

# AFGHANISTAN UNDER THE TALIBAN: A *STATE* OF “*GENDER* *APARTHEID*”?

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in August 2021, Afghan women and girls have suffered a severe rollback of rights, from denial of education to restrictions on movement to a lack of participation in the economy. The country now is in a state of gender apartheid.<sup>1</sup> In this policy brief, we discuss the scope and impact of directives issued by the Taliban on women and girls. We describe how these actions violate international human rights norms and guarantees made by the previous government of Afghanistan. To add texture to this analysis, we conducted interviews with 10 female teachers in Afghanistan whose lives have been affected by school closures and other discriminatory policies. Finally, we argue that the international community must take greater action to support women in Afghanistan and especially to promote gender-equal education in compliance with international human rights standards. As the costs mount and the Taliban shows no sign of changing its behavior, there is greater urgency than ever to address the interconnected civil, political, economic, social, and culture gender-based human rights violations in Afghanistan.

## BACKGROUND:

### The Taliban Takeover of Afghanistan

On Aug. 15, 2021, the Taliban took control of Kabul and declared Afghanistan an “Islamic Emirate” led by a supreme leader. That same day of the takeover, the Taliban ordered all girls’ secondary and high schools to close (an official decree codifying the order was issued a month later). On Sept. 7, the Taliban announced an interim caretaker government made up exclusively of male Taliban members, predominantly from the Pashtun community. This administration does not have U. N. recognition and is referred to as the de facto authority.

On Sept. 22, the government added representatives from different religious and ethnic minority groups, but none were women. Also in September, the Taliban abolished the Ministry for Women’s Affairs, announcing the building would be used to house the reconstituted Ministry of Virtue and Vice, which was charged with enforcing the Taliban’s interpretation of Sharia. The Taliban suspended the constitution and dissolved both houses of Parliament and the Electoral Commission.

Since August 2021, the government has issued 36 Sharia-based decrees and instructions regarding the rights of women and girls.<sup>2</sup> (See Appendix 1.) Many of these decrees specified so-called acceptable behaviors for women, such as segregation from men, dress code, and the requirement for women to be accompanied by a male chaperone when traveling more than 72 kilometers from home. One decree advised that “women, unless they are very young or very old, must cover their faces except for their eyes” when meeting a non-male relative and that “the best way to observe hijab is to not go out unless it’s necessary.”<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The term “gender apartheid” used here in reference to the Taliban’s policies is not a formally defined term under international human rights law. This term is borrowed from its racial equivalent. Although we acknowledge some may resist using this term in this context, we believe it aptly describes the systematic, gender-based segregation, rights violations, and denial of education occurring in Afghanistan under the Taliban.

<sup>2</sup> Heather Barr, “List of Taliban Policies Violating Women’s Rights in Afghanistan,” Human Rights Watch, Sept. 29, 2021.

<sup>3</sup> Belquis Ahmadi and Mohammad Osman Tariq, “How the Taliban’s Hijab Decree Defies Islam,” United States Institute of Peace, May 12, 2022.

Described as “guidelines” or “recommendations,” these decrees have been enforced to varying degrees by the officials in different provinces and districts. The government also announced that punishment for violating a decree would be inflicted on a woman’s male family members, thus motivating domestic policing.

The Taliban’s rights restrictions have had disastrous consequences on women’s lives and livelihoods. A report submitted by a U.N. special rapporteur expressed “grave concern about the staggering regression in women’s and girls’ enjoyment of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights since the Taliban took power.”<sup>4</sup> By March 2022, 61% of women had lost their jobs, while women in the informal economy saw their opportunities curtailed by restrictions on their freedom of movement. Many have sounded the alarm that girls are facing increased risk of child marriage and gender-based violence.<sup>5</sup>

## THE IMPACT ON EDUCATION

Besides social restrictions, for women, the area of life perhaps most affected by the Taliban is education. According to UNICEF, 3.7 million children are currently out of school, and 60% of those are girls.<sup>6</sup> Despite a pledge to allow all girls to return to school by spring 2022, the government has continued to keep most out of school. In March 2022, the Taliban government declared girls could return to primary school (grades one through six) but that secondary and high schools for girls would remain shut.<sup>7</sup> In December 2022, the government announced an indefinite ban on university education for women and girls (as well as an order forbidding females from working for nongovernmental organizations (NGOs)).<sup>8</sup>

Primary accounts provide critical insights into the impact of Taliban rule on women and girls. We conducted interviews with 10 female teachers currently residing in Afghanistan who are from different regions and ethnic groups. We asked each 21 questions. (See Appendix 2.) These interviews were conducted in Farsi and Pashtu. To protect the respondents from retaliation for participating in our study, we kept each teacher’s name and location anonymous.

