of the girls who are deprived of school? What do they do? Do you fear they might be forced into marriage? What is their future? What is your future in a Taliban government?	In my province we had girls that could be singers, professors, athletes and politicians. Now we have nothing left. All of those talents were arrested, left the country or now live in hiding. Families rush to marry their daughters because they are afraid of the Taliban that may take them for marriage. Most girls are forced to marry. This is a nightmare I never imagined to happen.

### Interview No. Three:

No.	Question	Response
1	Name	Anonymous.
2	Age	Unknown.
3	Location/ Province	Herat.
4	Name of School where you taught: Keep anonymous - but need details of the size of school (teachers and students) and the grades in the school?	Unknown.



5	No. of Students and Teachers?	Unknown.
6	What did you teach?	Principles of Education.
7	What is your educational background?	Bachelor of language education.
8	How much did you earn?	7600 Afghanis per month (almost \$100).
9	Have you experienced any direct abuse from the Taliban?	No.
10	Since when are you unemployed? – Date	From August 2021.
11	Since when are schools closed?	After the arrival of the Taliban.
12	What are you doing now?	Unemployed.
13	Are you applying for another job?	There are no jobs for women.
14	Who is dependent on you?	My family.
15	How many children do you have?	I am single and living with my parents.
16	How many schools are closed in your province? Are they all girls' schools?	All girls' schools are closed. Yes, all girls.
17	How many girls are without schools in your province? Are only boys going to those schools now?	Thousands.
18	What are your students doing? Are they being home schooled? How old are they?	My students were in primary classes, so fortunately, they are currently included in the school. They are not homeschooled. They are between the ages of 7 and 10.
19	Do you wear a niqab when you leave the house?	Yes.
20	Do you need a male guardian to leave the house?	No.
21	Please tell us some stories of the girls who are deprived of school? What do they do? Do you fear they might be forced into marriage? What is their future? What is your future in a Taliban government?	Most students in secondary and high school get mental illnesses, some of them go to sewing courses, some of them are unemployed, and some of them are forced to get married. I see my future falling in the darkness and back sliding under the Taliban government. I see no future for my generation in the Taliban government.

**Interview No. Four:**

No.	Question	Response
1	Name	Anonymous.
2	Age	Unknown.
3	Location/ Province	Herat.
4	Name of School where you taught: Keep anonymous - but need details of the size of school (teachers and students) and the grades in the school?	Anonymous.
5	No. of Students and Teachers?	Unknown.
6	What did you teach?	English.
7	What is your educational background?	Bachelor of English Language Literature.
8	How much did you earn?	8000 Afghanis (\$100).
9	Have you experienced any direct abuse from the Taliban?	Not myself personally.
10	Since when are you unemployed? – Date	Since the Taliban takeover.
11	Since when are schools closed?	August 2021 to the present.
12	What are you doing now?	I am currently a teacher in a private school.
13	Are you applying for another job?	If it is possible, it should be good in terms of security.
14	Who is dependent on you?	Yes, my family.
15	How many children do you have?	I have a child.
16	How many schools are closed in your province? Are they all girls' schools?	Yes, most girls' schools are closed.
17	How many girls are without schools in your province? Are only boys going to those schools now?	About 100 thousand or more. Yes, all girls' schools. All boys go to the school until the 12th grade, girls of 6th grade and under also attend the school.
18	What are your students doing? Are they being home schooled? How old are they?	Our students study in educational courses up to the sixth grade and above. From 15 to 18 years old.

19	Do you wear a niqab when you leave the house?	Yes, I wear a niqab because the security for women is weak.
20	Do you need a male guardian to leave the house?	No.
21	Please tell us some stories of the girls who are deprived of school? What do they do? Do you fear they might be forced into marriage? What is their future? What is your future in a Taliban government?	The girls are afraid of their future, that all their hard work will be wasted and what will happen to their futures if they stay at home. I don't see any good consequences from the Taliban staying in the country. I'm afraid when I teach the girls in schools.

