



Human Rights Now

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Solidarity with Afghan Women and a Call for the Establishment of an All-Inclusive Government

Responding to the situation currently developing in Afghanistan, Human Rights Now calls for the human rights of all people in Afghanistan, including women and minorities, to be guaranteed.

Currently, Afghan women are demonstrating to demand that the Taliban respect their rights to education and social advancement. We express our firm solidarity with all Afghan women. Over the last two decades, Afghanistan has seen some improvement in some women's rights, albeit with regional differences. Even within traditional communities there are areas where elders displayed understanding, and women gained better access to education and experienced other improvements in their lives. The new government which is being established must also respect and promote women's rights.

The Taliban has announced some cabinet members of its interim government. We call for the establishment of an all-inclusive government, as previously pledged by the Taliban, that takes into consideration gender and Afghanistan's multi-ethnic social structure.

Finally, we strongly urge all stakeholders in Afghanistan to use only non-violent means to build Afghanistan's nation and society and not resort to armed struggle or any other type of force. We are convinced that this solution will prevent the rise and influx of extremist organizations such as ISIS as seen in Syria and Iraq.

A great many violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law occurred during the U.S. military operation against Afghanistan following the 9/11 terrorist attacks and during the subsequent conflict in Afghanistan, causing unprecedented loss of life. To date, no-one has been held accountable for these violations. The international community must learn from this experience that it is impossible to build peace or "liberate" people by using armed force.

Every government should widely accept those at risk of persecution under these new circumstances as refugees. We call for continued humanitarian assistance to support the dignified life of Afghan people, including children and women.