
Chair Report

Commision on the Status of Women

“Combatting the infringement of women's rights by the Taliban in Afghanistan”

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Introduction

The Commission on Status of Women (CSW) advocates for the gender equality and empowerment of women. It is a functional commission of ECOSOC and was established on June 21, 1946. The CSW also promotes, documents, and shapes standards of women's rights.

The Taliban, also known as the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, is a violent Pashtun nationalist and Deobandi Islamic fundamentalist political movement in Afghanistan. Taliban took over again in August of 2021. Following the Taliban takeover, a large part of the population has been denied access to food, water, shelter, and medical care as a result of millions of dollars in lost income, skyrocketing prices, aid cuts, a liquidity crisis, and cash shortages brought on by former donor countries, particularly the United States. The Taliban changed the curriculum to place a stronger focus on religious studies and banned women and girls from secondary and higher education. They place restrictions on what women must wear, how they should travel, gender- workplace discrimination, and even the type of cell phones they can own. They use inspections and intimidation to enforce these laws. Afghan women have been suffering from unfair treatment ever since Taliban took over. Therefore, it is crucial to protect their rights and well-being in order to ensure a healthy living environment for these women, as promised in the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).

Definition of Key Terms

CSW:

Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is a global intergovernmental body of the United Nations exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. It was established by the Economic and Social Council in 1946.

Taliban:

A Deobandi Islamic fundamentalist and Pashtun nationalist militant political movement in Afghanistan.

ECOSOC:

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) coordinates the economic and social work of the United Nations and the UN family of organizations and commissions.

Commission:

A group of people entrusted by a government or other official intergovernmental body with the authority to do or accomplish something.

Gender Inequality:

The unequal treatment or discrimination on the basis of sex or gender in which one gender is privileged or prioritized over another. This unequal treatment may arise from multiple different factors such as cultural norms and social constructs.

Major Parties Involved and Their Views

Afghanistan: The Afghan Government is in support of the Taliban. This includes supporting their actions, their beliefs, and the laws being enforced against women.

United States of America: The Taliban has not yet received American recognition. In coordination with the international community, the U.S. has made tremendous efforts to support the Afghan people during a time of humanitarian and economic crisis.

Russia: Russia does not recognize the Taliban government as an official government, due to worries that terrorism and drug trafficking would spread north into Russia's area of interest. but is slowly starting to be more open to diplomatic negotiations.

China: China is tentatively engaging with the Taliban government without formerly endorsing it. However, it is also providing aid for Afghanistan.

United Kingdom: The UK government and the Taliban government have formerly held meetings which detailed, according to a spokesman for the Taliban discussion for reviving diplomatic relations between both countries. The Taliban is not recognized by the rightful government of Afghanistan.

France: France does not plan on enforcing a relationship with the newly formed Taliban government.

Timeline of Events

August 2021: The Taliban returns

The Taliban returns to power in Kabul on August 15 during a chaotic final exit of the United States-led foreign troops, ending a 20-year war and precipitating the collapse of the Western-backed government of President Ashraf Ghani.

The group promises to give Afghans more freedoms than their first stint in power from 1996 to 2001, saying it will honor human rights obligations, including those of women.

September 2021: Gender-segregated classrooms

The Taliban announces on September 12 last year that women can attend universities with gender-segregated entrances and classrooms, but they can only be taught by professors of the same sex or old men. Other restrictions included the wearing of hijabs as part of a compulsory dress code.

March 2022: Girls barred from school

On March 23 this year, girls' secondary schools were supposed to reopen, but the Taliban rescinded the directive and tens of thousands of teenagers were shut out and ordered to stay home.

May 2022: Stay at home

Taliban supreme leader Hibatullah Akhunzada orders women on May 7 to fully cover themselves, including their faces, in public and generally stay at home. Women are also banned from inter-city travel without a male escort.

August 2022: Protests break out

Taliban fighters beat women protesters chanting "bread, work and freedom" and fire into the air on August 13 to break up a demonstration outside the education ministry in Kabul.

The government forces also detain and beat journalists covering the protests.

November 2022: Parks out of bounds

Women are banned from entering parks, fun fairs, gyms and public baths.

December 2022: Execution, floggings

The Taliban carries out its first public execution since returning to power, that of a convicted murderer who is shot dead on December 7 by his victim's father in western Farah province.

The next day, more than 1,000 people watch as 27 Afghans, including women, are flogged in Charikar in central Parwan province for a range of offenses ranging from sodomy and deception to forgery and debauchery.

December 2022: No university for women

Armed guards stop hundreds of young women from entering university campuses on December 21, a day after a terse release from the minister for higher education announces an order "suspending the education of females until further notice".

Previous Solutions and Attempts to Solve the Issue

1. UNFPA has stepped up its presence across Afghanistan and is working with national partners to scale-up provision of sexual and reproductive health services - again, for women, by women – including in remote areas.
2. The agency reached more than 4.3 million people over the past year and distributed essential medicines and supplies to hospitals, as well as menstrual hygiene supplies to countless women and girls.
3. UNFPA are already providing cooking utensils and blankets to desperate people, and stands ready to do more.
4. In the past 20 years, strong networks have formed among Afghan activists. These are based on specialist expertise, common political convictions and personal relationships. International activists have also risen up and are continuing to peacefully protest throughout the world.
5. U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), announced a \$30 million commitment to support gender equality and women's empowerment in Afghanistan

Relevant United Nations Documents and Resources

<https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/N2229152.pdf>

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/world/un-tells-taliban-no-recognition-without-respect-for-human-rights/2734963#>

Questions to Consider

1. How have the rights of women changed since the Taliban took over?
2. What is the true motive behind the restrictions on women's rights by the Taliban?
3. What are the changes the Taliban promised to make after taking over? And to what extent have they fulfilled these promises?
4. What have Afghani women been doing to retaliate against the Taliban? Similarly, what has the international community to help, support, and provoke change in the Taliban's rulings against women?
5. What negative impacts has restricting the rights of women done for Afghanistan?
6. How much has the UN impacted Afghanistan and in what ways?
7. Which countries are to be held responsible for the original destruction of the Afghan government?
8. What pressures/sanctions can be imposed on Afghanistan to provoke change?

Possible Solutions

1. Impose sanctions on afghanistan to pressurize them into changing their laws
2. Provide international support to afghan women
3. Provide the health workforce with the necessary salary support.
4. Other countries can fund education
5. Take in afghan refugees
 - a. Prioritize women and children
6. Local women's organizations must be engaged and involved in the planning and execution of aid projects by UN agencies and other aid providers.
 - a. pressuring the Taliban to include women.

Conclusion

Since Taliban came into power, Afghan women have endured unequal treatment. From the restriction of education, to forced marriage, to bans using public areas. Therefore, it is important to protect their rights and well-being in order to fulfill the commitment made by the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) to provide these women with a healthy living environment.

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