#### Interview No. Five:

No.	Question	Response
1	Name	Anonymous.
2	Age	28.
3	Location/ Province	Kabul.
4	Name of School where you taught: Keep anonymous - but need details of the size of school (teachers and students) and the grades in the school?	Unknown.
5	No. of Students and Teachers?	Three thousand students and 36 teachers.
6	What did you teach?	Literature.
7	What is your educational background?	Bachelor.
8	How much did you earn?	Almost 25 thousand (\$200).
9	Have you experienced any direct abuse from the Taliban?	Yes! The Taliban stopped me in the street as I was driving and asked me to give them my car and my smartphone. I refused and returned home.
10	Since when are you unemployed? - Date	After the arrival of the Taliban on August 15.
11	Since when are schools closed?	Since August 15, 2021. All girls' schools are closed.
12	What are you doing now?	I am unemployed.

13	Are you applying for another job?	Yes, I have decided to apply for another job but I am not sure there is any demand for teachers to join other jobs. While most women in other professions are also banned.
14	Who is dependent on you?	I am not dependent on anyone.
15	How many children do you have?	I have two children.
16	How many schools are closed in your province? Are they all girls' schools?	All public elementary and high schools are banned.
17	How many girls are without schools in your province? Are only boys going to those schools now?	Thousands of girls are abandoned. They stay at home with no hope.
18	What are your students doing? Are they being home schooled? How old are they?	Nothing. No homeschooling. High school age (14-18).
19	Do you wear a niqab when you leave the house?	Yes.
20	Do you need a male guardian to leave the house?	Yes, one hundred percent.
21	Please tell us some stories of the girls who are deprived of school? What do they do? Do you fear they might be forced into marriage? What is their future? What is your future in a Taliban government?	Girls in Afghanistan are treated as slaves, as a property, as a sex material, as a cook and cleaner. Women under the Taliban lost their dignity. Society also supports this kind of male dominance. Our culture is very conservative and we have lots of abusive men that are very happy that Taliban are here and no one will question their abusive behavior. Taliban is equal to evil, life under the Taliban equals to life in hell.

#### Interview No. Six:

No.	Question	Response
1	Name	Unknown.
2	Age	31.
3	Location/ Province	Badakhshan.
4	Name of School where you taught: Keep anonymous - but need details of the size of	Unknown.

	school (teachers and students) and the grades in the school?	
5	No. of Students and Teachers?	Almost 900 students and 45 teachers.
6	What did you teach?	Geography.
7	What is your educational background?	Bachelor of Education.
8	How much did you earn?	Almost 16000 Afghanis (\$200).
9	Have you experienced any direct abuse from the Taliban?	No.
10	Since when are you unemployed? – Date	After the arrival of the Taliban on August 15.
11	Since when are schools closed?	On August 15, 2021, all girls' schools are closed.
12	What are you doing now?	I am unemployed.
13	Are you applying for another job?	No.
14	Who is dependent on you?	My entire family. My old father and my kids.
15	How many children do you have?	I have two children.
16	How many schools are closed in your province? Are they all girls' schools?	All public elementary and high schools are closed. All for girls.
17	How many girls are without schools in your province? Are only boys going to those schools now?	In our province thousands of girls are stopped from education. Yes, all boys are still enrolled.
18	What are your students doing? Are they being home schooled? How old are they?	Nothing. No homeschooling. High school age (14-18).
19	Do you wear a niqab when you leave the house?	Yes.
20	Do you need a male guardian to leave the house?	Yes, of course.
21	Please tell us some stories of the girls who are deprived of school? What do they do? Do you fear they might be forced into marriage?	Girls' education is fundamental to development. Taliban stop the society from developing by banning girls' education. They promised that they would open the schools but when I went to the school, they asked me to return back and wait until further notice. I am

	What is their future? What is your future in a Taliban government?	afraid it will take forever until I hear the further notice. This life of uncertainty under the rule of the Taliban is driving me and my colleagues crazy.
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### Interview No. Seven:

No.	Question	Response
1	Name	Anonymous.
2	Age	25.
3	Location/ Province	Panjshir.
4	Name of School where you taught: Keep anonymous - but need details of the size of school (teachers and students) and the grades in the school?	Unknown.
5	No. of Students and Teachers?	Almost two thousand students and 55 teachers.
6	What did you teach?	Literature.
7	What is your educational background?	Bachelor of literature.
8	How much did you earn?	Almost twenty thousand (\$250).
9	Have you experienced any direct abuse from the Taliban?	Yes, Taliban killed my brother-in-law.
10	Since when are you unemployed? - Date	After the arrival of the Taliban on August 15.
11	Since when are schools closed?	On August 15, 2021, all girls' schools are closed.
12	What are you doing now?	I am unemployed.
13	Are you applying for another job?	No. I live hidden.
14	Who is dependent on you?	My family.
15	How many children do you have?	Unknown.
16	How many schools are closed in your province? Are they all girls' schools?	All public elementary and high schools are closed. All of them are girls' schools.
17	How many girls are without schools in your province? Are only boys going to those schools now?	In our province thousands of girls are stopped from education. Yes, all boys are still enrolled.

