

Afghanistan Observatory

First Workshop Online

15 September 2023

Ms. BELQIS AHMADI: the international community should provide technical, financial, and moral support to Afghan women both inside and outside Afghanistan. Refrain from dividing women between those in Afghanistan and those outside. The majority of women in exile since 2021 are connected to their relatives and community in Afghanistan; they feel the pain and concern of those inside Afghanistan and have themselves were forced to leave their homeland. Please listen to them and don't label them as not knowing the situation.

We should provide opportunities for women inside Afghanistan to reach out to us in a safe way, and hear from them about the situation and learn from them on ways to address the general and gender-specific challenges they are faced with.

Recommendation to continue to find funding for the civil society organizations with women's rights programs that are still operating inside Afghanistan. There are thousands of women in need of life-dependent financial support, mental health and other services. Without financial support it is impossible for them to continue working. Many women that have established underground schools are taking tremendous risks for that. They deserve to be supported.

Another area of concern that need strategic solution is the issue of access to internet. The vast majority of Afghan women do not have access (of lack familiarity with effective use of) internet and technology. We need to think about empowering women, provide them with tools to improve the speed of internet, and in an event the Taliban decide to shut down access to internet, in which case women (and men) will be completely cut off from outside world, we need to have alternative options. The planning for alternative options must take place now..

We need to provide technical and financial support for documentation of human rights violations.

Include women in dialogues and discussions on and about Afghanistan, not only about women. Sadly, it is not happening in a proactive and systematic manner.

For international community, whenever they meet with Taliban, they must always have women's rights in their agenda even if they are talking issues that do not directly involve women's rights. Make sure there are women in every delegation that meet with the Taliban. Taliban don't want women in their own delegation, what is the international community's excuse for not including women in their delegations? Why should we follow the Taliban's rules? Dialogues with Taliban without women should end now.



Afghanistan Observatory

Round Table

4 September

Nouria Yousefzai

According to what I said earlier, regarding the problems of women and girls living in Afghanistan, it is obvious that what girls experience in Afghanistan, professionally and psychologically, cannot be compared with that of any other country.

If we look at history, maybe 100 years ago, women and girls did not experience this situation in any country.

But far from education, the Afghan girl lives in the corner of the house as a prisoner of poverty. Like sex slaves forced to marry older men, although Afghanistan has always had its problems, but not at this level.

In Afghanistan, the law means oppression and restrictions on one class, namely women and girls. We have witnessed problems throughout history, and it must be said that as long as tongues are silent, all Afghan girls who are currently in Taliban prisons will suffer. For what crime, as soon as they raised their voices to defend their right.

We call on the international community to once again listen to our voice and make serious decisions regarding the problems and oppression imposed on Afghan girls.

Use the professional teachers who are in Afghanistan in education and training to provide them with a conducive working environment, create classrooms in

homes, and create more comfortable trainings to at least mentally address the problems.

And special thanks to the Pange studio and Ms. Simona Lanzoni who provides us with the conditions to talk about the problems of girls and women in our country.

Hoping for a day when no girl will want to leave her country because of the lack of school and university.

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Secondo quanto ho detto prima, riguardo ai problemi delle donne e delle ragazze che vivono in Afghanistan, è ovvio che ciò che le ragazze vivono in Afghanistan, a livello professionale e psicologico, non può essere paragonato a quello di nessun altro Paese. . Mondo, forse questo è uno stato mentale. Hanno bisogno del potere della comprensione.

Se guardiamo alla storia, forse cento anni fa, le donne e le ragazze non vivevano questa situazione in nessun paese.

Ma lontana dall'istruzione, la ragazza afghana vive nell'angolo di casa come una prigioniera della povertà. Come le schiave del sesso costrette a sposare uomini più anziani, anche se l'Afghanistan ha sempre avuto i suoi problemi, ma non a questo livello.

In Afghanistan, la legge significa oppressione e restrizioni su una classe, cioè donne e ragazze. Siamo stati testimoni di problemi nel corso della storia, e va detto che finché le lingue taceranno, tutte le ragazze afghane che sono attualmente nelle carceri talebane soffriranno. Per quale delitto, non appena hanno alzato la voce per difendere il loro diritto

Chiediamo alla comunità internazionale di ascoltare ancora una volta la nostra voce e di prendere decisioni serie riguardo ai problemi e alle oppressioni imposte alle ragazze afghane.

Utilizzare gli insegnanti professionisti che si trovano in Afghanistan nel campo dell'istruzione e della formazione per fornire loro un ambiente di lavoro

favorevole, creare aule nelle case e creare corsi di formazione più confortevoli per affrontare almeno mentalmente i problemi.

E un ringraziamento speciale allo studio Pange e alla signora Simona Lanzoni che ci offre le condizioni per parlare dei problemi delle ragazze e delle donne nel nostro Paese.

Sperando in un giorno in cui nessuna ragazza vorrà lasciare il proprio Paese a causa della mancanza di scuola e università.



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Ms.Afsana Rahimi:

I can share my thoughts and concern Women in Afghanistan from another aspect like from economic situation, poverty is indeed one of the main reason for child marriage and force marriage in Afghanistan but there are also other contributing factors that is resulting this force marriages and child marriages , for example we can have many factors but I just took some of that, the one can be cultural and tradition norms, Afghanistan has deeply grant society where child and forced marriage is are seeing as way to preserve honor and maintain family cause and control women behavior this fact is then justify by culture and tradition , as you know that in the society we are tradition are more powerful so these kind of staffs are happing like you know putting everything's to the culture for example when they ban the schools they claim this is our culture . This is not true still they are claiming it is that culture things, when they are doing something wrong they are putting this in culture and traditions. But This can be the part of that lack of education limited access to education particularly for girl need lack of awareness about negative consequences of child and forced marriages, literacy and limited knowledge about legal rights make it difficult for individual to challenge these practice. As you know that when there is No awareness and always emphasizing on awareness, for everything's especially for the women rights because when they don't know about their rights they will not react particularly there rights , one of the reason will be this education issue

,the other thing is that conflict and instability , The conflict and political instability in Afghanistan can be the main reason for this issue of forced marriages and not implementing the laws , Afghanistan has the law lets say had the law for against the child marriages and forced marriages so due to situation this law not implementing in many conflict area that is why the local residence of many area where the conflict was high they are use the situation and they are not following the rules, the laws and one of the reason can be this .and also insufficient legal framework an enforcement can be another reason that is already can see that in absence of the law in Afghanistan many things are happening , for example nowadays if you noticed many killing are happing without any justice or so these are can be the reasons for force marriage and child marriage , for my perspective maybe there are a lot of other reasons other friends can raise and can share their thoughts and concern from my aspect and from my understanding from my country and the situation this can be the part.

Of course economy is the base of all these problems, when there is economic problem the families and the society all came together and make big conflict and big mass for implementing of the law child marriages and other issues.

Thank you

In this situation it is really harder than the past because the families are thinking that what is my future of my girls, what you will do next, so she should be marriage earlier to make her life and have children, one of the main reason of that it is not going to school, there is nothing to them except marriage, and sending them to husband house.



Afghanistan Observatory

Round Table

4 September 2023

Doctor Amina Rahmani:

I have been living in Italy for several years. I was graduated from the medical faculty in Afghanistan. I was working with different governmental and non-governmental organizations. My goal was always to serve my country and help people. Since I came to Italy I have tried to help Afghan women and men who came to Italy as much as I could do. Our families are living in Afghanistan, all of them are educated and graduated from university and school. As you know, since the Taliban came to power they have imposed many restrictions on the women. they cannot go to work, university, school and many more restrictions ...

The most affected are the educated women. For example, my family who are educated, all of them are fired from their jobs and they are not allowed to go to school or university. Due to this situation they have economic problems, psychological problems and even sometimes they are asked to get forcedly marriage. Unfortunately, my niece is currently deprived of her studies, and she is depressed and has anxiety and most Afghan girls suffer from the same issue. I think everyone is aware of it, and we feel their suffering here in Italy even if it is a long distance.

As Afghan women, I propose for those who are left out of education, we must provide the ground for them to access education and lessons - through online sessions or to provide scholarships and financial assistance to families. Teachers are willing to hold face-to-face classes if the budget is given and are financially supported.

The majority of women, except for the doctors who continue to work, are all unemployed, they suffer economic impact, the field of work should be made available, sewing courses and income generating projects should be provided.

They are suffering many problems; I am in direct contact with most of them. I have families, friends in Afghanistan who are suffering from psychological problems that should be helped.

Providing the ground for education, health services, income generating projects, online classes and supporting the women economically in Afghanistan are very important.



Afghanistan Observatory

Round Table

4 September 2023

Ms. Basira Taheri:

In the current situation, with the dominance of the Taliban, if girls go to schools that accept the Taliban's educational system, we will face extremist and religious forces in the future, the main problem is that families send their daughters to Madrasa and Daralhefaz.

How can the girls get out of the current situation, there is no hope or motivation, we can raise our voice easily here, fathers and brothers are happy with the current situation, they were happy with the closing of the beauty salon, 99 percent of men They are happy with the ties of Talabani, the roots should be found, starting from the family.

In most publications, women are sweeping or cooking, men are in the office, wrong culture has been passed down from generation to generation, boys are hero and brave and family invest on boys. work was done on women's rights, conventions and obligations were explained to women, but men do not know about women rights, it was explained to women in the meetings, but men had the same ideology. In the future, the education system must be changed, discrimination must be removed.

It was hot in the school, from the first to the third grade, because the weather was hot, I told them to remove your scarf and it is a female environment, but they didn't. In the boy class, they can throw away their clothes and we started the campaign and it was successful.

Unfortunately, all the efforts have been wasted, male commentators have always interpreted Islam in their favor, we do not have female commentators, and we must tell to men that Islam did not say that.

Considering the current situation of Afghan women, these works should be done in the short term.

1-Online education should be supported

2-To create psychology and psychological training in Mani for women.

3- Creating legal workshops for women.

4-Economically, women should be independent.

5- Creating online business classes for women.

6- Entrusting large humanitarian projects to women.

7- All the institutions and foundations should work with women for the sake of humanitarian aid.

8- Giving more scholarships for Afghan girls.

9- Supporting cultural, legal, social and political meetings of diaspora women.

10- Supporting the women writers and culture of the Afghan diaspora.

11- The formation of a large consensus of diaspora women due to the current situation in Afghanistan



Ministero degli Affari Esteri
e della Cooperazione Internazionale

Afghanistan Observatory

Workshop online

11 October 2023

Kabul – Afghanistan

Benafsha Zakria:

Salam, I would like to thank you and all the friends who are with us right now, and I have a special thank you for giving us the opportunity to express the problems faced by young women in terms of the closing of schools and Universities, when all the schools and Universities are closed. Being closed to girls and women has become a very big problem for everyone, because education has a great impact on the society and the women and girls, women who live in the society, when schools and universities are closed to students, there is a lot of struggles. It was a tragic and painful situation that we ourselves experienced when we were in the 11th grade and the schools were closed to us, and all the hopes and goals that we had until the 11th grade and we were always told that we should have a goal, We should always fight for our goal, always have hope for life, it was all taken from us at once, and again in that holy and pure place where we only went there for the purpose of education and education without committing any sin, It was closed on us, which was one of the most painful experiences that a student can have, that after the universities were still closed, all those hardships that a young person goes through during the hard entrance exam that the entrance exam causes It could be that many students of the 12 grade who wanted to enter Kabul University, went through a very difficult period of stress and after that they always strived for their goal.

