Afghanistan

UN News
In Focus: Afghanistan
A one-stop guide to UN issues in the news, with easy access to statements, resolutions and other essential resources.

Afghan girls' voices for education echo loudly through new global campaign

UN Women - In focus: After August – Voices of Afghan women two years after the Taliban takeover (14 August 2023):


Afghanistan: UN forced to make 'appalling choice' following ban on women nationals

Top officials strongly condemn Taliban ban on Afghan women working for UN

The UN in Afghanistan calls for an immediate end to draconian restrictions on the rights of women & girls by the de facto authorities (8 March 2023):
https://unama.unmissions.org/un-afghanistan-calls-immediate-end-draconian-restrictions-rights-women-girls-de-facto-authorities


UN Delegation led by Deputy Secretary-General calls upon Afghanistan’s De Facto Taliban Authorities to reverse course on recent decrees limiting women’s, girls’ rights

OCHA - Afghanistan: "We are dead and yet alive" (9 January 2023): https://bit.ly/3vXCBEF

Women’s participation in aid delivery must continue: Statement by Inter-Agency Standing Committee Principals on Afghanistan (28 December 2022):

OCHA - UN condemns reported ban on women working for NGOs and International Organizations (24 December 2022):
https://reliefweb.int/report/afghanistan/un-condemns-reported-ban-women-working-ngos-and-international-organizations

OCHA - Six things you need to know about Afghanistan right now (20 December 2022):
https://unocha.exposure.co/six-things-you-need-to-know-about-afghanistan-right-now

UNHCR - Five things you should know about Afghanistan (15 August 2022):


UN Entities

- **The United Nations in Afghanistan**
  https://afghanistan.un.org

- **United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA)**
  http://unama.unmissions.org/

- **Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning ISIL (Da’esh), Al-Qaida, and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities**
  https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/sanctions/1267

- **Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011)**

- **Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights: Afghanistan**
  https://www.ohchr.org/en/countries/afghanistan

- **Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict – Afghanistan**
  https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/where-we-work/afghanistan/

- **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Afghanistan**

- **International Organization for Migration (IOM)**
  - Afghanistan: IOM Response 2021-2022:
    https://www.iom.int/afghanistan-iom-response-2021-2022
  - IOM Afghanistan: https://afghanistan.iom.int/

- **Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs**
  - OCHA in Afghanistan: http://www.unocha.org/afghanistan
  - ReliefWeb – Afghanistan: http://reliefweb.int/country/afg
  - Afghanistan Pledging Conference 2022: https://www.unocha.org/afghanistan2022
  - Nine things you need to know about the situation in Afghanistan right now (6 October 2021): https://www.unocha.org/story/nine-things-you-need-know-about-situation-afghanistan-right-now
o Afghanistan: ERC Griffiths releases $45M from UN CERF for life-saving support
(22 September 2021): https://www.unocha.org/story/afghanistan-erc-griffiths-releases-45m-
un-cerf-life-saving-support
o High-level Ministerial Meeting on the Humanitarian Situation in Afghanistan,
13 September 2021: https://www.unocha.org/high-level-ministerial-meeting-humanitarian-
situation-afghanistan
o Nine things you need to know about the crisis in Afghanistan (23 April 2021):

• UN Women Afghanistan
https://asialapac.unwomen.org/en/countries/afghanistan
o DONATE to help women in Afghanistan: https://donate.unwomen.org/en/afghanistan
o Afghanistan: Inter-agency Rapid Gender Analysis (November 2022):
https://reliefweb.int/report/afghanistan/afghanistan-inter-agency-rapid-gender-analysis-
november-2022
o Gender alert no. 2: Women’s rights in Afghanistan one year after the Taliban take-over:
https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2022/08/gender-alert-no-2-
womens-rights-in-afghanistan-one-year-after-the-taliban-take-over
o Gender alert 1: Women’s rights in Afghanistan: Where are we now?:
https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2021/12/gender-alert-womens-
rights-in-afghanistan
o Expert’s take: Gender equality is critical for Afghanistan’s future, long-term development, and
for-the-afghanists-future
o Take five: “Afghan women will not go backwards” (12 October 2021):