18	What are your students doing? Are they being home schooled? How old are they?	Nothing. No homeschooling is available. High school age (14-18).
19	Do you wear a niqab when you leave the house?	Yes.
20	Do you need a male guardian to leave the house?	Yes, but I don't get out because it's too dangerous because of the family background of supporting the anti-Taliban movement.
21	Please tell us some stories of the girls who are deprived of school? What do they do? Do you fear they might be forced into marriage? What is their future? What is your future in a Taliban government?	Taliban rules restrict the rights of everyone, women, men, children. They are not designed to do government but to do terror and violence. They committed genocide in my province. They killed many men and took many girls from my village because we belong to the minority. Even if the Taliban open the schools for girls, we still don't want and accept them as a government.

#### Interview No. Eight:

No.	Question	Response
1	Name	Anonymous.
2	Age	43.
3	Location/ Province	Balkh.
4	Name of School where you taught: Keep anonymous - but need details of the size of school (teachers and students) and the grades in the school?	Unknown.
5	No. of Students and Teachers?	Almost one thousand students and 45 teachers.
6	What did you teach?	History.
7	What is your educational background?	Bachelor of Arts.
8	How much did you earn?	Almost fifteen thousand (\$200).
9	Have you experienced any direct abuse from the Taliban?	No.
10	Since when are you unemployed? - Date	After the arrival of the Taliban on August 15.
11	Since when are schools closed?	On August 15, 2021, all girls' schools are closed.

12	What are you doing now?	I am unemployed.
13	Are you applying for another job?	Not right now.
14	Who is dependent on you?	My husband and children.
15	How many children do you have?	Three kids.
16	How many schools are closed in your province? Are they all girls' schools?	All girls' public elementary and high schools are closed.
17	How many girls are without schools in your province? Are only boys going to those schools now?	In my province almost thousands of girls are stopped from education. Boys are not stopped.
18	What are your students doing? Are they being home schooled? How old are they?	They have nothing to do. No home schooling is available. High school age (14-18).
19	Do you wear a niqab when you leave the house?	Yes.
20	Do you need a male guardian to leave the house?	Yes.
21	Please tell us some stories of the girls who are deprived of school? What do they do? Do you fear they might be forced into marriage? What is their future? What is your future in a Taliban government?	I have students who try to stay positive and they continue to study at home, but I don't know if they can survive the forced marriage as I see Taliban trying to continue to repress women and girls and even if girls continue to study, university level is not something Taliban want for girls.

### Interview No. Nine:

No.	Question	Response
1	Name	Anonymous.
2	Age	32.
3	Location/ Province	Uruzgan.
4	Name of School where you taught: Keep anonymous - but need details of the size of school (teachers and students) and the grades in the school?	Unknown.



5	No. of Students and Teachers?	Almost eight hundred students and 20 teachers.
6	What did you teach?	Islamic studies.
7	What is your educational background?	Theology.
8	How much did you earn?	Almost ten thousand (\$120).
9	Have you experienced any direct abuse from the Taliban?	Yes, the Taliban lashed me on the street.
10	Since when are you unemployed? - Date	After the arrival of the Taliban on August 15.
11	Since when are schools closed?	On August 15, 2021, all girls' schools are closed.
12	What are you doing now?	I am jobless.
13	Are you applying for another job?	Not right now.
14	Who is dependent on you?	My entire family.
15	How many children do you have?	Unknown.
16	How many schools are closed in your province? Are they all girls' schools?	All girls' public elementary and high schools are closed.
17	How many girls are without schools in your province? Are only boys going to those schools now?	I don't know the exact number but only in my province almost thousands of girls are stopped from education. Boys are not stopped.
18	What are your students doing? Are they being home schooled? How old are they?	They do nothing. There is no home-schooling opportunity. High school age (14-18).
19	Do you wear a niqab when you leave the house?	Yes.
20	Do you need a male guardian to leave the house?	Yes.
21	Please tell us some stories of the girls who are deprived of school? What do they do? Do you fear they might be forced into marriage? What is their future? What is your future in a Taliban government?	I have no hope for the future of the girls in this country. This is such a pity that they learned what freedom and democracy are and now they are taken from them. I feel this very severe pain every moment I live under the Taliban and I count days until either I escape or they get lost.

