



## **Afghan Women's Coalition for Justice Statement**

*25 September 2024*

The Coalition for Justice welcomes the legal initiative announced by the governments of Australia, Canada, Germany, and the Netherlands to hold the Taliban *de facto* authorities in Afghanistan accountable for flagrant violations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against (CEDAW), through potential proceedings before the International Court of Justice (ICJ). The Coalition for Justice calls on these States to ensure the meaningful participation of Afghan women at every step of this process to preserve the legitimacy and impact of these proceedings, and to enable space for the contributions of women and girls. Such contributions are vital to these proceedings challenging the Taliban's draconian actions and policies against women and girls.

These efforts come at a time when the need for sustained international action of the Taliban's ever-increasing oppression of the millions of women and girls under its control is paramount. The Taliban's latest edict, the "Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice," amounts to a near-total exclusion of women and girls from public life, restricting their presence in public spaces, require them to have a male chaperon and prohibiting their voices to be heard in public. It also dictates their conduct in the privacy of their home, barring them from singing or speaking loudly. It further builds on previous measures enacted by the Taliban to remove women and girls from the workforce, limit their education, and dictate their manner of dress. And it highlights the extent to which the Taliban continue to act with impunity in their sustained campaign of oppression against Afghan women and girls.

The Coalition for Justice reiterates that the Taliban's continued systematic abuse and violations of fundamental human rights of women and girls must remain at the forefront of any engagement by the international community with the Taliban. The Coalition for Justice calls upon the international community to insist that any participation of the Taliban *de facto* authorities in international fora must be conditioned on, among others, the meaningful participation of women and respect for fundamental rights and freedoms of all Afghans.

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**Members of the Afghan Women's Coalition for Justice**, a joint effort with the High-Level Expert Group on Gender Persecution and Gender Apartheid.