• United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) – Afghanistan
https://www.undp.org/afghanistan
o UNDP reaffirms its long-standing commitment to stay and deliver for the people of Afghanistan
stay-and-deliver-people-afghanistan
o UNDP warns that restrictions on women’s rights will worsen economic catastrophe in
womens-rights-will-worsen-economic-catastrophe-afghanistan
o "We do exist!" - Facing the setbacks to women’s rights under the Taliban (21 December
2022): https://www.undp.org/blog/we-do-exist
o UNDP report paints grim picture of Afghanistan a year after transition (5 October 2022):
transition
o Economic recovery for displaced key to Afghans’ future (15 June 2022):
https://www.undp.org/blog/economic-recovery-displaced-key-afghans-future
o When Crisis Hits, We Stay And Deliver: A glimpse into UNDP’s work in Afghanistan through the
eyes of SURGE Advisor Usman Qazi (15 December 2021): https://stories.undp.org/when-
crisis-hits-we-stay-and-deliver
o New UN Development Programme emergency initiative to support Afghan people in need (21
emergency-initiative-support-afghan-people-need
o Economic Instability and Uncertainty in Afghanistan after August 15 (9 September 2021):
https://www.undp.org/publications/economic-instability-and-uncertainty-afghanistan-after-
august-15

• UNESCO Office in Kabul
https://www.unesco.org/en/fieldoffice/kabul
o Let girls and women in Afghanistan learn! (18 January 2023):
o Afghanistan: UNESCO condemns Taliban decision to ban women from higher education and
calls for its immediate revocation: https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/afghanistan-unesco-
condemns-taliban-decision-ban-women-higher-education-and-calls-its-immediate

• United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
o Afghanistan: An escalating crisis for women and girls: https://www.unfpa.org/afghanistan-
estalcing-crisis-women-and-girls
• **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) - Afghanistan**
  - [https://www.unhcr.org/afghanistan.html](https://www.unhcr.org/afghanistan.html), [http://reporting.unhcr.org/node/4505](http://reporting.unhcr.org/node/4505)
  - Support in Afghanistan: [https://help.unhcr.org/afghanistan/support/](https://help.unhcr.org/afghanistan/support/)
  - Afghan women affected by Taliban bans on work and study fear for their futures (18 January 2023): [https://www.unhcr.org/news/stories/2023/1/63c7b7a64/](https://www.unhcr.org/news/stories/2023/1/63c7b7a64/)

• **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) - Afghanistan**
  - [https://www.unicef.org/afghanistan/](https://www.unicef.org/afghanistan/)
  - Delivering for Afghanistan’s children - UNICEF is continuing to work with partners to support children and their families across the country: [https://www.unicef.org/emergencies/delivering-support-afghanistans-children](https://www.unicef.org/emergencies/delivering-support-afghanistans-children)

• **United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI)**

• **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) – Afghanistan**

• **World Food Programme (WFP) – Afghanistan**
  - [https://www.wfp.org/countries/afghanistan](https://www.wfp.org/countries/afghanistan)

• **World Bank – Afghanistan**

**General Assembly**

  - A/RES/77/10: The situation in Afghanistan: resolution / adopted by the General Assembly on 10 November 2022: [https://undocs.org/A/RES/77/10](https://undocs.org/A/RES/77/10)
Security Council Meetings on Afghanistan

- **2023**: 21 June, 27 April, 16, 8 March, 13 January
  
  Meeting records, press releases and resolutions:

- **2022**: 20 December, 27 September, 29 August, 23 June, 17, 2 March, 26 January

- **2021**: 17 November, 17, 9 September, 30, 16, 6 August
  [https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/meetings-2020-vtc](https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/meetings-2020-vtc)

- **2020**: 15 September, 31, 10 March
  [https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/meetings-2020-vtc](https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/meetings-2020-vtc)

- **2019**: 16 December, 17, 10 September, 26 July, 19 June, 15 March

- **2018**: 17 December, 17 September, 23 July, 26 June, 8 March

- **2017**: 21 December, 25 September, 21 June, 17, 10 March

- **2016**: 19 December, 14 September, 21 June, 15 March

- **2015**: 21 December, 17 September, 22 June, 16 March

- **2014**: 18, 12 December, 18 September, 25 June, 17 March

- **2013**: 20 June, 19 March

- **2012**: 19 December, 9 October, 20 September, 27, 22 and 20 March

- **2011**: 19 December, 12 October, 29 September, 6 July, 22 and 17 March

- see also Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council:
  [https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/repertoire/asia#cat1](https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/repertoire/asia#cat1)