**Interview No. Ten:**

No.	Question	Response
1	Name	Anonymous.
2	Age	27.
3	Location/ Province	Kandahar.
4	Name of School where you taught: Keep anonymous - but need details of the size of school (teachers and students) and the grades in the school?	Unknown.
5	No. of Students and Teachers?	Almost five thousand students and 120 teachers.
6	What did you teach?	Social science.
7	What is your educational background?	Sociology.
8	How much did you earn?	Almost 25 thousand (\$300).
9	Have you experienced any direct abuse from the Taliban?	Yes, I was threatened by a Taliban when I was participating in a protest.
10	Since when are you unemployed? - Date	After the arrival of the Taliban on August 15.
11	Since when are schools closed?	On August 15, 2021, all girls' schools were closed.
12	What are you doing now?	Unemployed.
13	Are you applying for another job?	I am not planning.
14	Who is dependent on you?	My family.
15	How many children do you have?	I have one child.
16	How many schools are closed in your province? Are they all girls' schools?	Public elementary and high schools are closed. They all belonged to girls.
17	How many girls are without schools in your province? Are only boys going to those schools now?	Thousands of girls are without school. Boys can attend schools.
18	What are your students doing? Are they being home schooled? How old are they?	There is nothing they can do but to wait until they return to the school or get married. There is no home-schooling opportunity. Their age is high school age (14-18).

19	Do you wear a niqab when you leave the house?	Yes.
20	Do you need a male guardian to leave the house?	No.
21	Please tell us some stories of the girls who are deprived of school? What do they do? Do you fear they might be forced into marriage? What is their future? What is your future in a Taliban government?	Girls in Afghanistan have willingness, talent, and capacity. They will take their freedom back. I believe in them because I saw my students grow and made extraordinary changes to their society. They also have lots of brave role models. In my province, which is very conservative, we could make a lot of progress in the past two decades. Life under the Taliban means everything we did just disappeared overnight. We feel useless, unwanted, oppressed and low-confidence.

### Methodology

Primary accounts provide critical insights into Taliban rule. It was critical to our research to conduct interviews with female teachers currently residing in Afghanistan. Starting with ten teachers, each was asked to share information in a series of 21 questions. These interviews were conducted in Farsi, transcribed and later translated into English. We recognize the level of danger and risk of backlash from the Taliban when asking these questions, so we kept each teacher’s name and location anonymous. These interviews allowed us to gain further insight into the restrictions the Taliban are implementing. Each had different experiences, whether they were coming from a public or private school or if they were only allowed to leave the house with a male guardian or not. Though their answers varied, the response to the question: *Since when have schools been closed?* their answers were all the same, noting that schools closed for all girls on August 15, 2021 after the arrival of the Taliban. Many women also disclosed the violence that they have faced directly, or indirectly, from the Taliban and noted that they are apprehensive for the future of girls’ education. These women know that girls’ education is fundamental to development and the elimination of their schools is detrimental to Afghanistan’s society. These interviews display how important it is to these women to be able to educate young girls, and how dangerous their job has become since the takeover of the Taliban.

## Summary of Important International Human Rights Norms Impacted by Taliban

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Special Rapporteur, Richard Bennett, has expressed concern regarding the policies implemented by the de facto authority of the Taliban in Afghanistan. Actions that effectively erase women from society such as the suspension of girls' secondary education, ban of women in the workplace, and an enforcement of a strict form of Hijab, indicate measures toward absolute gender segregation, Bennett said. As women continue to demonstrate their determination to participate equally in society, Bennett called for action by the Taliban to "immediately reverse policies and directives that negatively impact women." Bennett also noted that if the Taliban meets certain benchmarks, such as reopening secondary schools, further instability may be mitigated. His first report will be presented to the Human Rights Council in September.