The interviews painted a picture of fear and uncertainty. Teachers reported concern over the loss of rights and civil liberties for women. Many are experiencing economic hardship, as many have lost their jobs and are unable to contribute to their families’ livelihoods. They emphasized that most of the girls prevented from going to school have no options for obtaining education by alternative means. They reported concern about adverse social consequences that might result, such as an increase in forced and childhood marriages. They also expressed the opinion that women who belong to ethnic and religious minorities were treated more harshly by the government than those belonging to the majority.

<sup>4</sup> “Situation of Human Rights in Afghanistan: Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Afghanistan,” U.N. Human Rights Council, Sept. 6, 2022.

<sup>5</sup> Henrietta Fore, “Girls Increasingly at Risk of Child Marriage in Afghanistan: Statement by UNICEF Executive Director,” UNICEF, Nov. 12, 2021.

<sup>6</sup> UNICEF Afghanistan Education, accessed Nov. 2, 2022, <https://www.unicef.org/afghanistan/education>.

<sup>7</sup> Susannah George, “Taliban Reopens Afghan Schools — Except for Girls Beyond Sixth Grade,” The Washington Post, March 23, 2022.

<sup>8</sup> Ehsan Popalzai and Ivana Kottasová, “Taliban Suspend University Education for Women in Afghanistan,” CNN, Dec. 20, 2022.

*“In my province we had girls that could be singers, professors, athletes and politicians. Now we have nothing left. All of those talents were arrested, left the country, or now live in hiding. Families rush to marry their daughters because they are afraid the Taliban may take them for marriage. Most girls are forced to marry. This is a nightmare I never imagined to happen.”*

### – Anonymous female teacher in Afghanistan

It’s clear that the Taliban has established a regime that violates international human rights norms and that is effectively subjugating half the country’s population. Women lack the same civil liberties as men and are essentially second-class citizens. They are denied the ability to participate in politics and civic life, and they are largely shut out of the formal economy.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Commitments Violated

Before the Taliban takeover, the government of Afghanistan made commitments to protect and promote the rights of women and girls. Article 43 of the Afghan Constitution of 2004 guaranteed the right to education. Denial of education for women was defined as a form of violence against women in the Afghan Elimination of Violence Against Women Act of 2009.

In 2015, Afghanistan adopted its first National Action Plan (NAP). This plan, set to be implemented in two phases from 2015-2018 and 2019-2022, was developed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs along with several others. As a U.N. member state, Afghanistan committed to observing principles of the U.N. Charter, and the NAP was developed around the four pillars of U.N. Security Council Resolution 1325: participation, protection, prevention, and relief and recovery.

To this end, the NAP set objectives for each pillar. These included increasing the participation of women in the civil service, elected government, and in the security sector; passing laws to address human trafficking and violence against women; improving women’s access to justice in the legal system; measures to address the culture of impunity surrounding sexual violence; and increasing employment opportunities for women in all sectors of the economy.<sup>9</sup>

In addition to the NAP, Afghanistan is a state party to various U.N. conventions and committees that concern the rights of women and girls. These include the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the Safe Schools Declaration.

The decrees issued by the Taliban since taking power in August 2021 directly violate the commitments made under these conventions and agreements.

<sup>9</sup> Afghanistan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, “Afghanistan’s National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 — Women, Peace, and Security, 2015-2022,” June 2015:18.

# RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

So far, national governments and the international community have condemned the Taliban’s policies affecting women and girls. In August 2021, the CEDAW and the CRC called on the Taliban to protect the rights of Afghan women and girls.<sup>10</sup> They further conveyed that the CEDAW and CRC are binding on Afghanistan, and they urged the Taliban to follow the basic human rights embedded in international law.

Immediately following the Taliban government’s March 23, 2022, decree extending the closure of secondary and high schools for girls, the U.N. Security Council called on the Taliban to “respect the right to education and adhere to their commitments to reopen schools for all female students without further delay.”<sup>11</sup>

On July 8, 2022, the U.N. Human Rights Council adopted a resolution titled, “Situation of Human Rights and Girls in Afghanistan,” affirming its commitment to equal rights for women in Afghanistan, and calling on the Taliban to establish protective institutions for women and victims of gender-based violence.<sup>12</sup> The U.N. high commissioner noted that, “since the Taliban took power, women and girls in Afghanistan were experiencing the most significant and rapid roll-back in enjoyment of their rights,” and as the authority exercising control over the country, the Taliban was legally obligated “to eliminate discrimination against women and ensure women’s right to equal participation in civic and public life.”<sup>13</sup>

On Dec. 29, 2022, the CEDAW condemned “in the strongest terms the decision by the de facto authorities in Afghanistan to exclude women and girls from universities.”<sup>14</sup> The CEDAW stated that barring women from universities and from working for NGOs acted to deepen what were the “world’s largest gender gaps.”