When the gates were closed to them in Kabul University, all the hardships and efforts they made during the entrance examination were fruitless, even for those students who had worked very hard to get into the field of medicine, economics and engineering. All of them lost their efforts and their goals in the fourth and fifth semesters and are currently sitting at home without having a goal or hope, as we understand that life always moves towards a meaning and a goal when a person loses the purpose of life, sometimes a person really feels that he has to find a purpose or a reason for life, and young people who stray away from the path of education go to corrupt, inhumane and immoral ways in order to find meaning in their lives. It is painful.

I graduated from Omid Afghan Turkish School and am currently a student at the American University. And one of the major problems that the educated people have is the closing of the schools and universities. High stress, anxiety and depression were diagnosed. This is a golden opportunity for us to succeed in the American University of Afghanistan and more than our friends who are in Afghanistan are without a university and the girls who did not succeed in this university are at home and are in a very bad state of mind.

The very difficult challenge that happened to young women after the schools were closed is that their families forced them into forced marriages. This is very popular here because all the girls are at home and they think that the young girl who did not go to school or doesn't go to university, so they can't stay at home because they want to give a purpose and meaning to life. In that sense, fourteen-year-old girls or thirteen are still being forced to marry, and this causes our future society to face a very low level of education, and it is very unfortunate that these problems will not be resolved.

When we used to apply to foreign universities, our economic situation is better, but most of the Afghan girls are not in a good economic situation, for example, their fathers are not able to activate the internet for them or provide them with technological issues so that they can get scholarships. Which is abroad, they can apply and even foreign universities, when we want to apply to them, they ask for many valid documents that the government of the emirate does not give, the certificates of the schools, in that sense, we cannot use many of the facilities that we used to have.

Because of the documents they don't give us. We can't apply to foreign universities by not giving us a certificate that the government of the Islamic Emirate doesn't give us, because the main requirement is the documents you must have to apply to the universities, and one of the other problems is that the educated In order to continue their education, they should familiar with this and can apply for scholarships. In addition, when girls are applying for abroad universities the university doesn't effort scholarships for Afghan students and how an afghan girl can pay 30,000\$ or 70,000\$ in a year or in a semester for the University. Sometimes with lots of difficulties rare student achieve scholars but when it come to visa part first they have to go to Pakistan than with all those payments of hotal, visa, interview still they doesn't give visa for them just because you are an afghan student how can you go to For example USA and after completing your degree you will not come to your country again , and when I am telling these bad situation of girls please do not think it like history. Here thousands of intelligent girls are looking for one little way for giving them hope for education. Afghan girls are very hardworking and the have very unique talents and skill just what they want is a support turn on the light of education for them in this dark situation. It is been nearly three year that we are living under the government pf Taliban, it is a very difficult situation for hopeless girls that bury their dream of becoming a good doctor or a good economist or any other field that they had the dream of it. By any chance if it is possible we want from the world that support afghan girls with online free schools, University scholarships, and support them with the payment of internet too because the economic of families are very bad According to surivey nearly half of people are living below the national poverty line.

Thank you for giving me the time to say a few words about the pain of students.

Question from Simona: I want to know, she and the other are in contact other Afghan women that are outside, if they receive some feedback and support even for sharing these kind of sufferance or not?

The only help they can provide us it was some Olympiad that belong to students and they just help us to payment of that that will be 100 dollar and they accept limit students , they provide scholarship for just 2 or 3 student not all , there is some other problem that not all student had that opportunity to not be connect with other people aboard the country , so here using the internet and phone is

also not too formal for girls to use it here and just elder girls like 20 or 21 age they have to between these age to use phone so there is No other help for girls to continue the education .

Question from Simona: for example, if there is a project of coding or digitalization to provide to girls less than 21 years old these will be problem?

Those courses will be available, I have pass the American university belong to English course and computer and coding also and they was just very few student that can afford the internet, internet problem and they can't pay for internet, can't pay for buying laptop or telephone for them to continue the education and find universities like AUAF and other scholarship.

Simona: Do you think if these could be a project not for all the girls of course for part of the girls , these will be allow by de facto government or not?

Yes- sure, for sure it must be useful project, because the economy problem can't afford to buy a young girl a telephone or laptop, if the other country afford the economy part of it, so their family will give them the opportunity to continue the university because here the father of the family don't have that much money for buying, you know food or clothes, these issues – if they don't have enough food, enough clothes so it is problem to buy these technologies things for girls.



Afghanistan Observatory

Round Table

4 September 2023

Ms. Farzana Kavosh:

Having a better life in peace and security is the right of every individual in society. Afghan women and girls have been struggling for years to achieve this aspiration under difficult conditions (cultural, social, religious, and economic) and have never given up their efforts, even after the fall of the republic to the Taliban. They need global support, and their two-decade-long struggle should not be overlooked. All Afghan women and girls demand support and justice from the international community. In the current situation in Afghanistan, where women and girls are deprived of social activities, increasing the involvement of domestic and foreign institutions can create at least a conducive environment for their employment and strengthen online training courses in various fields.



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19 September 2023

Ms.Frohar Poya:

I would like to revisit the issue of girl child marriage that my colleague mentioned earlier. While I agree that schools play a crucial role in addressing this problem, it's important to acknowledge that poverty, and in some parts of Afghanistan, cultural factors also contribute. However, poverty stands out as the primary driver of child marriage. Another significant factor is the events of 2006 when, during the initial Taliban takeover, many young girls were forcibly married. This was similarly witnessed when the mujahideen took power in 1992; they would enter households and marry underage girls.

In addition to the issue of child marriage, Afghan women's fundamental rights are being violated. Apart from being denied access to education, they are also restricted from pursuing employment. This has severe consequences, particularly for women who are the heads of households, including single mothers and widows.

I hope my comments won't have a negative impact, especially on those who are being resettled. However, Afghan women are often the primary victims of migration. Many Afghans, particularly women activists and professionals, are compelled to leave the country and seek refuge in neighbouring countries, either in the hope of eventual resettlement in the West or due to immediate threats to their lives. Along the way, they face the horrifying realities of sexual

abuse and violence, especially when trying to reach Pakistan or Iran. Once in these countries, they become vulnerable targets for sexual exploitation.

Regarding resettlement in the West, many women experience various forms of exploitation. First, they may be coerced by male family members to make a case for resettlement. Then, once in a neighbouring country (Iran, Pakistan) they often find themselves having to navigate complex relationships with men in professional NGOs in order to secure the necessary resettlement documents. I've had women reach out to me, recounting experiences where she was asked for personal information and even subjected to inappropriate advances (she was asked to give a kiss) by IOM contracted officials in Pakistan before being allowed to board special transport for interviews and medical examinations. Many are being asked for sexual and/or money demands from interviewers and medical staff.

Since 2021, several independent NGOs have stepped in to create safe houses. However, it's distressing to learn that many single women in these safe houses are not as safe as they should be, facing abuse from the men running the facilities. Unfortunately, they often feel trapped, as speaking up might mean ending up on the streets with nowhere to turn to file complaints.

Upon arriving in Europe, Afghan women face additional challenges and barriers, including language acquisition, finding suitable housing, accessing the labour market, securing educational opportunities, and navigating the entire integration process. In countries like Italy and Spain, where migrants are overseen by private contracted NGOs working on behalf of the government, migrant women encounter a system that imposes restrictions dictated by these NGOs rather than directly by the government. They are subject to specific time restrictions on their movements, requiring permission from their NGOs to go out before or after certain hours. This directly infringes upon their fundamental right of freedom of movement.

While they are provided with accommodations, their financial incentives are determined by the policies of the NGOs, rather than being based on the government's established guidelines. More than half of the allocated funds are retained by the NGOs, with the remainder distributed to the migrants. As a

result, some women have reported receiving as little as 2.5 euros per day per adult as pocket money, which falls below the amount stipulated by the government.



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compelled to leave the country and seek refuge in neighbouring countries, either in the hope of eventual resettlement in the West or due to immediate threats to their lives. Along the way, they face the horrifying realities of sexual abuse and violence, especially when trying to reach Pakistan or Iran. Once in these countries, they become vulnerable targets for sexual exploitation.

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Ms.FROZAN RASOOLI: Islam does not prohibit education, we have examples in our history in which women have played an important role. In history we have some strong important Afghan women. I have some recommendation that I would like to keep forward:

First of all, establish safe pathways to protect human rights defenders, especially those who are facing risks inside Afghanistan and in neighbouring countries. This is the situation of men and women human rights activists. The visa for Pakistan was too expensive for families with numerous members, so they have to cross the border illegally. Pakistan has now announced that Afghans should leave Pakistan within a week, otherwise they will be detained for many years. Italy and other countries should do something for Afghans in Pakistan and neighbouring countries. They should support the activists.

Furthermore, we must support all the activists, not only the ones that are leaving the country, but also those stuck in Afghanistan, we need safe passage for them and humanitarian visa.

On the humanitarian assistance, none of us wants Afghanistan to be isolated we want the support to continue. However, we might change the way it is.

International organizations should always channel their support to the Afghans through reliable civil society organizations and especially women led organizations. I understand the need of transparency, it is very important. I always suggest that is important that even we monitor the implementation of projects. Sometimes we hear about corruption and other things, for this is important to monitor the projects.

Advocacy. Continue strengthening and supporting Afghan women in conducting high level advocacy events for the Afghan women. We don't have support from other Islamic countries, some intervened regarding women's right but is not enough, their voices should be louder.

Monitoring of human rights situation. There's a need for a very comprehensive accountability mechanism from which we cannot only oversee the situation, know what's happening.

Must continue asking for release of human rights defenders. Sometimes we can feel frustrated but I tell you that this is working



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Ms. HASINA SHIRZAD (Part 1): I've learned that keeping hope alive is crucial because without hope, it could spell the end. It's challenging for me to identify sources of hope for Afghans, especially the younger generation. However, I'll begin with some positive observations:

- Afghanistan and its people have shown remarkable resilience. Despite enduring conflict and instability, we've adapted and survived.
- Even though access to education is uncertain, there are discussions about re-opening schools for girls. The positive aspect here is the strong desire for education among the Afghan population. Parents want their children to be educated, and supporting this aspiration is essential.
- Afghan communities are known for their mutual support, deeply rooted in our culture. Nowadays, digital connectivity can be a powerful tool for Afghanistan's youth, both inside and outside the country. This is especially crucial since the younger generation faces a challenging situation.
- Addressing the psychological aspect is vital, and Afghans within the country must have contact with those outside.
- While international aid and solidarity exist, they fall short of what's needed. The focus should be on building more effective connections.
- Youth activism is a beacon of hope, particularly outside Afghanistan, as internal activism faces considerable obstacles.
- The most pressing issue for Afghans within the country is the dire situation under the Taliban regime, and time is running out. Unfortunately, Afghanistan has faded from the front pages of Western newspapers.