Source: United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner, [Facing critical human rights challenges, Afghanistan at a crossroads, says UN expert in Kabul](#), 26 May 2022

Amid the plummeting humanitarian and economic conditions, women and girls in Afghanistan are being deprived of their most basic human rights, including employment and education. The Taliban have increasingly restricted basic human rights aimed at the freedoms of women and girls. Yalda Hakim, international correspondent and presenter of BBC News, emphasized the importance of education as a basic human right. Yalda Royan, Consultant for VOICE Amplified, said that the Taliban have implemented over 30 policies restricting women from Society and imposing them through violence.

Source: United Nations Meetings Coverage and Press Releases, [Amid Plummeting Humanitarian Conditions in Afghanistan, Women, Girls, 'Are Being Written Out of Society' by De Facto Authorities, Briefers Warn Security Council](#), 23 June 2022

"The Committees are alarmed by the restrictive practices and ongoing reports of targeted attacks on women and girls including academics, health workers, human rights defenders, media workers, civil servants and many others who have contributed to the country's development over the past 20 years, as well as those exercising their right to education. These women should be praised for their important roles and contributions to economic, political and social development in Afghanistan, rather than being subjected to assaults.

The Committees recall that excessive and arbitrary Restrictions on women's and girls' rights to freedom of movement and expression, education, work and their right to participate in public life are incompatible with the principles of proportionality and non-discrimination..."

Source: CEDAW and CRC Joint Statement, August 2021, [The Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child](#)

## Concluding Observations of the CEDAW Committee to the Last Afghan Report, 2020

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	Report	Afghan official report to the CEDAW and what it says about women and girls' education	CEDAW Committee Concluding Observations on women and girls' education under each state party report
1	CEDAW/C/AFG/1-2	<p>Article Ten: Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Section 161, "There are no discriminatory issues against women in the educational law of Afghanistan,"</li> <li>- Section 168, "There is not any discrimination against women role in the new educational curriculum of schools...women rights, peace, democracy and elections are embedded,"</li> <li>- Section 176, "The majority of teachers in girls' schools are women, but in case of lack of female teachers, male teachers also teach girls... there is no discrimination against male or female students,"</li> <li>- Section 180, "all students engage in examinations and open competition to acquire the scholarships,"</li> <li>- Section 181, "more than 60% of the students in [literacy] courses are women,"</li> <li>- Section 184, "The main purpose of the professional and vocational program of MoE is to provide male and female students with appropriate and high-quality education,"</li> <li>- Section 185, "To increase the number of female students in professional and technical education schools, MoE will have</li> </ul>	<p>Upholding women's rights achievements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Section 11, "The committee urges the State party: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o (e)...to improve women's access to education,"</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Nationality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Section 30, "The Committee...is concerned about the high number of women who lack personal identity documentation in the State party, which...restricts women's...access to education,"</li> </ul> <p>Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Section 32, "The Committee highly appreciates the efforts to increase the enrolment of girls at all levels of education...It is further concern about the negative attitudes in society with regard to girls' education...it is also concerned about the marked underrepresentation of women in higher education,"</li> <li>- Section 33, "...the committee recommends that the State party... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o (b)...improve and standardize the quality of education...</li> <li>o (c) Develop a strategy to ensure that essential education services for women and girls are sufficiently funded...</li> <li>o (d)...take measures to address the fear that such security incidents create...thereby preventing girls' access to education...</li> <li>o (e)...remove biases that effectively limit women's access to this level of education,"</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