In addition to public statements, the international community has taken several important steps to support Afghan women and girls. But much more needs to be done. National governments, U.N. agencies, multilaterals, intergovernmental organizations, regional organizations like the EU, businesses, and NGOs should consider the following actions:

- All international dialogues and engagements with the Taliban must have an inclusivity rider, a clause that ensures the protection and promotion of women’s and girls’ rights.
- U.N. agencies and other international organizations on the ground should refuse to meet with Taliban officials unless they are accompanied by women.
- The United States and other governments must reaffirm that they will honor their commitments in support of women’s empowerment. Women of Afghanistan need statements of support from the highest and most visible stakeholders in the United States and around the world.

<sup>10</sup> CEDAW and CRC Press Release, “Afghanistan: U.N. Committees Urge Taliban to Honour Their Promises to Protect Women and Girls,” Aug. 30, 2021.

<sup>11</sup> U.N. Security Council, “Security Council Press Statement on Afghanistan,” Press Release SC/14842, March 27, 2022.

<sup>12</sup> U.N. Human Rights Council, “Human Rights Council Adopts Seven Resolutions: Extends Mandates on Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association, the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women and Girls, and Belarus,” July 8, 2022.

<sup>13</sup> U.N. Human Rights Council.

<sup>14</sup> “Afghanistan: Banning Women and Girls From Schools and Workplace Jeopardizes Entire Country,” U.N. Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner, Dec. 29, 2022.

- U.N. efforts in Afghanistan should support and empower women and girls. The new special representative of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) should elevate the importance of women’s human rights and empowerment within its mandate, including by hiring more Afghan women and ensuring they are a part of political dialogue and negotiations.
- All entities should consider any financial engagement with the Taliban as a key bargaining tool to protect and promote girls’ and women’s education.
- Organizations should make online and remote literacy classes available for girls until educational institutions reopen.
- Organizations should develop remote programs and training hubs for female teachers to keep them engaged and skilled.
- National governments should provide educational pathways for girls to attend higher education institutions abroad.
- U.N. agencies and other multilateral organizations should attempt to organize facilities in Afghanistan for women to move freely in public without a male guardian (such as a women’s bus service).
- International organizations should develop and strengthen partnerships with Afghan women’s groups in the country and in exile. These groups must be thoroughly vetted to ensure capacity and legitimacy.
- Organizations should directly fund community-level advocates working to advance the quality of education for Afghan students in the country, in a state of temporary displacement, and in the process of permanent resettlement.
- Organizations should invest in continuing education opportunities, including scholarships, for Afghan refugee populations.

# APPENDIX 1

## Taliban Policies Restricting Women's Rights Since August 2021

### 1. Instruction ordering imams to compile lists of unmarried women between ages 12–45 for Taliban fighters to marry

Aug. 13, 2021

Source	<u>Daily Mail</u> , "Advancing Taliban Go Door-to-Door and Forcibly Take Girls as Young as Twelve to be Sex Slave 'Wives' for Their Fighters as They Sweep Across Country Following NATO Withdrawal"
Treaty Violated	<u>Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women</u> – Article 16 (b), "The same right freely to choose a spouse and to enter into a marriage only with their free and full consent"; <u>International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights</u> – Article 10, section 1, "Marriage must be entered into with the free consent of the intending spouses."
Treaty Ratification Status	Signed on Aug. 14, 1980, and ratified on March 5, 2003; Not signed but ratified on Jan. 24, 1983
Afghan Reports to CEDAW, CRC, ICESCR	<u>CRC State Report 2019</u> – Section 33, "The marriage age for girls... is 16... The marriage of a girl under 15 is not permitted."
Afghan <u>National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security</u>	"The laws of Afghanistan guarantee the protection of women's rights and freedom...[against] offences including forced marriage."
Human Rights Council Resolutions and Security Council Resolution – July 6, 2022	N/A*

### 2. Temporary advisory for working women to stay at home "for their safety"

Aug. 25, 2021

Source	<u>CNN</u> , "Taliban Tell Afghan Women to Stay Home From Work Because Soldiers Are 'Not Trained' to Respect Them"
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\*N/A = Information related to the decree is not mentioned.



## Treaty Violated

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women – Article 11 (a), "The right to work as an inalienable right of all human beings"; International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights – Article 6, section 1, "...the right of everyone to the opportunity to gain his living by work which he freely chooses"

## Treaty Ratification Status

Signed on Aug. 14, 1980, and ratified on March 5, 2003; Not signed but ratified on Jan. 24, 1983

## Afghan Reports to CEDAW, CRC, ICESCR

ICESCR Concluding Observations 2010 – "The Committee notes with concern that the principle of equal remuneration for men and women workers for work of equal value is not guaranteed in the State party."

## Afghan National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security

"There are increased numbers of women in the police, military, [and] civil service but still not enough in order to respond to emerging needs of women. Women in the security sector is an encouraging force for more women to join the security forces."