- The fragmentation of Afghan communities abroad poses challenges. It's unfair to compare our situation to Iran, which hasn't experienced the same level of conflict and collapse. Many Afghans were evacuated to Norway, but they were dispersed to remote areas after a few months, preventing them from staying together and finding a unified voice.

Recommendations:

- The recognition of women human rights defenders as part of peace and security discussions is a positive development. Norwegian human rights organizations can support projects led by women's organizations both inside and outside Afghanistan to empower these defenders.
- Ownership of initiatives in Afghanistan should involve Afghans themselves. The Afghan diaspora and individuals abroad possess unique insights and should not be limited to advisory roles. Their familiarity with Afghan culture and sensitivities is a valuable asset.
- Within the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda, there is an opportunity for Afghans to participate in platforms that amplify their voices. Establishing a protection mechanism for human rights defenders to document and report abuses is critical. Creating a collaborative platform among organizations can enhance accountability for significant initiatives.

Ms. HASINA SHIRZAD (Part 2): Sweden's recognition of Afghan women as refugees based on gender was initially satisfying. However, it overlooked the challenging journeys these women undertake to reach Swedish territory, making it more of a political gesture than a practical solution. In contrast, Sweden implemented a mechanism that allows Ukrainians to apply for asylum at the border, a measure not extended to Afghans.



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Ms.HORIA MOSADIQ (Part 1): my experience is limited regarding the LGBT community in Afghanistan but I can generally speak about what I hear from certain people associated with the community in the country and also IDPs.

We all know the general situation in Afghanistan after the Taliban took power in 2021. Since then our association is monitoring human rights violations, civil society activists, journalists and human rights defenders across Afghanistan. But at the same time, we highlight some human rights issues in the country. Since August 2021 many human rights activists have been detained, tortured and arrested unlawfully. Included some of women peacefully protesting for their rights.

Why am I focusing on the situation of human rights defenders? Because many of them are addressing the wider situation in the country when it comes to protection of IDP, ethnic minorities including Hindus. Before 2021 the IDP were above 1 million and there is no change in this number, many managed to return to their houses but at the same time Afghanistan is producing more refugees. Many go to Iran, Pakistan and other countries around the region. There they are facing many threats, for example in Pakistan, in the past few days, the new Prime Minister Kakar, has called for mass arrest and deportation of Afghans, particularly undocumented Afghans. Also in Iran we are seeing the same

situation: a lot of arrests and deportations. Also in Turkey during the election campaign the issue of Afghan refugees was one of the topic of the candidates. Erdogan never mentioned a policy towards Afghan immigrants but after the election there have been mass deportation from Turkey to Afghanistan. Many of these people who have been deported were high level people, former members of the Afghan national security corps, people associated with international security forces or international security organization or contractors. We have credible news that those people deported had been arrested by the Taliban and disappeared since then. The family are afraid to speak out because they are too scared that if those people are alive they might jeopardize their wellbeing. At the same time it is happening on a wider scale.

Also when it comes to the issues of IDPs, in the past, for ten years in Afghanistan we did not have IDP counts. Between the months of April and August we have a mushrooms of more informal resettlement of IDP in Kabul. There are no services, NGOs that were providing support to these camps (health, education, drinking water) are there no more. But there is not attention on this because they all focus on humanitarian aid but do not look at the situation of the IDPs. In these camps the situation is really dire: no access to drinking water, hygiene, medical facilities, education. But, especially with people with disabled women, the situation is worse. I have seen many disabled women, especially injured during the war. In Kabul we have this big community of IDP from south of Afghanistan that arrived after 2010. They are not only living a difficult situation under hard conditions, the situation for disabled women is worst because they became disabled during war (USA bombs, landmines from taliban,ect) they were neglected by their own family members that prefer to feed other healthy member of the family.

Something I have noticed in IDP camps. In Herat, the former government allocated lands for IDP but they were far and in a mountainous environment. Access to health facility was difficult, many women had to deliver without help because they couldn't arrive to the facilities. One of the women told me: when we feel sick, if its God's willing, we survive till morning when we can catch a taxi and go to the hospital and if God is not there we die.

Regarding the LGBT we know what the situation in Afghanistan is. Even with the previous regime LGBT were facing massive discrimination and they were hiding.

No one could publicly go and say they are members of the LGBT community. At the current regime, it is absolutely punishable and they have no place in society. Even if you have a LGBT friendly law in Afghanistan, the society, religion and traditional behaviour towards those groups is extremely dangerous.

Ms.HORIA MOSADIQ (Part 2): maybe one of the reason many women decide to become IDPs rather than refugees is because they still are part of social protection network, have contacts with the relatives and access to the community. There is some form of solidarity among communities even between displaced or resettled people. In many places, often people from the same province are forming IDPs community and are getting together. I also believe that becoming a refugee poses more challenges and you are going to the unknown. Many men in our country carry the burden of looking after their family, to provide for their family. The other aspect is cultural, many refugees are spending months in jungle, sleeping in rooms with many other men. They are victims of sexual violence and other forms of violence. First of all domestic violence, the level of this kind of violence between refugees in Pakistan, Turkey and Iran is far higher than in ordinary families in their own country. We must work with organization on how to organize the protection, there is no network of protection. They can't complain or have justice or any kind of help.



Afghanistan Observatory

Round Table

4 September 2023



Afghan women have been at the forefront of fighting against the Taliban's restrictive rules and regulations towards women and girls as well as human rights defenders. The courageous voice and resistance of Afghan women must be amplified in international platforms. Afghan women have shown throughout decades of conflict in Afghanistan that they are not merely passive victims, but active agents of change. Afghan women have made important strides at the cost of their lives. They have been imprisoned, tortured, and even killed for their demands to protect basic human rights of women and preserve gender equality.

- Afghan women in the diaspora can play an important role; many are doing it already. Through the opportunities they have, they can amplify the silenced voice of women and girls from inside Afghanistan. This is vital in the current situation as civic space is shrinking in Afghanistan and dissent is silenced by unlawful imprisonment, torture, threat, and forced relocation.

- Afghan women in the diaspora can play an important role in documenting, analyzing and presenting shadow reports to the CEDAW Committee, which evidently is going to review Afghanistan in 2024.

- Afghan women and human rights defenders can have a significant role in supporting the ongoing investigation of war crimes and crimes against humanity by the International Criminal Court. As suggested by the UN and other experts, the pattern of large-scale systematic violations of women's and girls' fundamental rights in Afghanistan, abetted by the Taliban's discriminatory and misogynistic policies and harsh enforcement methods, constitutes gender persecution, which is a crime against humanity under international law.



Ministero degli Affari Esteri
e della Cooperazione Internazionale

Afghanistan Observatory

Round Table

4 September 2023

Dr. MAHBOOBA ISLAMI:

The Taliban's gender apartheid in Afghanistan is a major concern for human rights activists. Women are being denied access to education, healthcare, and employment opportunities, while Afghanistan was one of the countries that accepted the United Nations Charter even Russia did not accept it. They are also subjected to forced marriages, domestic violence, and sexual abuse. The Taliban's strict interpretation of Islamic law has led to the imposition of harsh restrictions on women's freedom of movement, dress, and expression. In addition to addressing the gender apartheid in Afghanistan, there is a need for significant improvements in the education system. The country has one of the lowest literacy rates in the world, with only 43% of adults being able to read and write. This lack of education is a major obstacle to development and progress.

Furthermore, there is a need for equitable development projects in all areas of Afghanistan, not just in big cities. Many rural areas have been neglected and left behind, leading to poverty and unemployment. By investing in infrastructure, education, and healthcare in these areas, the government can help to reduce poverty and promote economic growth.

Part 2 Mahboba Islami: the situation in Afghanistan is complex and requires a multifaceted approach to address the various issues facing the country. The international community must support initiatives that promote gender equality, improve education, and promote equitable development projects across all areas of the country. Only by addressing these root causes can Afghanistan build a sustainable future for its people.



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Ms.MARIAM SAFI: definition of diaspora, (Frozan: we are talking about the people that left more than 2 years ago). The terminology around diaspora, it is a huge concept. It is a concept that has only recently been explored in the world of academia; there is some literature on the subject, but it still requires more scholarly research. When I talk about the role of diaspora, I use the term defined by Frozan Nawabi. The women activists, academics, politicians, civil society actors who left Afghanistan in August 2021, don't fit within this idea of diaspora and they don't regard themselves as diasporan but as Afghans in exile. They believe they were forced to leave the country, they did not leave on their own will to become diasporans. The way the term diaspora has been used in the last two years to describe the Afghan women's advocacy outside of the country has been divisive. There are differences of opinions among the Afghan women's movement on how the international community should approach Afghanistan under the current conditions. Sometimes the priorities of those inside Afghanistan differ from those outside the country. This is normal and it's called diversity but some in the international community use the women outside vs. women inside discourse to discredit one over the other by arguing that it's diasporan and not in touch with the reality on the ground instead of appreciating each within presented within its context and argument.

Speaking about the role of Afghan women diaspora, those that have settled outside the country for a long period of time. The diaspora has 2 components:

some of them went back to Afghanistan in the last two decades under the Islamic Republic for work and then left when their tenure ended. However this group of diasporans were critical in creating networks, programmes, and advocacy platforms for those women who were evacuated after the Taliban took over the country. Women who had to leave in August 2021 did so with nothing, they left their homes and all their belongings and entered a new country, and it takes time to reintegrate into a new society. So those in the Afghan diaspora were able to step in and help facilitate pathways for new arrivals. Thanks to them, Afghan women were able to resume their advocacy shortly after the evacuation as forums were quickly mobilized. The women's movement continues to surprise me, it's very organic and was able to remobilize itself because of its links with both the Afghan diaspora and those women who were still in Afghanistan. After August, these linkages made it possible to create spaces for dialogue between women outside and inside Afghanistan, to understand what was happening on the ground and to activate the international community. That helped quite a lot to continue the momentum for advocacy on women's rights, human rights, good governance, security and monitoring of humanitarian aid going to the country.



Afghanistan Observatory

First Workshop Online

19 September 2023

Women Access to Justice:

Following the withdrawal of American troops from Afghanistan and the Taliban's return to power in August 2021. The re-establishment of the Taliban government put an end to 20 years of social development and rule of law in Afghanistan. Approximately 30,000 criminals were released from prison that most of them were convicted for the crimes against women and the prisoners are not only direct threat against judiciary staff but a serious threat against survivors of violence against women.

All female judges, prosecutors and lawyers do not allow working in Judiciary and providing legal services to victims of violence against women. Many women who worked in judiciary face death threats because of their work on sensitive women's rights cases, including domestic violence. These threats have become so serious day by day and women who worked on the cases including female lawyers have been forced to go into hiding, changing their addresses and telephone numbers. They are immediately targeted by the new regime for having played an active role in defending the human rights of Afghan citizens in the former government.

Most of female judges and few numbers of female prosecutors and lawyers left the country but the rest live in Afghanistan and or in neighbouring countries facing serious security, economy and psychological problems.