		<p>public awareness programs on in the media,”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Section 191, “most of the girls go to school on foot and due to lack of governmental buses...do not have access to transportation facilities...MoE is doing its best to gradually build more schools, so the students are close to schools,”</li> <li>- Section 194, “The educational curriculum is equally implemented for both male and female students,”</li> <li>- Section 195, “war and insecurity has resulted in low rate of girls’ attendance in university entrance examination...in year 2009, no girls passed the exam in several provinces such as Paktika, Oruzgan, Kunar, Nuristan, and Zabul,”</li> <li>- Section 196, “the percentage of girls in universities is increasing year by year,”</li> <li>- Section 197, “both men and women can work as lecturers at the universities, provided that they have the required qualifications,”</li> <li>- Section 199, “...In the first phase of student selection for faculties, no privilege is given to male or female candidates. However, after releasing the results [of the university entrance exam], positive discrimination is considered for female students from those faculties which have higher capacities for intake or present fields of studies</li> </ul>	<p>Poverty and rural women</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Section 39, “The Committee recommends that the State party... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o (d) Strengthen its efforts to...provide [rural women] with better access to...education,”</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Refugee returnees and internally displaced women and girls</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Section 41, “The Committee urges the State Party... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o (b) To ensure that Afghan refugee returnees, in particular women and girls, have adequate access to...education.”</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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		<p>which are more necessary for women to be included...women's presence in universities is facilitated in areas where there is a serious need for female experts,"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Section 200, "Positive discrimination for female candidates in 2010 is implemented through..."</li> <li>- Section 201, "according to the choices made...in university entrance exam...girls have shown interest in Teacher Training, Medicine, Law, Religious Studies, Literature, Social Science, and Journalism,"</li> <li>- Section 204, "Female lecturers will be hired in the process."</li> </ul> <p>Article Fourteen: Rural Women</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Section 331, "The Ministry of Higher Education is trying to increase rural girls' participation in universities, higher and semi-higher education institutions."</li> </ul> <p>Article Fifteen: Equality before the Law</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Section 340, "This chapter reject all kinds of gender-based discrimination and privilege between Afghanistan citizens. These rights include...education"</li> </ul>	
2	CEDAW/C/AFG/3	<p>Women's participation in the Peace Process and its Impacts on Women's Rights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Section 22, "The HPC strategy includes indicators that support women's rights during the negotiations, such as women's rights access to education"</li> </ul> <p>Support and Protection of Women's Legal Achievements</p>	<p>Positive aspects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Section 5, "The Committee welcomes the State party's efforts to improve its institutional and policy framework...such as the adoption of... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o (a) Policy on girls' education in 2019...</li> <li>o (e) Third national education strategic plan...addressing discrimination against girls in education...</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Section 42, "Implementation of NAPWA has resulted in women's access to education...the data shows that the number of girl students in 2013...about 3.3 million increased to more than 3.5 million in 2016"</li> </ul> <p>Non-discrimination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Section 44, "According to EAW Law...discrimination against women as well as prohibition from the rights of access to education...has been criminalized"</li> </ul> <p>Violence against Women and Harmful Practices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Section 94, "The women in shelters are provided...access to...educational opportunity...for those who are students and interested in studying"</li> </ul> <p>Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Section 133, "MoE...shall undertake the followings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Increasing the number of female literacy students from 53% in 2015 to 60% in 2021...</li> <li>o Launching awareness raising programmes on the importance of education for girls...</li> <li>o Providing pre-work courses for female students and provision of Master's degree education,"</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Section 135, "MoE has developed a plan to recruit a sum of 30,000 female teachers"</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o (k) Safe Schools Declaration,"</li> </ul> <p>Temporary special measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Section 22, "The Committee Recommends that the State party adopt temporary special measures to ensure the full...participation of women in...education,"</li> </ul> <p>Stereotypes and harmful practices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Section 24, "the Committee urges the State party... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o To address the root cause of child marriage, such as...poor education,"</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Section 39, "The Committee commends the State party for including education on women's rights,"</li> <li>- Section 40, "the Committee recommends that the State party... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o (c) Enhance access by girls to education...through...the community-based education model,</li> <li>o (f) Establish and enforce procedures to tackle violence against women and girls in and around educational institutions,</li> <li>o (k) Institute measures to increase the participation of women and girls in...all levels of education by providing incentives,</li> <li>o (l) Ensure that women and girls have the same level of access to secondary and higher education as men and boys,"</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Rural women</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Section 49, "The Committee is concerned that rural women and girls are disproportionately affected by poverty and have limited access to education"</li> <li>- Section 50, "the Committee recommends that the State party... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o (c) Intensify measures to ensure that rural women</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Section 138, “around 3.5 million children still do not have access to education and the third strategic plan pays special attention for identification of causes of such lack of access and ways to admit these children to schools,”</li> <li>- Section 141, “...women’s representation in higher education institutions is projected to reach 20% in 2020 and 25% in 2025,”</li> </ul> <p>Poverty and Rural Women</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Section 175, “One of the main goals of the third strategic plan of education is to increase balanced and widespread access to...educational opportunities for children, youth and adults particularly women,”</li> </ul> <p>Refugees, Women and Girls of IDPs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Section 185, “MoE is committed to and is prepared fully to provide access to education for returnees and IDPs.”</li> </ul>	and girls have access to education.”
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## Methodology