## Human Rights Council Resolutions and Security Council Resolution – July 6, 2022

"Reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights by all women, girls and children...including... the right to work"

### 3. Ban on co-education, men prohibited from teaching girls

Aug. 30, 2021

## Source

Republic World, "Taliban Declare Ban On Co-Education in Afghanistan, Prohibit Men From Teaching Girls"

## Treaty Violated

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women – Article 10 (a), "The same conditions for... access to studies," (b), "Access to the same...teaching staff," and (c), "elimination of any stereotyped concept of the roles of men and women at all levels"; Safe Schools Declaration – "Education is fundamental to development."

## Treaty Ratification Status

Signed on Aug. 14, 1980, and ratified on March 5, 2003; Endorsed in May 2015

## Afghan Reports to CEDAW, CRC, ICESCR

CRC State Report 2019 – Section 116, "...all children are entitled to enjoy free education... the Government is obliged to provide compulsory primary education for all children"

Afghan National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security	"[the Government of Afghanistan] has developed this National Action Plan to achieve...increase[d] access to education and higher education for girls and women"
Human Rights Council Resolutions and Security Council Resolution – July 6, 2022	"...bilateral and regional efforts to promote the rights of women... in particular the right to education," and "...the right to education for all is an essential condition for achieving sustainable development"

#### 4. Announcement of caretaker government without women

Sept. 8, 2021

Source	CNN, "Taliban Name Ex-Guantanamo Detainees and Wanted Man to New Caretaker Government"
Treaty Violated	<u>Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women</u> – Article 7 (b), "[ensure to women, on equal terms with men] To participate in the formulation of government policy... and to hold public office...at all levels of government"
Treaty Ratification Status	Signed on Aug. 14, 1980, and ratified on March 5, 2003
Afghan Reports to CEDAW, CRC, ICESCR	<u>ICESCR Concluding Observations 2010</u> – "The Committee...remains concerned at the low level of women's representation in decision-making position[s] in Afghanistan."
Afghan National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security	"[the Government of Afghanistan] has developed this National Action Plan to achieve...participation of women in the decision making and executive levels of the Civil Service"
Human Rights Council Resolutions and Security Council Resolution – July 6, 2022	"Recognizing that the full, equal, effective and meaningful participation, inclusion and empowerment of all women and girls... is essential for sustainable peace"

#### 5. Ban on girls' secondary education (secondary schools to reopen only for male teachers and students)

Sept. 17, 2021

Source	<u>The Guardian</u> , "Taliban Ban Girls From Secondary Education in Afghanistan"
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## Treaty Violated

Convention on the Rights of the Child – Article 28, section 1 (b), "Encourage the development of different forms of secondary education...make them available...to every child"; Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women – Article 10 (a), "The same conditions for...access to studies," (b), "Access to the same...teaching staff," and (c), "elimination of any stereotyped concept of the roles of men and women at all levels"; Safe Schools Declaration – "Education is fundamental to development."

## Treaty Ratification Status

Signed on Sept. 27, 1990, and ratified on March 28, 1994; Signed on Aug. 14, 1980, and ratified on March 5, 2003; Endorsed in May 2015

## Afghan Reports to CEDAW, CRC, ICESCR

CRC State Report 2019 – Section 116, "...all children are entitled to enjoy free education up to the undergraduate level... the Government is obliged to provide compulsory primary education for all children," and section 122, "To promote the right of girls to education"

## Afghan National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security

"[the Government of Afghanistan] has developed this National Action Plan to achieve...increase[d] access to education and higher education for girls and women"

## Human Rights Council Resolutions and Security Council Resolution – July 6, 2022

"...bilateral and regional efforts to promote the rights of women... in particular the right to education," and "...the right to education for all is an essential condition for achieving sustainable development"

## 6. Removal of Ministry of Women's Affairs

Sept. 17, 2021

## Source

Reuters, "Taliban Replaces Women's Ministry With Ministry of Virtue and Vice"

## Treaty Violated

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights – Article 3, "...ensure the equal right of men and women to the enjoyment of all civil and political rights"

## Treaty Ratification Status

Not signed but ratified on Jan. 24, 1983

## Afghan Reports to CEDAW, CRC, ICESCR

ICESCR Concluding Observations 2010 – "The Committee...remains concerned at the low level of women's representation in decision-making position[s] in Afghanistan."

## Afghan National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security

"[the Government of Afghanistan] has developed this National Action Plan to achieve...participation of women in the decision making and executive levels of the Civil Service"

Human Rights Council Resolutions  
and Security Council Resolution –  
July 6, 2022

"Calls for measures to ensure that local women's rights organizations  
and local organizations led by women can continue to carry out their  
work all over Afghanistan"