Women are systematically excluded from public life. So far Taliban issued more than 50 decrees which limited women from their political, social and economic life. What is worrying are those every day women are raped, killed and harassed but women do not have access to justice. Women who protested are imprisoned and tortured, millions of girls are deprived of education and suffer from mental and psychological problems, thousands of women were dismissed from their jobs while they were responsible for their families, underage and forced marriages are increasing, and the number of suicides among young people, especially girls and women, has increased, but unfortunately, nobody listen to them.

All mechanisms that were responsive towards survivors of GBV are not existed anymore like EVAW courts and prosecution Units, family courts and Police FRUs. National laws don't implement by the courts and Taliban works as judge and mufti in the courts and take decisions about cases based on their desire. Women are lashing and imprisonment innocence, women prisoners' experiences worse situation with their children in prisons. So in Absence of the EVAW mechanisms, where the women and girls shall go for justice?

I would have the following suggestions from United Nation, Italian Government and Women's rights organizations and Pangaea:

1. Half of the population in Afghanistan is deprived from their very basic rights and all Crimes against afghan women and girls in Afghanistan are crimes against humanity and gender Apartheid so, I strongly call on international community and United Nation to recognize gender apartheid in Afghanistan, as Afghanistan joint the Room Statute in 2003.

2. I also call on International community particularly Italian government to help Afghan women in documentation and submission of crimes against women and girls cases committed by Taliban.

3. The Italian government and Human Rights organizations should conduct researches from the different categories of women and girls in Afghanistan and highlight the violations of human rights in Afghanistan.

4. The Italian government as member of EU should listen to the voice of Afghan women activists and discuss Afghan women's human rights demand at political level and find urgent solutions for returning of Afghan women and girls to their political, social and economic life.

5. You can help with strengthening coordination among different advocacy groups which are active in different countries for the purpose of protecting human rights and Justice in Afghanistan.

6. Dealing with Taliban means that the international community will ignore more than 14 million women in Afghanistan, and ignore the terms such as human rights, democracy, and fundamental rights. Therefore, we don't want any dealing with the terrorist group and we ask the international community to develop strategies and practical solutions to bring the people of Afghanistan, both men and women, from different ethnic groups into the dialogues and listen to everyone ideas on how to help Afghanistan get out of this situation and how to help Afghan women to access to their fundamental rights.

7. Continuing the humanitarian aids to Afghanistan particularly for women are important but the aids must not be distributed by Taliban. The International organizations or NGOs can help but there should be transparent and accountable mechanisms.as well as the women's rights organization should be supported inside the country.



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1. Introduction:

The primary focus was on discussing the complex issues faced by Afghanistan. I, as an Afghan, presented my insights on the multifaceted challenges in the country, particularly pertaining to gender and women empowerment issues. The workshop aimed to foster discussions and explore alternative approaches to address these challenges.

II. Gender issues in Afghanistan

I initiated the discussion by emphasizing the complexity of Afghanistan's situation and posed a fundamental question about the nation's future, most importantly the future of Afghan women and girls. The most important issue is that Afghans should take charge of their destiny and addressing the various issues and challenges facing the country.

1. Gender issues and Misunderstandings:

I highlighted a fundamental issue regarding gender in Afghanistan. I noted that gender issues are often misunderstood, and the concepts of women's rights and gender are not adequately translated into the local languages. This has led to

challenges in implementing international agreements such as CEDAW (Conventions on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women).

2. Lack of Ownership:

Afghanistan's tendency to adopt external programs without ownership and adaptation to local context was identified as a significant problem. The "copy and paste" approach has led to inefficiencies in various sectors, including education, gender and women empowerment. It was noted that Afghan programs should be recognized as authentic and relevant.

3. Diaspora Engagement: The impact of the Afghan diaspora was discussed, with emphasis on the need for unity and recognition of the unique experiences and perspectives of Afghan women living abroad.

4. Promoting Unity: I stressed the importance of embracing diversity within the Afghan community and working together to address common issues.

5. Alternative to CEDAW and NAP: The historical implementation of CEDAW and the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (NAP) was examined, and acknowledging both successes and shortcomings. The need to reevaluate these documents in the Afghan context and explore alternatives was emphasized.

6. Other proposed Solutions: I suggested seeking political solutions through diplomacy, dialogue and collaboration with local actors, civil society, women leaders, and activists to ensure gender equality and women's empowerment.

7. International Community's Role: It was highlighted that the difficulties of implementing international agreements like CEDAW in the context of security concerns and instability.

III. Ms. Karimi (part 2)- Suggestion for the Way Forward

I presented two concrete suggestions to guide future actions:

1. Legal Avenues: I emphasized the importance of exploring legal avenues to assert Afghanistan's commitment to gender equality and women's rights. There was an insistence on connecting various platforms and ensuring continuous efforts for follow-ups and progress

2. Continuity and Collaboration: Continuous engagement across different platforms and collaborations were proposed as crucial to making progress in gender related issues in Afghanistan.



Afghanistan Observatory

Workshop online

11 October 2023

Kabul - Afghanistan

Dr. Najmussama Shefajo,

I will introduce myself a little bit to you , my work and activates , my name is Na Shafajo , I am ,,,,,,,, and owner of one of the private hospital who works for the health of the women and health of the children in Kabul Wazir Akbar khan and also I am the president of Afghanistan society of Obstetricians and Gynecologist , so I am a clinician , I am in touch with women who are sick and they needs the help of a doctor to be in Afghanistan - daily average I check more than 70 patients who are all in the trouble of economic problem, health problem they had many children , before this regime our patients were able to pay for the prescriptions for the investigation for their procedure but after the changing of the regime the economic situation of all afghan are not good , even I family has the economic problems , so right now the patients are facing many kinds of problem like health problem , like mental problem as mental issue also include the heath of women like a definition by WHO not the absence of diseases is not haven't a good health, mental health is very affected in Afghanistan especially the pregnant women as we know the change is during pregnancy which is changes hormones of the lady so the mental or emotional situation of lady is affected but the environmental situation also affects the mental health of the lady , believe me that many many women what come to me they even cry either they have problem with family either their husbands ,their jobs , either they have economic problem , either they have many health problem so beside being

in the hospital like they feel as their family member so they share their family problem , their economic problem with us , so we have small box of fund of our hospital and we could some extra money inside that , sometimes most of the time we take that money from that box and we help patinas regarding their investigation or the medicines or producers , so as we know the public hospitals are very full of the patients and they also have their own problems like , many doctors many gynecologist left the country , many either they left the job because doctors are so have mental problems their children are lost their schools , they are also not good and most of them have cases to leave the country , in the public hospitals even believe me that I went to the public hospitals and had visit patients in one bed believe me , we have three patients , three patients who bleed for their delivery, their abortions and it is indicated to lay more than one patient in one bad , how they can tolerate , we do not have enough bed in the public hospitals , we do not have doctors , we do not have equipment, we do not have medicine, so the rush is so to the public hospitals , public hospitals cannot give them services ,good services with quality and while they want to come to private hospitals they cannot afford , they do not have money and of course the private hospital also they have their own expenses , for example ; they have the house rent , they have the taxes , they have to buy some medicines , they have to pay for the staff , so the private hospitals also have these kind of problems and for the all the patients private hospital cannot help, they cannot afford to help all the patients ,because of the high expenses , so in between the patients are lost , thus why maternal mortality rate in Afghanistan is very high , UNICEF launched a news that in Asia Afghanistan is the number one country who has the highest mortality rate , but now a days as I had an interview with tolo news , OCHA now another news that Afghanistan is a country which has the highest rate of maternal mortality rate in the world which is a shocking news, not only it is a news but we are in the country we see the situation of the women health in Afghanistan , although ministry of public health worked a lot for that and I had some meetings with them , what is your decision regarding , what will you do? They are telling us, wait we are doing something, we do not have money, for sure they also have their own problems, and the very bad recent news that, ICRC stopped their helping, ICRC supporting more than 25 hospitals including materiality hospital, so right now they decide to stop their helps, so by ICRC supporting at least the salary of the staff paid, but now a days unfortunately ICRC stop their helping the Afghanistan especially health sector , so we decide to have a collection of doctors to have a united voice to have to ICRC that at least their helping maternity hospitals should not stop , because the issue or the very very important end that which is health of mother is very important and they should not stop their helping at least , so I don't know how to , I will have the opportunity to have my voice to them to be

heard , I don't know how but how ever we go I loud my voice regarding the women's health in Afghanistan , as I had presentation to WHO and all organization who worked for the health were present their like UNICEF , USAID , like MSF , MSI , like MOP , like our society, Afghanistan gyconoligist society , we were all present over there and we suggest we that how we can decrees maternal mortality rate in Afghanistan, so they are many spite of many many problems that Afghanistan has , so we have many like we have reduce maternal mortality rate , so we give our suggestions to them , maybe they may find way how to reduce this but catastrophe or not don't know at least we could have our presentation in front of all the organizations who work for the health sector .

Part 2:

Most of the women has economic problem just very few patient can afford for the investigation, medicine and producers. So there are some ways if anybody could support these women like there are some foundation like in Herat the private hospitals supported by foreign organizations and they pay for private hospital then the producers or medicines or the prescription is given to the hospital but the hospital is paid by that foundation , so the payment of patient by that foundation , the ladies take good services regarding their health and also the hospital supported , so in the public hospitals the government also work for them also very famous and big organization like WHO , UNICEF , USAID and these support the public hospital but not the private hospitals , although more than 77 % services giving from private hospitals but No support from WHO or other organizations , so this is the way to help poor mothers and the other way to have good health for the women is to give them some awareness program regarding through the media for example : like Ustad Tahmina she goes to TOLO TV to give awareness to more than 5 million families about their rising children about behaving the family their wives , their children , So right now she doesn't have that opportunity to have that connection with five million peoples but for sure she can have a good YouTube channel for herself but it need financial support for example she needs a small studio , she needs a camera , she need professional person , to help her to have a good interviews be in touch with the families , because she is very famous and most of the people will fallow her and also the capacity programs for the doctors for sure we knows that giconoligst in Afghanistan mostly women and they have responsibility of children the responsibility of their in laws the family the hospital than earning the money , the women everywhere has most of the responsibility of the family as camper to