As a state party to the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) Afghanistan is required to submit periodic reports to the CEDAW. Under the authority of the Taliban, all girls’ secondary schools have been closed since August 15, 2021, so in this table we have included information from these two reports, CEDAW/C/AFG/1-2 and CEDAW/C/AFG/3, that particularly focuses on women and girls’ education. We highlighted the particular information in each article that related to and spoke about women and girls’ education in order to compile a comprehensive list about what Afghanistan had reported. The second column notes the CEDAW Committee Concluding Observations in response to the State party reports. This information was collected in the same manner, by focusing on the parts of the document that emphasized education. It is important that we included both the report and the observations from the report in order to compare how the report was received by the Committee. These four documents provide insight into how women and girls’ education have been cultivated and developed in Afghanistan. It is critical to analyze these documents in order to understand how the Taliban policies roll back the progress that women in Afghanistan have made over many years.

## Conclusion

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In the two decades before the Taliban takeover in 2021, enrolment at all education levels of girls in primary school increased from almost zero in 2001 to 2.5 million in 2018.

The Taliban takeover in August 2021, risks the roll back of prior gains in women's and girls' education. The country is now facing an unprecedented humanitarian crisis which has impacted women and girls more in ways that will be hard to reverse. UNESCO estimates that Since 23 March 2022, 1.1 million secondary girls have been prevented from attending secondary school until further notice. In higher education, there is a 60 per cent decline in enrollment of women. The recommendations below are narrowly tailored to address this challenge of gender segregation in education and travel:

As we approach the anniversary of Taliban takeover on Aug 15, it is time for the international community to take a stand and have a firm and clear message to the Taliban on re-opening the girls' schools and easing the situation for the girls – including but not limited to allowing women's freedom of movement.

Recommendations to the International community, including all UN, agencies, multilaterals, intergovernmental organizations, regional organizations like EU, governments such as the US and other western and non- Western governments, the private sector, and the NGO sector:

- Above all, the United Nations is uniquely positioned to influence the Taliban. Ensure that UN efforts in Afghanistan protect and empower women and girls. The new Special Representative of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) must elevate the importance of women's human rights and empowerment within its mandate, including by hiring more Afghan women and ensuring they are a part of political dialogue and negotiations.
- UN agencies and other international organizations on the ground must refuse to meet with the Taliban unless they are accompanied by women.
- All international dialogues and engagements with the Taliban must have an inclusive rider, a clause that ensures the protection and promotion of women's and girls' rights.
- The US and other governments must re-affirm that it will honor its commitments towards women's empowerment. Women of Afghanistan need statements of support from the highest and most visible stakeholders in the United States and around the world.
- Persuade the Taliban to upholding the constitutional guarantees and international human rights treaty commitments on gender equality.
- Persuade the Taliban to reopen the Ministry for Women's Affairs and appoint women in positions of power.

- Recognize that the women of Afghanistan have the right to assert the Koran's values of women's and girls' education.
- Consider any financial engagement with the Taliban as a key bargaining tool to protect and promote girls and women's education.
- Make online and remote literacy classes available for girls until educational institutions reopen.
- Develop programs for female teacher training hubs to keep women teachers engaged and skilled.
- Destruction of cultural property has been defined as a crime against humanity. Threats to girls and women's education violate several human rights, but are also a part of the destruction of Afghan culture.
- Provide educational pathways for girls to join worldwide higher education institutions.
- The educational institutions and curricular must not contain materials that subordinate women and girls, instead education must help to create a gender equal society in Afghanistan.
- Women should be able to travel without a Maharam or a male guardian. This directive curtails women's freedom of movement and her liberty.
- Until the ban is removed, UN agencies and other multilateral organizations must organize facilities for women movement (such as a women's bus service) so women can travel freely without harassment.
- According to reports, female teachers are prohibited to go to their classes, while it is important to advocate for education it is important to make sure that teachers are provided with safe and inclusive spaces to pursue their work.
- International organizations must partner with Afghan Women's groups on the ground and in exile. These groups must be thoroughly vetted to ensure capacity and legitimacy.
- Directly fund community level advocates working to advance the status of quality in education for Afghan students both in country, those displaced, and those in the process of permanent resettlement.
- Invest in continuing education opportunities/ scholarships for Afghan refugee populations.