## 7. Effective ban on women in the workplace

Sept. 20, 2021

Source	<u>CBS News</u> , "Taliban Tells Women and Girls to Stay Home From Work and School"
Treaty Violated	<u>Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women</u> – Article 11 (a), "The right to work as an inalienable right of all human beings"; <u>International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights</u> – Article 6, section 1, "...the right of everyone to the opportunity to gain his living by work which he freely chooses"
Treaty Ratification Status	Signed on Aug. 14, 1980, and ratified on March 5, 2003; Not signed but ratified on Jan. 24, 1983
Afghan Reports to CEDAW, CRC, ICESCR	<u>CEDAW Third State Report</u> – Section 146, "Various government institutions...have launched public awareness raising programmes on women's rights including their right to work."
<u>Afghan National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security</u>	"Create enabling environment for women's participation in the civil service through development of policy of mutual respect in the workplace"
Human Rights Council Resolutions and Security Council Resolution – July 6, 2022	"Reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights by all women, girls and children...including...the right to work"

## 8. Ban on women teaching or studying at public universities until they can be segregated from men

Sept. 29, 2021

Source	<u>The Washington Post</u> , "Kabul University Shuts Down as Taliban Government Bans Women From Campus, For Now"
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## Treaty Violated

International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights – Article 6, section 1, " ...the right of everyone to the opportunity to gain his living by work which he freely chooses"; Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women – Article 10 (a), "The same conditions for...access to studies," (b), "Access to the same...teaching staff," and (c), "elimination of any stereotyped concept of the roles of men and women at all levels"; Safe Schools Declaration – "Education is fundamental to development," and "...places of education are places of safety"

## Treaty Ratification Status

Not signed but ratified on Jan. 24, 1983; Signed on Aug. 14, 1980, and ratified on March 5, 2003; Endorsed in May 2015

## Afghan Reports to CEDAW, CRC, ICESCR

CRC State Report 2019 – Section 116, "The Government is obliged to provide compulsory primary education for all children," and section 122, "To promote the right of girls to education"; CEDAW Third State Report – Section 146, "Various government institutions...have launched public awareness raising programmes on women's rights including their right to work."

## Afghan National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security

"Create enabling environment for women's participation in the civil service through development of policy of mutual respect in the workplace"

## Human Rights Council Resolutions and Security Council Resolution – July 6, 2022

"Reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights by all women, girls and children...including...the right to work," and "...the right to...meaningfully participate in the...transformative potential of education"

## 9. Ban on dramas, soap operas, and entertainment shows broadcasting women; Women news presenters required to wear headscarves

Nov. 22, 2021

## Source

CNN, "Women Banned From Afghan Television Dramas Under New Taliban Media Rules"

## Treaty Violated

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women – Article 11 (b), "The right to the same employment opportunities," and (c), "The right to free choice of profession and employment"; International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights – Article 2, section 2, "...the rights...in the present Covenant will be exercised without discrimination of any kind as to...religion"

Treaty Ratification Status Signed on Aug. 14, 1980, and ratified on March 5, 2003; Not signed but ratified on Jan. 24, 1983

Afghan Reports to CEDAW, CRC, ICESCR CEDAW Third State Report – Section 146, "Various government institutions...have launched public awareness raising programmes on women's rights including their right to work."

Afghan National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security "Create enabling environment for women's participation in the civil service through development of policy of mutual respect in the workplace"

Human Rights Council Resolutions and Security Council Resolution – July 6, 2022 "Stressing the importance of regarding Afghan women as active agents over their own lives," and "Deeply concerned at the situation of women journalists and media workers...underlining [their] important role...to carry out essential work"

## 10. Decree on women's rights exclusively on marriage, with no mention of access to education or work

Dec. 3, 2021

Source Reuters, "Taliban Release Decree Saying Women Must Consent to Marriage"

Treaty Violated Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women – Article 16 (b), "The same right freely to choose a spouse and to enter into a marriage only with their free and full consent"; International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights – Article 10, section 1, "Marriage must be entered into with the free consent of the intending spouses."

Treaty Ratification Status Signed on Aug. 14, 1980, and ratified on March 5, 2003; Not signed but ratified on Jan. 24, 1983

Afghan Reports to CEDAW, CRC, ICESCR

CEDAW Concluding Observations of Third State Report –

"The practices of child and forced marriage...continue and that perpetrators enjoy impunity for such crimes," and "Women...who try to escape from child or forced marriage...are revictimized."

Afghan National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security

"The laws of Afghanistan guarantee the protection of women's rights and freedom...[against] offences including forced marriage."

Human Rights Council Resolutions and Security Council Resolution – July 6, 2022

N/A

## 11. Ban on cab drivers from accepting women passengers without hijab

Dec. 26, 2021

Source

Republic World, "Taliban Ban Drivers From Playing Music in Cars, Having Women Passengers Without Hijab"

Treaty Violated

International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights

– Article 2, section 2, "...the rights...in the present Covenant will be exercised without discrimination of any kind as to...religion";

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights – Article 18, section 2, "No one shall be subject to coercion which would impair his freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice."

Treaty Ratification Status

Not signed but ratified on Jan. 24, 1983; Not signed but ratified on Jan. 24, 1983

Afghan Reports to CEDAW, CRC, ICESCR

ICESCR Concluding Observations 2010 – "It is particularly concerned at the fact that some provisions of the Shia Personal Status Law remain discriminatory against women, including...limitation on movements outside the home."