the husband for sure but in Afghanistan this responsibility much much more , so they do not have time to read the capacity program should design for their capacity building in the public hospitals and private hospitals , as we have conduct many capacity building program in Kabul , Mazar Sharif , Herat , Khost even Jalal Abad , Laghman , Kunduz even in Kandahar which are very far provinces , in Afghanistan we went over the country we send our experts to prepare some training program for them self to tech some skills so these need financial support , till now we provided some support from pocket but after that we cannot , if we have a bank also the money be finish one day , we want to have sustainable support to be continue for the capacity program of the doctors to provide good services for women , and in Afghanistan doctors do not have the hospital and the hospital do not have the doctor , I will clear this for you, I am a doctor I don't have the hospital – I rent a house a building for my hospitals , but we have empty hospitals where doesn't have doctors or staff , so there is mismanagement of these things , which government cannot manage this , so we need an extra support to especially for the ladies who worked inside country especially we very few doctors in Afghanistan we provide some services in Afghanistan but we cannot help people financially , we ourselves need financial support because for example I have my own private hospital , I have to pay for the rent of the house or rent of the building , I have to give my staff the salary , I have to pay for the electricity , I have to pay for the taxes , I have to pay for the disposables because if a person come to private hospital for sure she has high expectation , I have to fill that expectation but that need expanses and very few patient who come to private hospital this is not as much as we could fulfill the expanses , so the problem regarding the health is very very much and also doctors fell insecure , like you know all the women in Afghanistan they are ansiuios they afraid of situation , one day they will tell to the doctors also that do not go outside of your houses , stay in your house like the other ladies other women , they fell insecure in Afghanistan , so and also the number of the deliveries and number of having the children in Afghanistan is very high , as you know we all have more than 5 kids but they need good health services to given for the women , and also the health issue is very important in every situation and every regime , I always in my interview in speeches that lets not to join political issues , political problems with the health problems , health is something that every person should have it , we should be healthy to fight , we should be healthy to get education , we should be healthy to earn money , we should be healthy to think , so health is very important and no political problem should affect health , health capacity building program and traveling outside the country for increasing experience which hearts a lot , so that hospitals as I told that doctors do not have hospital and hospitals do not have doctor , the hospital do not have equipment , good equipment are very needed for every

hospital especially for the private hospital because the expectation from the private hospital is very high , for example very simple endoscopy operation ladies the patient have to go to outside the country right now there is No visa , for Afghan people , passport nothing for Afghan people , for example we could go to India , we could go to Pakistan, we could go to Turkey , we could go to Iran , for the treatment for advance investigation but right now we cannot , and also as Ustad Tahmina told that she had many many clients that were mentally affected and that is related to my profession as I have many infertile patients and also I have many many patient abortion and no alive kid , and also I have many many patients who have girl kids and wants to son baby , they are all mentally affect and also I have many many patients with poor economic situation , so these all need the mental support as I request them that you need that investigation and this kind of treatment and also you need mental support , mental consultation to have the psycotrasist , so they tell us that is free or she wants money , I see for sure she wants money , she have thier own expenses , she has the children to have to pay for her , they say No No we cannot afford , we cannot go to your mental consultant , so if they go to Ustad Tahmina , Ustad Tahmina gives them , wants some money from them , so they cannot afford and they go back , as Ustad Tahmina told that she faced so many client try to kill themselves because of economic problem and Ustad Tahmina cannot help all of them for free , so she needs to supported , as if Ustad Tahmina is supported or somebody help her so the patient will be check for free so by this way we can help them to have good mental health , beside that the we provide for more than 90% of our staff is female although we earn very low money as we can prepare salary or payment for lots of difficulties but at least I am happy I could provide some job for the ladies at least they can come out of their houses and they are in touch with the patients and they are busy , for me this is a very lucky moment I provide some job for them but if this financial support is decreasing day by day or the number of patient is decreasing day by day or they have economic problem and their economic problem are increasing day by day so for sure one day I also will not able to support these big number ladies to have their jobs and one day I will decrease of my female staff also which will be very painful for me and it will touch my heart .

In Afghanistan, women, especially women that are coming to me for treatment, almost 90% of them are mentally effected. They need the consultation of a psychologist for which they cannot pay. Any organization or person that support the fee of a psychologist to provide the patient some help is appreciated.



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Ms.NAZILA JAMSHIDI (Part 1): the willingness and the leverage of international community to protect Afghan women. Many American analysts believe that the international community lost its leverage in Afghanistan. I think that it still holds some power and we should use it wisely. In the last 2 years Taliban continue to engage in human rights abuses. The strong desire for legitimacy and especially economic help can be exploited. So in my opinion, why the Taliban didn't understand in the last 2 years is that: How you treat women will be a key factor for all the international councils.

International sanctions and all the other tools used by the international community are not in protection of Afghan women. What can be effective in this moment? We don't know for sure. What we know after 2 years is what was not effective. For example, President Biden emphasized that they will continue supporting diplomacy and international influence. But was it effective?

Something we must highlight here is that diplomacy actions to support Afghan women is not working and hasn't worked in the past 2 years. International community leverage is rooted in Taliban needs. So they should prioritize strategic views of non-recognition that is the most effective international community tool. It should be introduced a red line regarding women rights, they

must be clear and united with them. Some countries are accepting Taliban delegations in their country, working with them.

The issue of humanitarian aid. I don't say that they should stop but it created a moral dilemma. Humanitarian aid to Afghanistan should be conditional to some request: education, employment, security, fair judicial system. I don't say it will have immediate effect but can encourage Taliban to implement some kind of human rights. We don't have to forget what the Taliban needs are and what they want from international community. The role of Afghan diaspora is very important, they are the voice of Afghan women and people. They have the power to influence.

Another fundamental element is monitoring. Any source of monitoring should be supported. International community need to have access to reliable information about what is happening with women's rights in Afghanistan. There shouldn't be lack of funds and resources from the international community. When I see documents provided by Taliban leaders, they aren't reliable. Monitoring can warn the Taliban that the international community still cares and wants to know what is going on. Other than closing schools there is a lot more going on that we should know.

We don't have lost all the leverage, maybe we lost the direct leverage, influence we had in the past but that doesn't mean that we don't have any power.

Ms.NAZILA JAMSHIDI (Part 2): something I have noticed among different groups of advocates, is that there is a division line between opening schools and providing good education or also regarding online courses. I don't think online education is bad, we can do it, but for the long term we need to unify our message over school. Some were asking to the international community sustain in reopening schools in Afghanistan while others were trying to have funds for the project of online schools. In my opinion online school is not possible in

Afghanistan considering internet, power and electronic situation in the country.
How many children we will reach? It is recognized as a degree?

We need a unified message.



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Round Table

4 September 2023

Ms. Neelai Barak:

Afghan women had good economic conditions in their country, with the world we had built, we were forced to migrate, life became zero, there are social and cultural differences, countries have their own laws, and it is very difficult to accept this issue we can't start from scratch, why did we come up? I was pregnant and I came to Italy alone in an emergency, we were girls who came without my father and husband, I did not experience the first round of the Taliban, we were in Pakistan, they helped me a lot in Italy, my child fell ill, they did not tell me that she did not have documents, we will not take your daughter to the hospital or We do not treat it, they told that the child was brought here and we are treating her, it pulled me out of depression because I am in a good place, I had problems in the cultural and linguistic part, but during this two years, I am studying my a master's degree, the rules are different, but despite the fact that with a small baby I am studying.

My motivation is that at least one me as an independent women is out of talibani government always trying by best how to help the women who stayed in Afghanistan .the girls who worked during the republic are currently stuck, let us be the voice of the girls, find a solution. In some places where I had an interview, there are many solutions, women with 4 daughters, we should at least do something for them so that the girls can study.

I really thank the people and government of Italy for helping me, the situation is different in Germany, Sweden, United State and Canada, Italy did what they said.



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Dr. ORZALA NEMAT (Part 1): I think that the consequences of banning systematically education is obvious and speakers have already talked about it in different ways. Before the ban was effective, we all know that the situation of education in Afghanistan was very bad. It was bad because of insecurities, the mismanagement of donor agencies and organizations and institutions involved, and government corruption (ghost schools, teachers and students). Now it is worse. The other day, I was looking at the situation in the medical area, the life-saving situation. Even before the changes, for 1000 patients we have 0, 28 doctors. Now, in the last two years and during COVID and lockdown, universities and schools were closed. So for the last 3 or 4 years, we didn't have university graduates who studied medicine and became doctors, particularly females. Under Taliban, female students who graduated in medicine aren't permitted to continue their specialization. So from the health perspective, we are facing an absolute disaster, and it's going to get worse.

In other job sectors, the same level of literacy and education is falling down; in a time when we started from almost zero to a hundred thousand female university students in 2001, now is again zero.

The issue about recognition of gender-apartheid in Afghanistan. It is obvious that the lack of education is awful. But now, with this question of recognition of gender-apartheid. We are at least challenging those forces within this country. Pangea is an Italian organization but is not a governmental organisation, it's independent. So you are not part of your government, you

operate under the government laws and regulations but for the civil society. So now, I think it's important that the role of civil society in Afghanistan is taken into account too. Will recognising Afghanistan as a gender apartheid state mean any aid to the country will be completely blocked? How do we see the role of those who fight against these discriminatory rules within the country and try to offer help? And so there are many questions to be answered before we campaign for this.

On the political solution, I've personally given up, I have zero interest in meeting the politicians, they have made their choice, their decision.

In terms of the fragmentation of the Afghan society and diaspora. First of all, this has nothing to do with Afghanistan as a unified country. Afghanistan has become the epicentre of geopolitical war. Before that place was called Afghanistan, the geographical space was divided between the colonial powers.

What is carefully planned for us is to keep us divided to tell that the Afghans are constantly fighting each other. Regarding diversity, which country is not diverse, with different ethnicities? Our diversity is our strength and it is only in the interest of outsiders to create fractions and provoke discrimination on a different basis.

My point here is that it takes time to speak about the problems that exist but thinking constructively for solutions is probably the best way forward. Solutions are not easy.

The Security Council session of 17 November made some noise to the international community.

My suggestion is, with the help of each other we draft or write an evidence-based report describing the situation about women, peace and security. Starting to talk with Richard Bennet to find sources of information, very concrete data on the situation, on health, education, humanitarian crisis. And then raise these questions and make some sort of a record. A WPS report should be prepared by us but should be presented by the Italian government. Italy is one of the major humanitarian donors of Afghanistan, so they have leverage in providing humanitarian assistance. They do an observatory mission, observe the situation and do a report that must be endorsed and presented by the Italian government. We spend so much energy talking to each other, we all know the situation, and the challenges that nothing has changed, we keep continuing to talk among ourselves and international allies, part of them are helpless, some are unable to work or not part of the project, they will listen but won't take any action.

When we talk about WPS and women's situation, we must not rely on the media information, we must have our own trusted sources of information because exaggeration brings the credibility of any report to zero. There is a need of concrete information.

Peace, do we have peace in Afghanistan? Is this peace? The absence of violence? No.

UN is no longer recording IDPSs; it's so irresponsible. Especially for humanitarian aid, they are not considered. The UN is saying that without violence, there are no more IDPs. That is wrong and problematic.

Afghanistan is not only a victim of violent conflict; there is also a climate crisis; there is a returnees crisis; there are local conflicts...

If the report is another civil society report, it will not attract. The strategy is to make a government, a European allied government, that takes the lead.

What I propose is to use WPS platforms to push for concrete and systematic evidence-based reports coming from formal channels that will immediately contribute to ending the gender persecution. We need to hurry up. From all over the world, we must raise our voices.

DR. ORZALA NEMAT (Part 2): we count on European civil society, their role is to keep the government accountable, and they should do the same by helping us, make our voice heard. This could be something of long term. The only way to influence foreign policy is by civilian pressure on western governments.



Afghanistan Observatory

QUDSIA NIAZI

Hello to all friends who are present in this assembly. Good evening to all of you dear ones. I hope you are well and healthy.

First of all, I would like to thank everyone for inviting me to this assembly, may God grant me the opportunity to share with you some of the problems of Afghan women in the field of justice.