Selected UN Documents

- UNAMA key documents and reports:
  [https://unama.unmissions.org/key-documents-and-reports](https://unama.unmissions.org/key-documents-and-reports)

on condemning the decision of the Taliban to ban Afghan women from working for the UN in Afghanistan
on request to conduct an independent assessment providing recommendations to address current challenges faced by Afghanistan
Transmits, as co-chairs of the Informal Expert Group on Women and Peace and Security, response to recent decisions by the Taliban affecting women's rights in Afghanistan.
Transmits, on behalf of the 15 signatories from former, current and incoming Security Council members, statement of shared commitments on women and peace and security and joint press stakeouts on Afghanistan, Colombia, Haiti and Yemen and held in advance of the annual open debate on women and peace and security in 2022.
Transmits, as co-chairs of the Informal Expert Group on Women and Peace and Security, response to recent decisions by the Taliban affecting women's rights in Afghanistan.
Prepared in cooperation with the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), covers the period 1 Dec. 2020 to 30 Nov. 2021.
Transmits report of the Committee's activities for 2021.
• S/2021/770 (3 September 2021): Letter dated 2 September 2021 from the Permanent Representatives of Ireland, Mexico and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General: http://undocs.org/S/2021/770
  Urges the Security Council to place the utmost priority on protecting and vindicating the rights of Afghan women and girls in all decisions and action on Afghanistan’s future.

  Transmits final Chair’s statement issued at the end of the international meeting on Afghanistan, held in Doha, 10 and 12 Aug. 2021.

  Transmits joint statement by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan following their meeting on the developments in Afghanistan, held in Tashkent, 16 July 2021.


  Transmits joint statement of the extended "Troika" on peaceful settlement in Afghanistan, adopted at the regular meeting of the representatives of the Russian Federation, China, United States and Pakistan, held in Moscow, 18 Mar. 2021.

  Prepared in cooperation with the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), covers the period 1 Jan. to 30 Nov. 2020.

  Transmits, on behalf of the States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), joint statement of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the CSTO member States on the situation in Afghanistan.

  Transmits report of the Committee's activities for 2020.

  Transmits report of the Committee's activities for 2019.


  Transmits the "Four-Party Joint Statement on the Afghan Peace Process", adopted at the consultation between China, the Russian Federation, the United States and Pakistan, held in Beijing, 11 July 2019.

  Transmits declaration on the consultative peace loya jirga, held in Kabul, 29 Apr.-3 May 2019.

Transmit trilateral consensus on the Afghan peace process, adopted at the meeting of China, the Russian Federation and the United States on Afghanistan, held in Moscow, 25 Apr. 2019.


Transmits the conclusions of the Tokyo Conference on Afghanistan held on 8 July 2012, entitled "The Tokyo Declaration: Partnership for Self-Reliance in Afghanistan From Transition to Transformation" and the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework.

  Transmits the text of the Istanbul Process on Regional Security and Cooperation for a Secure and Stable Afghanistan.


  Transmits the Afghanistan Compact, adopted at the conclusion of the international London Conference on Afghanistan, held 31 Jan.-1 Feb. 2006.

Transmits Agreement on Provisional Arrangements in Afghanistan Pending the Re-establishment of Permanent Government Institutions, signed in Bonn, 5 Dec. 2001, by the participants in the UN Talks on Afghanistan. Presents general and final provisions of the interim authority, its legal framework and judicial system, interim administration, and the Special Independent Commission of the Convening of the Emergency Loya Jirga. Includes 4 annexes which set out i) international security force, ii) role of the United Nations during the interim period, iii) request to the United Nations by the participants at the UN Talks on Afghanistan, and iv) composition of the interim administration.


- **UN Member States on the Record: Afghanistan**
  United Nations Member States on the Record provides access to selected documents reflecting the views of United Nations Member States.

**Selected Statements and Speeches by UN Officials**


• Humanitarian Coordinator appeals for the world not to abandon the people of Afghanistan at this precarious moment (6 April 2023): https://reliefweb.int/node/3950730


• Taliban’s decision to ban Afghan women from working with the United Nations will cost children’s lives: Statement by UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell (5 April 2023): https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/talibans-decision-ban-afghan-women-working-united-nations-will-cost-childrens-lives


• Press conference by UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Martin Griffiths upon his return from Afghanistan, New York, 30 January 2023: https://reliefweb.int/node/3928631


• UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed’s press conference upon her return from Afghanistan (26 January 2023): https://unama.unmissions.org/un-deputy-secretary-general-amina-mohammed%E2%80%99s-press-conference-upon-her-return-afghanistan


• UN High Commissioner for Refugees calls to reverse ban of women humanitarian workers in Afghanistan (29 December 2022): https://www.unhcr.org/news/press/2022/12/63ad6f484/

• Statement by Achim Steiner, UNDP Administrator, on current situation faced by women in Afghanistan (29 December 2022): https://www.undp.org/speeches/statement-achim-steiner-undp-administrator-current-situation-faced-women-afghanistan