Afghan National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security

N/A

Human Rights Council Resolutions and Security Council Resolution – July 6, 2022

"Recognizing that limiting women's freedom of movement has a negative impact on their lives," and "Reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights by all women, girls and children...including the right to freedom of movement"

## 12. Ban on women taking long-distance road trips alone (male relative required to accompany them for distances beyond 45 miles)

Dec. 29, 2021

Source	<a href="#">CNN</a> , "Taliban Bans Women From Solo, Long-Distance Road Trips in Afghanistan"
Treaty Violated	<a href="#">International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights</a> – Article 12, section 1, "...the right to liberty of movement," and section 2, "Everyone shall be free to leave any country."
Treaty Ratification Status	Not signed but ratified on Jan. 24, 1983
Afghan Reports to CEDAW, CRC, ICESCR	<a href="#">ICESCR Concluding Observations 2010</a> – "It is particularly concerned at the fact that some provisions of the Shia Personal Status Law remain discriminatory against women, including...limitation on movements outside the home."
Afghan National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security	N/A
Human Rights Council Resolutions and Security Council Resolution – July 6, 2022	"Recognizing that limiting women's freedom of movement has a negative impact on their lives," and "Reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights by all women, girls and children...including the right to freedom of movement"

## 13. Closure of public baths for women

Dec. 29, 2021

Source	<a href="#">Etlaatroz</a> , "The Taliban Shut Down Women's Baths in Mazar-e-Sharif"
Treaty Violated	<a href="#">Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women</a> – Article 13 (c), "The right to participate in recreational activities, sports and all aspects of cultural life"
Treaty Ratification Status	Signed on Aug. 14, 1980, and ratified on March 5, 2003
Afghan Reports to CEDAW, CRC, ICESCR	<a href="#">ICESCR Concluding Observations 2010</a> – "The Committee regrets the discrepancy between the legal framework and the inequality in practice in sectors such as work, public life, education, and health."
Afghan National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security	N/A
Human Rights Council Resolutions and Security Council Resolution – July 6, 2022	"Deeply concerned about the increasing erosion of respect for the human rights of women and girls in Afghanistan by the Taliban, including... women's full, equal, effective and meaningful participation in public life"



## 14. Ban on women entering cafes without mahram in Herat

Jan. 5, 2022

Source	<u>Rukhshana Media</u> , "Taliban Bans Women Without Mahram From Entering Cafes in Herat"
Treaty Violated	<u>Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women</u> – Article 13 (c), "The right to participate in recreational activities, sports and all aspects of cultural life"; <u>International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights</u> – Article 12, section 1, "...the right to liberty of movement"
Treaty Ratification Status	Signed on Aug. 14, 1980, and ratified on March 5, 2003; Not signed but ratified on Jan. 24, 1983
Afghan Reports to CEDAW, CRC, ICESCR	<u>ICESCR Concluding Observations 2010</u> – "It is particularly concerned at the fact that some provisions of the Shia Personal Status Law remain discriminatory against women, including...limitation on movements outside the home."
Afghan National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security	N/A
Human Rights Council Resolutions and Security Council Resolution – July 6, 2022	"Stressing the importance of regarding Afghan women as active agents over their own lives"

## 15. Ban on women government employees from entering government offices without hijab

Feb. 2, 2022

Source	<u>Rukhshana Media</u> , "Taliban: Female Government Employees Aren't Allowed to Go to Work Without Hijab"
Treaty Violated	<u>International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights</u> – Article 2, section 2, "...the rights...in the present Covenant will be exercised without discrimination of any kind as to...religion," and Article 3, "...ensure the equal right of men and women to the enjoyment of all civil and political rights"; <u>International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights</u> – Article 18, section 2, "no one shall be subject to coercion which would impair his freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice"

<u>Treaty Ratification Status</u>	Not signed but ratified on Jan. 24, 1983; Not signed but ratified on Jan. 24, 1983
Afghan Reports to CEDAW, CRC, ICESCR	<u>CEDAW Concluding Observations of Third State Report</u> – Section 26 (h), "[the Committee urges the state party] to address cultural norms and discriminatory stereotypes that lead to social stigma associated with gender-based violence against women and girls through...information and communication campaigns"
<u>Afghan National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security</u>	"Men and women must possess equal access to opportunities and resources to achieve [increased women's] participation in peace processes."
Human Rights Council Resolutions and Security Council Resolution – July 6, 2022	"Stressing the importance of regarding Afghan women as active agents over their own lives," and "Recognizing that limiting women's freedom of movement has a negative impact on their...ability to generate income"