Secondly, I apologize that due to unfavorable conditions, I could not have a picture of the parliament with you.

In Afghanistan, in addition to other problems and challenges such as lack of access to education, studies and work, women also face serious problems and challenges in terms of lack of access to justice, such as legal and judicial authorities such as the attorney's office and the court in which the attorney, judge and There is no duty for a female defense lawyer to perform. When women are faced with violence, they go to the relevant security department, they first force both sides to compromise, if their problem is not resolved, they

send their case to the court, which is mostly decided in favor of men. It is for this reason that most of the young women and girls in Afghanistan have suffered from mental problems. Recently, the number of female suicides has also increased in Afghanistan, which is really worrying. We ask you and the international community that women and Do not leave Afghanistan alone.



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First Workshop Online

15 September 2023

Ms.ROSHAN MASHAL (Part 1): child marriages and polygamy has bad consequences in Afghanistan, as it has been in the past and will be in the future. It is deeply rooted in cultural and religious, traditional norms. There are many key consequences that I will highlight:

Physical and emotional violence against young brides. They may face physical abuse from their husbands or in-laws. Emotional abuse can manifest in the form of isolation, humiliation and control. There is high risk for their health: pregnancy at a young age can increase the risk of complication during childbirth, including maternal mortality. Polygamy can lead to the spread of sexually transmitted diseases, or other related to reproductive health, such as maternal and child mortality.

Another consequence is the limitation of education of girls, and opportunities but also the ability to take decisions. Lack of education can also cause intergeneration consequences. Daughters of uneducated mothers are more likely to be uneducated and daughters of educated women have less probability of child marriage.

Polygamy can increase domestic violence by creating an environment where women don't feel well: jealousy, unequal treatment, emotional distress.

Forced marriages and polygamy can have psychological impact on individuals. It also affects the women's economic situation; they lack economic independence and is difficult to leave bad situations.

In most cases forced marriages and polygamy are not regulated, as is happening in Afghanistan. Leaving girls and women under no legal protection. It contributes to normalize domestic violence, they send the message that is common, that is right to force a girl to marry and also child marriages.

It can also have demographic consequences: high birth rates, loss of potential contribution to society (skills, talent, activity). The future of the entire generation is at stake.

Women human rights activists and organization that helped advance women's rights in Afghanistan, with the Taliban have lost all their results.

On November 12 of 2021 UN expressed huge concern regarding the increase of child marriage in Afghanistan. They estimate that 28% of Afghan women aged 15 to 49 were married before the age of 18. Families proposed their daughters to marriage when they are less than 1 years old in exchange of dowry. In order to escape child marriage or polygamy, some of these girls commit suicide.

Some strategies to address these challenges:

Establish and develop networks of women on women's rights, Afghan and non-Afghan, at national regional and international level.

Advocacy for a legal reform by empowering women with the Islamic knowledge, human rights and international laws.

Convince the Islamic countries. It is important to have a debate with Afghanistan, condemning Taliban awful actions that are not in accordance with instruction of Islam.

Raise awareness about the negative consequences early child and forced marriages. Also through media campaign.

Promote education, support economic empowerment, NGOs for women at the grassroot level.

Ensure access to healthcare services, including sexual and reproductive services for women and girls.

Provide legal service and shelter for women at risk of early or forced marriage or polygamy.

Engage religious and community leaders to challenge traditional norms and support women's rights.

Do research and collect data on impact of those practices to form evidence-based policies and interventions. Implement monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to assess the effectiveness of the interventions and make adjustment when needed.

Ms.ROSHAN MASHAL (Part 2): from my experience in Afghanistan, we should not rely on politics. Because all the politics and government are doing their planning and they are sacrificing civilians. It is the people, it is the citizens, the women that can bring changes in their lives. During more than 50 years we were victims of conflicts but on 2021 we are victims of peace deal, made between US and Taliban. Girls and women remain the main victims of this peace deal as well. There is a need to be more careful on legal side in the international community on how to protect human rights. For the national laws, all the laws put in place by Taliban there is no hope they will protect human rights. Right now, we have just the international laws and regulations, international commitment. We should bring more women, not just Afghan women but also from other countries, sharing their expertise, support, solution and funds. At the national level we should say that NGOs and organizations working inside Afghanistan, couldn't raise their voices because of the security concept. We must work with women in Afghanistan but we must understand that there are security issues for them.



Afghanistan Observatory

Diaspora Workshop

24 October 2023

Sanga Sidiqi

Good morning and a warm greeting to you all. It is both a privilege and an honor to stand before you. Before I start with this crucial discussion, I would like to express my appreciation to Pangea , ministry of the foreign affairs of Italy and Mrs. Lanzoni for providing us with the opportunity to discuss Afghanistan and the women of Afghanistan.

We the women of Afghanistan will always remember the support of Italy and your helpful presence during this critical moment in our history.

Today, we gather to discuss a matter of great concern in the context of international law – the issue of gender apartheid in Afghanistan. This is not just a local problem; it is a global human rights issue that warrants our utmost attention and action.

Gender apartheid in Afghanistan is a grave violation of international human rights standards. It is characterized by systemic discrimination, oppression, and

violence against women and girls, depriving them of their fundamental human rights and dignity.

Under the current Taliban regime, Afghan women face an alarming regression in their rights and freedoms. They are subject to a harsh interpretation of Islamic law that severely restricts their participation in public life, denies them access to education, healthcare, and employment, and imposes severe dress codes. These violations represent a direct affront to international human rights principles.

Gender apartheid, much like racial apartheid, is a system of governance established through laws and policies that systematically segregate women and men and can exclude women from public spaces. It institutionalizes the subordination of women, contradicting essential international legal principles.

Just as racial apartheid was contrary to principles against race discrimination, gender apartheid is fundamentally at odds with international norms, erasing the humanity of women, who should enjoy the same human rights as men. Every aspect of women's lives is tightly controlled and scrutinized, not only in public but also in private spaces. It's important to note that restrictions on women in public and private life are interconnected.

This information underscores the critical parallel between gender apartheid and racial apartheid, emphasizing the need for focused efforts to combat these systemic and discriminatory practices that violate international norms on equality and non-discrimination.

To address this issue within the framework of international law, we must emphasize the following key points:

1. **Universal Declaration of Human Rights**: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the United Nations, proclaims the equal rights of all individuals, regardless of gender. Afghanistan's gender apartheid contradicts this foundational document.

2. **CEDAW**: The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) is a fundamental international treaty that Afghanistan is a party to. It obliges states to eliminate discrimination against women and take measures to ensure their full participation in all spheres of life.

3. **Security Council Resolutions**: The United Nations Security Council has passed numerous resolutions, including Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security, which underscore the importance of women's participation in peace processes and the need to protect their rights in conflict-affected areas, such as Afghanistan.

4. **ICC and Accountability**: International law, through the Rome Statute, establishes the International Criminal Court (ICC) to prosecute individuals for crimes against humanity, including gender-based crimes. Those responsible for enforcing gender apartheid may be held accountable under international law.

5. **Refugee Rights**: Afghan women and girls facing gender apartheid may seek refuge in other countries, and they are entitled to international protection as refugees under the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol.

6. **Universal Jurisdiction**: States may exercise universal jurisdiction to prosecute individuals who have committed crimes against humanity, including gender-based crimes, in Afghanistan.

7. **Humanitarian Aid and Assistance**: Humanitarian principles, including impartiality and the provision of essential assistance, must be upheld. Humanitarian organizations should be supported in their efforts to provide vital aid to Afghan women and girls affected by the crisis, ensuring access to food, shelter, and medical care.

8. **Diplomatic Engagement**: The international community should engage in diplomatic efforts to address gender apartheid in Afghanistan. This includes

diplomatic pressure on the Taliban to respect international human rights standards and work towards gender equality.

9. **Civil Society and Activism**: The voices of Afghan civil society, activists, and women's rights organizations are critical in the fight against gender apartheid. They require our support, both financially and through international advocacy efforts, to continue their work in demanding justice and equality.

10. **Education and Awareness**: Education and awareness campaigns must be initiated to inform the global community about the gravity of the situation in Afghanistan. This includes using different platforms to shed light on the plight of Afghan women and girls and mobilizing support for their cause.

In conclusion, gender apartheid in Afghanistan is a severe violation of international human rights and humanitarian law. It is our duty to advocate for the upholding of international standards, and we must demand that the international community take swift and effective action to address this crisis.

Our commitment to international law is a commitment to the principles of justice, equality, and human dignity. We stand together to uphold these principles and work towards a future where gender apartheid has no place in Afghanistan or anywhere in the world.

Thank you.



Afghanistan Observatory

Round Table

4 September 2023

Ms. Shahrbanu Haidari:

We all believe that the political, humanitarian and human rights crisis are going on in Afghanistan and has various factors, including civil wars and proxy wars, and one of these factors is the Doha Agreement. The agreement was signed by the US and the Taliban without bringing the Afghan government into Doha, There was no guarantee for women's rights.

The Security Council of the United Nations issued Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, and the main pillars are participation, prevention, relief and recovery. UN Security Council approved the Doha Agreement as well. Khalilzad was there, but women were not present, and there was no discussion about women's rights. America wanted to leave Afghanistan after twenty years, and they told the people and the world that the Taliban have changed and the Taliban are not the same as 20 years ago. As a result of the propaganda of the US about the Taliban, the international community accepted that the Taliban has changed, but during these two years, we have witnessed that the Taliban has not changed. They do not respect to human rights, women's rights and other religions and ethnic groups. Trust in the Taliban is a mistake, and the international community and the United Nations Security Council are making mistakes, and the crisis is increasing. The school has been taken, the work has been taken, and resolution 1325, which is very important, why is it not being

implemented, women's negotiation with The international community is in progress. What guarantee is there?

In the past two years, there has been rape, there is bad news every day that the prisons are complete, and there is no supervision. International organizations are present but do not have access to the Taliban prisons.

Richard Bennett has been appointed as Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan and presented his report. he had recommendations to the countries six months ago in June, but nothing has been done. The International Criminal Court (ICC) was asked to investigate if the "crime of gender persecution" was taking place in Afghanistan under Taliban rule in the second report by the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation since 15 August 2021. But this process is slow.

The international community and countries should consider adopting a feminist foreign policy in their relationship and include women in the composition of the delegations.

Afghanistan has diverse ethnic groups, religions and languages. We can not talk about women generally and generalize the Afghan women's situation in Afghanistan. The Afghanistan situation is dire for everyone, but there are some considerations. The problems and needs of the women in the village differ from those who live in the city and also different religions. They have needs according to their ethnicity and religion. Afghan women have problems, and we work for Afghanistan, and every point should be considered. Due to the weak points in the country, problems occur.

The Taliban wants to prove the Shia religion wrong and eliminate the Persian language, and the movement has started from one place to another. Let's find a solution for Afghanistan and the organizations and institutions that provide humanitarian aid, I understand their main principle are humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence. we should consider the humanity first and be sure to provide aid to women who are in need. Women should be part of humanitarian organizations to be sure women will have access to humanitarian

aid. The Taliban are oppressing, and women have been oppressed. Women are prohibited from working in international institutions.