• Statement of the Women Advisory Group to the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) on the de facto Ministry of Economy’s decision to ban women personnel of INGOs and NGOs from working (25 December 2022): https://reliefweb.int/report/afghanistan/statement-women-advisory-group-humanitarian-country-team-hct-de-facto-ministry-economyy-decision-ban-women-personnel-ingo-and-ngos-working

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- Comment by UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk on reported ban on women attending university in Afghanistan, 21 December 2022: https://www.ohchr.org/en/statements/2022/12/comment-un-high-commissioner-human-rights-volker-turk-reported-ban-women


- Briefing to the United Nations Security Council by the Secretary-General’s Special Representative for Afghanistan, Roza Otunbayeva New York, 20 December 2022: https://unama.unmissions.org/briefing-special-representative-roza-otunbayeva-security-council


- Message from the UNICEF Afghanistan Representative: We see you; we hear you; we’re staying here with you (14 August 2022): https://www.unicef.org/afghanistan/press-releases/message-unicef-afghanistan-representative-we-see-you-we-hear-you-were-staying-here


- Briefing of the Emergency Relief Coordinator to the Security Council on the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, 23 June 2022: https://reliefweb.int/node/3859810


Afghanistan has been haven for terrorism, drug trafficking for too long, says Secretary-General, stressing solidarity to neighbouring foreign ministers (SG/SM/21218, 31 March 2022): https://www.un.org/press/en/2022/sgsm21218.doc.htm


Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Martin Griffiths’ opening remarks at the High-level Pledging Event for Afghanistan (31 March 2022): https://reliefweb.int/node/3833426


Failure to adhere to commitments to re-open schools for all girls deeply disappointing and damaging for Afghanistan, Bachelet warns (23 March 2022): https://www.ohchr.org/en/statements/2022/03/failure-adhere-commitments-re-open-schools-all-girls-deeply-disappointing-and

Women’s rights in Afghanistan: “I stand with the women and girls of Afghanistan”, Statement by UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet, Kabul, 10 March 2022: https://www.ohchr.org/en/statements/2022/03/womens-rights-afghanistan


Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Martin Griffiths, Closing remarks at the launch of the 2022 Afghanistan Humanitarian Response Plan, Geneva, 11 January 2022: https://reliefweb.int/node/3807298

Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Martin Griffiths, Opening remarks at the launch of the 2022 Afghanistan Humanitarian Response Plan, Geneva, 11 January 2022: https://reliefweb.int/node/3807299


Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Martin Griffiths: Statement on Afghanistan, 22 December 2021: https://www.unocha.org/story/usg-griffiths-statement-afghanistan


- Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Martin Griffiths: Statement on Central Emergency Response Fund allocation to Afghanistan, 22 September 2021: [https://reliefweb.int/node/3776174](https://reliefweb.int/node/3776174)


- Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Martin Griffiths: Closing remarks at the High-level Ministerial Meeting on the Humanitarian Situation in Afghanistan, 13 September 2021: [https://reliefweb.int/node/3773570](https://reliefweb.int/node/3773570)

- Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Martin Griffiths’ remarks at High-Level Ministerial Event on the Humanitarian Situation in Afghanistan: [https://reliefweb.int/node/3773519](https://reliefweb.int/node/3773519)


- Statement: Pramila Patten, Executive Director a.i. of UN Women, calls on the Taliban leadership to include women in the upcoming governance entity (31 August 2021): [https://bit.ly/3yKhMff](https://bit.ly/3yKhMff)


• We cannot, must not abandon people of Afghanistan, Secretary-General tells Security Council meeting, stressing 'the world is watching' (SG/SM/20853, 16 August 2021): https://www.un.org/press/en/2021/sgsm20853.doc.htm
• Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Martin Griffiths Statement on Afghanistan, 9 August 2021: https://reliefweb.int/node/3763153

Selected UN Reports & Publications
• UNAMA Publications: https://unama.unmissions.org/publications
• UNAMA Reports on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict: https://unama.unmissions.org/protection-of-civilians-reports
• Human Rights Dimension of Poverty in Afghanistan (OHCHR, March 2010): [http://www2.ohchr.org/SPdocs/Countries/AF/PovertyReport_30032010.doc](http://www2.ohchr.org/SPdocs/Countries/AF/PovertyReport_30032010.doc)

**Further Information**

• UN Talks on Afghanistan, Bonn, Germany, 27 November - 5 December 2001 [https://unric.org/de/un-talks-on-afghanistan-2001/](https://unric.org/de/un-talks-on-afghanistan-2001/)

**Selected Non-UN Sources**

• NATO and Afghanistan: [https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_8189.htm](https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_8189.htm)
• The Humanitarian (formerly "IRIN News") – Afghanistan: [http://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/asia/afghanistan](http://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/asia/afghanistan)