## 16. Ban on women's access to health centers without a mahram

March 2, 2022

<u>Source</u>	<u>Foreign Policy</u> , "The Taliban Are Harming Afghan Women's Health"
Treaty Violated	<u>Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women</u> – Article 12, section 1, "...equality of men and women, access to health care services"
<u>Treaty Ratification Status</u>	Signed on Aug. 14, 1980, and ratified on March 5, 2003
Afghan Reports to CEDAW, CRC, ICESCR	<u>ICESCR Concluding Observations 2010</u> – "The Committee regrets the discrepancy between the legal framework and the inequality in practice in sectors such as work, public life, education, and health."; <u>CEDAW Concluding Observations of Third State Report</u> – Section 45 (a), "[it also notes with concern] the limited access that women with disabilities have to health care"
<u>Afghan National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security</u>	"Women's human right[s] deteriorated to unprecedented levels during the conflicts and war as they were denied their basic rights, including access to...healthcare."
Human Rights Council Resolutions and Security Council Resolution – July 6, 2022	"Recognizing that limiting women's freedom of movement has a negative impact on their lives, including the access of women and their children to health-care services"

## 17. Segregation of women and men's offices in the Ministry of Public Health

March 13, 2022

Source	<u>Azadi Radio</u>
Treaty Violated	<u>Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women</u> – Article 12, section 1, "...equality of men and women, access to health care services"
Treaty Ratification Status	Signed on Aug. 14, 1980, and ratified on March 5, 2003
Afghan Reports to CEDAW, CRC, ICESCR	<u>ICESCR Concluding Observations 2010</u> – "The Committee...remains concerned at the low level of women's representation in decision-making position[s] in Afghanistan."; <u>CEDAW Third State Report</u> – Section 146, "Various government institutions...have launched public awareness raising programmes on women's rights including their right to work."
Afghan National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security	"...some of the major areas that require focused attention... women lack proper access to healthcare services, education, and employment opportunities"
Human Rights Council Resolutions and Security Council Resolution – July 6, 2022	"Recognizing that limiting women's freedom of movement has a negative impact on their lives, including the access of women and their children to health-care services...as well as women's ability to generate income for their families"

## 18. Closure of schools for girls above the 6th grade

March 24, 2022

Source	<u>CNN</u> , "Taliban Postpones Return to School for Afghan Girls Above 6th Grade"
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## Treaty Violated

Convention on the Rights of the Child – Article 28, section 1 (b), "Encourage the development of different forms of secondary education...make them available...to every child," and (c), "Make higher education accessible to all on the basis of capacity by every appropriate means"; Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women – Article 10 (a), "The same conditions for...access to studies," and (c), "elimination of any stereotyped concept of the roles of men and women at all levels"; Safe Schools Declaration – "Education is fundamental to development," "...places of education are places of safety," and "Education that is 'conflict sensitive'...pursues a contribution to peace."

<u>Treaty Ratification Status</u>	Signed on Sept. 27, 1990, and ratified on March 28, 1994; Signed on Aug. 14, 1980, and ratified March 5, 2003; <u>Endorsed</u> in May 2015
Afghan Reports to CEDAW, CRC, ICESCR	<u>CRC State Report 2019</u> – Section 116, "The Government is obliged to provide compulsory primary education for all children," and section 122, "To promote the right of girls to education"
<u>Afghan National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security</u>	"[the Government of Afghanistan] has developed this National Action Plan to achieve...increase access to education and higher education for girls and women"
Human Rights Council Resolutions and Security Council Resolution – July 6, 2022	"...bilateral and regional efforts to promote the rights of women... in particular the right to education," "...the right to education for all is an essential condition for achieving sustainable development," and "Reaffirming the equal right of every child to education without discrimination of any kind"

## 19. Ban on women's air travel without a mahram

March 27, 2022

<u>Source</u>	<u>Reuters</u> , "Taliban Ban Women in Afghanistan From Flying Without Male Chaperone"
Treaty Violated	<u>International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights</u> – Article 12, section 1, "...the right to liberty of movement," and section 2, "Everyone shall be free to leave any country."
<u>Treaty Ratification Status</u>	Not signed but ratified on Jan. 24, 1983

Afghan Reports to CEDAW, CRC, ICESCR

ICESCR Concluding Observations 2010 – "It is particularly concerned at the fact that some provisions of the Shia Personal Status Law remain discriminatory against women, including...limitation on movements outside the home."

Afghan National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security

N/A

Human Rights Council Resolutions and Security Council Resolution – July 6, 2022

"Recognizing that limiting women's freedom of movement has a negative impact on their lives," and "Reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights by all women, girls and children...including the right to freedom of movement"

## 20. Gender segregation in public parks – women only allowed to visit on Sunday–Tuesday

April 6, 2022

Source

Al Jazeera, "Shrinking Public Space for Afghan Women as Taliban Expands Curbs"; Republic World, "Taliban Issues Segregation Rule for Amusement Parks, Specifies Open Days for Each Gender"

Treaty Violated

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women – Article 13 (c), "The right to participate in recreational activities, sports and all aspects of cultural life"

Treaty Ratification Status

Signed on Aug. 14, 1980, and ratified on March 5, 2003

Afghan Reports to CEDAW, CRC, ICESCR

ICESCR Concluding Observations 2010 – "The Committee regrets the discrepancy between the legal framework and the inequality in practice in sectors such as work, public life, education, and health."