My recommendations or suggestions:

- Feminist foreign policy
- Imposing sanctions (the list of sanctions I have seen is not enough we should add more sanctions on the Taliban), but we should be careful that the people of Afghanistan are not affected by Sanctions. The target should be leaders of Taliban
- Deportation of the Taliban lobbyist from other countries to Afghanistan
- Sanctioning organizations that have relations with the Taliban
- Increasing scholarships for girls
- The United Nations Security Council should follow the resolutions
- Talk about women from different countries.



Afghanistan Observatory

Round Table

4 September 2023

Ms. Shakiba Hajizada:

I want to express the situation of women in Afghanistan during the last hundred years.

We know that women make up half of the society in every country. The heart of the society beats in the chest of the family and the woman is the pulse of the family's life. The centrality of the woman in the family is as a wife, mother, teacher, and nurturer of children and the main pillar in creating emotions and feelings and motivation in family members to endure hardships and continue life.

But in Afghanistan, the role of women is not considered as a main point. Afghanistan is a very traditional society, When the Taliban came to power in two periods, the process of progress was quickly pushed back, and women have been the biggest victims in this storm. Women lost the right to go to school and were not allowed to leave the house without Mahram. And they were despised as a means of having children and pleasing men. Women who were not accused of crime or treason were easily stoned without any court and were not answerable to anyone and anywhere.

Women in Afghanistan have always been oppressed, tortured, and used by politicians, powerful extremists, and their fanatical families. Women who, despite their many talents and high capacity, could not take their place in this country until today. Whenever they wanted to fly to reach their goals, their

wings would be broken and their voices would be muffled, and whenever they wanted to stand up, their legs would be broken.

The first time women were able to experience freedom and democracy in their lives was during the reign of Shah Amanullah Khan.

Shah Amanullah Khan was the first person who implemented freedom and democracy in Afghanistan. Shah Amanullah Khan's wife, whose name was Queen Soraya, addressed Afghan women at that time and said that they are half of the society, they are not only responsible for raising healthy and educated children, but they are also responsible for reading and writing. He was able to establish the first girls' school and the first hospital for women called Mastorat.

During this period, with the Loya Jirga, the marriage age of Afghan girls was set at eighteen years and it was forbidden to have more than one wife.

During his 10 years of rule, he made many efforts in the field of education and women's freedom. He urged families to send their daughters to school and enacted legislation that abolished forced marriage, child marriage, and wedding prices.

Also, Queen Soraya, the wife of Shah Amanullah, made rapid reforms to improve the lives of women and their status in family, marriage, education, and professional life. Shah Amanullah Khan declared hijab optional and for the first time sent fifteen girls who graduated from Mastorat school, to study in Turkey. Soraya Tarzi was the first woman who was recognized as one of the most powerful female activists in Afghanistan. After Shah Amanullah Khan, during the reign of Habibullah Kalkani and Nader Shah, women and girls were marginalized and they were forbidden to leave the house without a mahram, and girls who went abroad to study were ordered to return to their homeland.

And they also announced that women should wear a burqa. Girls' school was closed and women were forced to wear hijab.

During the reign of Zahir Shah, Sardar Muhammad Daud Khan, during the period of the communist regime (Dr. Najibullah), women were once again able to get their lost opportunities to achieve education and progress.

Girls' schools were opened, the number of schools increased, and the working environment became favorable for women. Women found their place in society and appeared in the political scene for the first time, in urban areas women studied in colleges, they could manage jobs outside the home, and even entered into politics.

For the first time, a female singer named Mirman Parveen was able to broadcast her song through Afghanistan Radio.

In the cities, women can appear without the hijab, and hold government high positions, working as scientists, teachers, doctors, and civil servants.

Mahbubeh Siraj was one of the Afghan rights activists who were able to go to school and study without a Hijab and finally continued her higher education.

In September 1996, after the Taliban took over Afghanistan for the first time, they issued a heartbreaking announcement. That women do not have the right to go outside the house without a burqa, otherwise, they will be whipped. Women should wear a burqa outside the house, women's faces should not be seen in any way, avoid makeup, jewelry, and bright and colorful clothes, it is forbidden for girls to go to school, they closed all girls' schools and universities. They burned the books except the Quran. They broke the glass of the TV.

This period has been the worst and darkest time for the people of Afghanistan, especially for women.

A large number of women were forced to beg or prostitute themselves in order to bring a morsel of bread for their children.

Women across Afghanistan were put under house arrest

Finally, the attack of September 11, 2001 in America led to the overthrow of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan, and another historical period under the leadership of Hamid Karzai began in Afghanistan and ended with the leadership of Ashraf Ghani.

During this period, the gate of educational institutes was opened again for Afghan girls and women and they were able to travel abroad to continue their education.

In this period, to create a safe environment for women to continue their education and social and work activities, a law was passed under the title of prohibition of violence against women.

During this period, women were given the right to vote and it was announced that women could run as Loya Jirga representatives. Extremists and traditionalists always opposed this performance of theirs.

But it can be said that the 20th century was a century of progress in the life of Afghan women, and it should not be ignored that in a country that has been at

war for more than thirty years, women's rights have naturally been sacrificed.

Unfortunately, In August 2021, the terrorist group and the killers of the Afghan people, the Taliban, once again took power and were able to raise their disgraceful flag on the soil of Afghanistan.

After taking power, the Taliban immediately announced that the girls could study up to the sixth grade. Once again, they closed the gates of schools and universities to the girls and women of this country. They also announced that women who were working in the offices do not have the right to work anymore.

They closed public baths, amusement parks, sports clubs, and vocational training courses such as calligraphy, painting, sewing, etc. to women. They also announced that women do not have the right to leave the house without Muharram, they do not have the right to go abroad without Mahram. When they go out of the house, they must cover their faces completely

Recently, the Taliban are looking for young girls and widows up to 45 years old. They said that every family should give the list of their unmarried daughters and widows to the Islamic Emirate. And they should marry the Taliban.

Those girls and women who demonstrated in the streets to defend their rights were arrested and imprisoned by the Islamic Emirate. In addition, protesting women were raped. There is no information about the fate of a large number of protesting women.

Even in the villages and most of the provinces, protesting women have been beaten and stoned. Women who worked in high government positions or security and defense departments during Ashraf Ghani's rule were identified and mysteriously murdered by the Taliban, and this action is still ongoing.

They abolished the Ministry of Women and did not allocate any posts for women in their temporary cabinet.

Also, to destroy the educated generation of girls, they carried out a suicide attack in girls' educational centers, which killed hundreds of female students. As an example, we can mention the suicide attack at the Kaj educational center in Dasht Barchi, Kabul, where all the dead were between 17 and 23 years old.

Some Afghan women are forced to leave their homeland and become refugees in other countries. Women who used to work in the highest positions in Afghanistan, but now engaged in menial jobs.

Ms. Hajizadeh Part 2 :

In the first round of the Taliban, women had to wear tents and not leave the house, they stayed at home and did not stand up. Women found the courage to study and how to defend their rights, and along with that, they reached a level.

Women raised their capacity, girls and women wanted to indirectly get out from under the domination and power of men and raise their capacity and they were able to to a certain extent, women became the head of the house, and the husband accepted because the woman had the power and knows the way of life. They had known, during the republican period, they had their position in the home environment, and outside, they could give ideas at home.

Let's not go to the other side of the Taliban, the country was a patriarchy, girls got married and divorce was the right of the husband, women are human but they did not have the right to make decisions, it was a patriarchy for centuries. How can a country like Iran recognize a woman as a woman, just they told to women you have the right, they must tell men that women have rights, there is a law, and in a country where there is a law, the right is respected, in Afghanistan, the law is passed but it was not implemented, they have not respected women's rights, Nowhere in the Quran is it said that girls should not study.



Afghanistan Observatory

Diaspora Workshop

24 October 2023

Ms. Shogoha Ghafari,

Title: Empowering Afghan Women in the Diaspora; Access to opportunities and resources

I am deeply honored to address you today on the crucial topic of Afghanistan women in the diaspora, particularly those in Europe, in a time when the situation in Afghanistan is at the forefront of global concerns, it is imperative that we discuss how women of Afghanistan can play a pivotal role in shaping a brighter future for their homeland and how their experiences in Europe inform this role.

1. To speak about the Afghanistan women diaspora and their opportunities and experiences, first of all we must have a look on the experiences, challenges and opportunities of women inside Afghanistan society.

I am not talking only about the current situation and Taliban regime which is – of course catastrophic but the role of women in Afghanistan society in a longer time interval shows that women always counted as the second and weaker gender group. Women in Afghanistan have been under pressure for a very long period of history.

2. So when we are **talking about Afghanistan Women in diaspora** , we see basic elements changing

a. Financial independence of women in diaspora (men as bread winner of the family, and women as house wife).This tabu, is most but not all the case, breaks. The first opportunity is to have income and be able to gain financial independence. This change in roles which threats supremacy given to men by society back at home , not always being accepted by Afghanistan men in diaspora and there are efforts to limit the opportunities for women members of families even in Europe.

b. Access to information channels

c. Access to **education** , and educational recourses

d. Access to **help groups** including social help

e. Employment opportunities

f. Cultural Exchange : Living in Europe exposes Afghan women to diverse cultures and perspectives , fostering cultural exchange , broadening horizons , and promoting tolerance and understanding,

g. Networking opportunities : being in Europe allows Afghan women to network with professional , scholars and activists from various fields , potentially opening doors to collaboration and career advancement .

h. Advocacy and Activism: European nations often have active civil society organizations and platforms for advocacy, enabling Afghan women to engage in causes related to gender equality, human rights and social justice.

Afghan women in the diaspora primarily in Europe, **serve as an essential channel to echo the voices of those in Afghanistan.** They are bridges connecting the world to the struggles, aspirations, and resilience of Afghan women on the ground. In a time when media access is limited and reliable information in scarce, the diaspora plays a critical role in ensuring that the world remains aware of the Afghan people's plight.

3. Main Challenges

- a. Being kept inside a defined of asylum seeking
- b. Emotional and mental challenges
- c. Afghan women in the diaspora face **Complex Challenges in accessing opportunities**,
- d. Common challenges include **Language barriers, discrimination**, and difficulties in having their qualification and skill recognized.
- e. **Cultural Adjustment:** Adapting to a new culture and custom can be challenging, which may affect their **sense of belonging** and integration.
- f. **Employment challenges: despite** better employment prospects, Afghan women in Europe may still face obstacles such as credential recognition, limited job opportunities, and wage disparities.
- g. Legal and Asylum issues: **Asylum and immigration processes can be lengthy** and uncertain, leading to stress and uncertainty for Afghan men and their families.
- h. Childcare and family responsibilities: balancing family responsibilities with work or education can be complex, especially if childcare resources are limited.

4. What to do

- a. Practical strategies, such as language and vocational training, can empower Afghan Women to integrate fully and contribute to their host countries.
- b. Community organizations, Government initiatives, and NGOs play a vital role in providing resources and support, including mentorship programs and job training.
- c. **A global perspective is essential**, as the Afghan diaspora extends beyond Europe and the challenges and opportunities can differ significantly across regions. Understanding these regional nuances is crucial for tailoring support effectively.

d. **Comparing the experiences of Afghan women in Europe with other immigrant women is crucial.** The insights from these resources indicate that afghan women may face unique challenges, particularly related to their backgrounds and cultural differences. This understanding allows us to tailor support and resources to address these specific challenges effectively.

In conclusion, we are at critical juncture in our commitment to empowering women Afghan women in the diaspora, particularly those in Europe. Their experiences and struggles are informed by the challenges and resources available in their host countries.

We must collectively work to remove the barriers they face, ensure equal access to opportunities and harness the full potential of their resourcefulness. We have a moral and practical duty to support them, and in doing so, we can secure a better future for all Afghans.



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[REDACTED]:

What's going on with women in Afghanistan? All the institutions closed or cancelled laws, starting from the constitution and its women's rights, equal rights and ways to promote and protect women's rights. Unfortunately we lost that. It was the biggest guarantor of our rights. The ministry of women in Afghanistan was addressing how to make the policy for equality or equal opportunities or promotion and protection of women's rights.

It was also lost one of the most democratic institutions: the parliament. Also the civil society movement, there were many organizations including Afghan women networks, that was always strongly advocating during the republican period. All those organizations couldn't carry on their mission because it is not acceptable for the Taliban. Most of the media outlet were closed, council for women or youth or tribal were cancelled. There are no political parties that can take a position or do the work of the opposition in the system or make the government or the system accountable.

All those laws no more exist. Or some still exist but no one can raise their voice because they are considered revolt by the Taliban, they arrest those people. When someone wanted to organize a protest against the visit of a Pakistani official in Afghanistan, it was arrested and tortured. Those that are supporting education or mobilize the community to make their daughters go to school, they are in jail for no reason. Also women protesters, when they raise their voice, are arrested, tortured, raped (that is a stigma that they will bring throughout their life).

International community is not helping because they think that education, violence and etc are internal problems, part of sharia law or of the culture. In this way Taliban legitimize their illegal actions or violence or violation of human rights. Sharia has many examples of women with power, so this is not part of Islam or sharia. Regarding culture, our former health minister was a women. In our first parliament there were women representing the people of Afghanistan, elected by their political parties. So is not a part of the culture.

If you are talking about women role in peace and security, where were the woman in the Doha agreement?

Our expectation from all these European countries part of the NATO and America is to make the Taliban accountable, to fulfil the promise or the part of the Doha agreement about the negotiation and dialogue with women that must be part of the debate.

Doha agreement should be the base of our advocacy. Nation like Italy can take the initiative to host many events for Afghan civil and political movement (youth, women groups). Afghans should get together and start to discuss about the future of the country to tell what we want, draft a constitution, guarantee human rights for every Afghan citizen, elections, etc. And later on make the Doha agreement a promise that at the table there are opponents of the Taliban. If Taliban make a constitution it should not be recognized by the international community because it's not made by the population.

If Taliban agree that will let the girls go to school, the international community shouldn't think that everything is perfect. This is fundamental.

Women should be a part of decision-making in the country. We need political representation for women of Afghanistan.



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Online Workshop

11 October 2023

Tahmina Qaderi

Salam, dear friends and friends who are here, thank you for giving me time. I am Tahmina Qadri, a psychologist and family counselor - thank you very much. I have experience in school management and teaching, I have more than twelve years of experience. I translate books from Turkish to Dari, I prepared some seminars for young people and women in the psychotherapy department and I also run a school and teach in the child education department. I worked also in the book translation department, and at the same time, I had meetings with our friends who needed more than 200 women, short-term meetings and long-term meetings so that I could treat them in the psychotherapy department.

At the same time to some televisions who ask us to cooperate in the education of children and their families. I have been with Tolo TV for more than a year and a half, it is a very famous TV. Yes, I am cooperating with them, with the problems and limitations that are currently in front of me, unfortunately, I cannot carry out the program. I am currently working at Shafajo Hospital with the specialist of Mrs. Shafajo, and I would like to express my special thanks, who assigned me and I work there without any financial expectations, because women's problems were more common in Shafajo hospital, and they allowed me to work in their hospital.

Currently, we see more women's problems than the patients who come to Dr. Sahib, and we are busy helping and serving our country to our people, especially in the women's and girls' department, the problems I see in women are the conditions in Afghanistan is currently in a really dire situation, because I can tell you that 70% of the women I studied and worked with in the psychotherapy department have problems, and unfortunately 90% of the women committed suicide. They have beaten me, more than the cases that we carried out and more than the cases that I have on my hands, the ladies even confessed two or three times that they went to destroy himself.

But then I survived and God gave me life again, which means that these problems are really increasing day by day, that is, women's throats are choked, Afghan women cannot raise their voices, their problems are increasing day by day, even one of The ladies said, I am thankful that at least you are here, I will come under the pretext of going to the doctor, I will sit with you for an hour, I will tell you about my problems. Really, every meeting we have with women, we cry in front of the clients who come to us, we know that they have more problems and they say that I can't come anymore because of the economic problems they have you see, there are so many cases of suicide that we have to pursue this, they tells us that I have such a problem, but due to economic problems, due to the problems that we do not have family permission or the restrictions that are in front of us, we can't continue the meetings, when I go home from the hospital and the problems of that women has and I am considering, I think to myself, in addition to being a mother of three children and having other responsibilities at home, these problems really bother me. I think that I can do something for my people and these women, but there are still some obstacles in front of me that I cannot progress.

In the hospital, God bless Dr. Shafajo , they allowed me to serve without any financial expectation, but still there are some obstacles for us, while I want to work for my country, work for my people, especially for women, but The economic problems that are present in many of us, as an example, I gave you an example from Tolo TV, which I used to watch for more than a year and a half, we had a program on Tolo TV, once a week we had a program in the family section, and for fifteen minutes I would explain some topics to the ladies. I used to show

mothers and fathers that they should make a game at the house from household objects.

I used to take the children with me and they were all happy with me. There was a day when I asked them to arrange transportation for me. I didn't have any other expectation from them but after that they didn't call me in the program anymore. I missed this program and they had more than five million viewers, but due to the problems, if I only wanted to rent a car, they were able to provide me with this program, and this is my biggest pain, because I want to serve with all my heart, but I personally can't because of the problems. The economy that I have and in front of me is supposed to improve and reach the most women, to reach the biggest group, the problems that are in front of me, this affects me a lot, and this has affected my mental state a lot.

I am invited in the programs and the taxi driver who drives a taxi, he knows at least about raising children and how to support his family and this man knows what the woman's rights are? How a woman know what a man's right is ? Because we need this very much, that is, the level of education in our country is getting lower and lower day by day, and the most important person in a family is the mother, the important point is the important person of the family and the pillar of the family, the mother must be literate. who educates the generation, the mother can't raise her voice at the moment, we accept that too, I will try harder not to lose my morale, I will try harder to work on my education because we should study more, what level is the level of Afghanistan and what strong problems are we facing? Whether we can or not, we are facing it, I try harder to read books, I started writing books, I try to calm myself down and at the same time I take foreign trainings and workshops in Turkish, which I am familiar with it.

And for now, I have taken a course that is very important, one of my professors from my school he is abroad and supported me by paying the fee, I am not worried or suffering because of any of them, I am proud that at least my professor was able to trust me and I will try to find a solution that we can serve and help these women who are really in trouble.

Finally, I ask for financial support so that I can better address the problems of families, especially women and children. My only desire is to help women for

free, and that depends on your support. Because until now, when I have witnessed it, especially in the hospital where Ms. Healjoo is psyching her patients who are really facing mental health problems, they give up when they know they have to pay and leave the hospital. And that's a disdain for me. Almost 90 percent of women in Afghanistan face mental health problems and these are mothers, it is very important to be healthy so that they can raise a generation. I want to create a strong team in psychotherapy with young people who are studying in this field. For now, more young people who graduate from this field offer me a job, but Unfortunately, I can't do anything for them because I have to support them financially, which is difficult for me.



Afghanistan Observatory

First Workshop Online

15 September 2023

Ms.TAIBA JAFARI: In the new history of Afghanistan if we look back on women 's situation we can find it out, that after Bon conference conducted in Germany (21 Nov-5dec 2001), women's participation have been started in different aspects. Among 63 official and unofficial members of Bon conference 5 women participated. During past 20 year, after Bon conference on Islamic republic of Afghanistan the women 's situation changed and they had a lot of achievements in different aspects of political, economic, social and cultural however these achievements were not enough but were helpful. Some of these achievements pointed as below:

- Ministry of women's affairs established to help and support women 's rights in different aspects
- Many NGOs established and worked on women's rights and women 's economic empowerment;
- A political party established and leaded by women;
- 4 ministries among 28 ministries were leaded by women like, Ministry of women affairs, Ministry of education =, Ministry of economy and Ministry of technology and tele communication. Also we had female deputy ministers in different ministries
- 68 members out of 250 parliament members were women
- 60 members out of 358 members of provincial council were women,

- 27.5% women participated in government body,
- 15% of women worked on decision making positions,
- 29% of women worked on education system,
- 2% of national police were female,
- 13% of women worked in judicial system (647 female judge and 331 female attorney)
- One of the important national priority programs was women 's economic empowerment and the previous government was committed for the implementation;
- Different laws developed and implemented on women 's right to protect them, like elimination of violence against women law, anti-harassment law, some article of penal code protected women 's rights and also the government was committed for considering of CEDAW convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women.

But after August 15,2021 under the Taliban rule all women 's right taken away from them. Taliban started this gender apartheid against women from the first day and its continuing till now. Taliban edicts banning women and girls from all education beyond the primary level, access to parks, gyms and public baths and working for government and NGOs deepen existing flagrant violations of women's human rights, already among the most draconian in the world. The discriminatory denial of women and girls' fundamental human rights may amount to gender persecution, a crime against humanity. Based on report of the special rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan, Since the Taliban came to power, the unnatural deaths of over 280 women and children have been reported in the media, at least 75 of which were reportedly intentional killings, 130 were conflict-related or suicide-explosion-related and more than 20 domestic violence-related – in 60 cases the cause was not reported.

Based on a report which is published in March 2023 by international commission of jurists (The Taliban war against women) the child marriage and forced marriage increased. When families refuse the forced marriage, they are subjected to abduction, intimidation, torture and threat.

Considering the current awful situation in Afghanistan, we are not sure what will be the solution, I have some recommendations:

1. The Afghan 's women inside the country and diaspora, should get together and established a unique organization beyond the ethnicity and geography should be documented all Taliban 's crime against Afghan women and present it to UN and international communities to show them the ongoing situation by publishing research.
2. The women 's voice should be loaded in the international missions by selecting the right person as informed representative of Afghan 's women.
3. The UN and international communities should take forward steps beyond sharing reports and helping the Afghan women 's rights.
4. The international communities should be provided scholarship for Afghan girls who are banned from school and university so they can continue to study I as well recommended remote education.
5. Afghan women who have access to institution outside the country can help providing scholarship for Afghan girls.
6. The world should not be subjected to the censorship of information, we must louder our voices as a diaspora by collecting date and doing research. To let the international community understand what the reality of life under the Taliban is. The Taliban held hostage of 16 million of Afghan women.