Afghan National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security

N/A

Human Rights Council Resolutions and Security Council Resolution – July 6, 2022

"Deeply concerned about the increasing erosion of respect for the human rights of women and girls in Afghanistan by the Taliban, including...women's full, equal, effective and meaningful participation in public life"

## 21. Gender segregation in academic institutions — working week divided into shifts for only women or only men students

April 29, 2022

Source	<u>University World News</u> , "Taliban Splits University Week for Gender Separation"
Treaty Violated	<u>Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women</u> – Article 10 (a), "The same conditions for...access to studies," and (b), "access to the same curricula"
Treaty Ratification Status	Signed on Aug. 14, 1980, and ratified on March 5, 2003
Afghan Reports to CEDAW, CRC, ICESCR	<u>ICESCR State Report 2009</u> – "The Government of Afghanistan is making efforts to eliminate gender disparities in all levels of education no later than 2020."
Afghan National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security	"[the Government of Afghanistan] has developed this National Action Plan to achieve...increase[d] access to education and higher education for girls and women"
Human Rights Council Resolutions and Security Council Resolution – July 6, 2022	"...bilateral and regional efforts to promote the rights of women...in particular the right to education," and "...the right to education for all is an essential condition for achieving sustainable development"

## 22. Ban on issuing of driving licenses for women

May 5, 2022

Source	<u>Independent</u> , "Taliban Regime Stops Issuing Driving Licenses to Women, Reports Say"
Treaty Violated	<u>International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights</u> – Article 12, section 1, "...the right to liberty of movement," and section 2, "Everyone shall be free to leave any country."
Treaty Ratification Status	Not signed but ratified on Jan. 24, 1983
Afghan Reports to CEDAW, CRC, ICESCR	<u>ICESCR Concluding Observations 2010</u> – "It is particularly concerned at the fact that some provisions of the Shia Personal Status Law remain discriminatory against women, including...limitation on movements outside the home."
Afghan National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security	N/A

Human Rights Council Resolutions  
and Security Council Resolution –  
July 6, 2022

"Recognizing that limiting women's freedom of movement has a negative impact on their lives," and "Reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights by all women, girls and children...including the right to freedom of movement"

### 23. Forced face covering in public for women

May 7, 2022

Source	<u>CNN</u> , "Taliban Decree Orders Women in Afghanistan to Cover Their Faces"
Treaty Violated	<u>International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights</u> – Article 2, section 2, "...the rights...in the present Covenant will be exercised without discrimination of any kind as to...religion"; <u>International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights</u> – Article 18, section 2, "no one shall be subject to coercion which would impair his freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice"
Treaty Ratification Status	Not signed but ratified on Jan. 24, 1983; Not signed but ratified on Jan. 24, 1983
Afghan Reports to CEDAW, CRC, ICESCR	<u>ICESCR Concluding Observations 2010</u> – "The Committee regrets the discrepancy between the legal framework and the inequality in practice in sectors such as work, public life, education, and health."
<u>Afghan National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security</u>	"[the Government of Afghanistan] has developed this National Action Plan to achieve...protection of women from all types of ...discrimination"
Human Rights Council Resolutions and Security Council Resolution – July 6, 2022	"Deeply concerned about the increasing erosion of respect for the human rights of women and girls in Afghanistan by the Taliban, including...women's full, equal, effective and meaningful participation in public life"

### 24. Ban on women's access to parks in Herat; Gender segregation in restaurants

May 12, 2022

Source	<u>Independent</u> , "Taliban Bans Men and Women Eating Together in Restaurants in Afghan City of Herat"
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Treaty Violated	<u>Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women</u> – Article 13 (c), "The right to participate in recreational activities, sports and all aspects of cultural life"
Treaty Ratification Status	Signed on Aug. 14, 1980, and ratified on March 5, 2003
Afghan Reports to CEDAW, CRC, ICESCR	<u>ICESCR Concluding Observations 2010</u> – "The Committee regrets the discrepancy between the legal framework and the inequality in practice in sectors such as work, public life, education, and health."
Afghan National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security	"[the Government of Afghanistan] has developed this National Action Plan to achieve...protection of women from all types of ...discrimination"
Human Rights Council Resolutions and Security Council Resolution – July 6, 2022	"Deeply concerned about the increasing erosion of respect for the human rights of women and girls in Afghanistan by the Taliban, including...women's full, equal, effective and meaningful participation in public life"

## 25. Forced face covering for women TV presenters and other women on screen

May 19, 2022

Source	<u>BBC</u> , "Afghanistan's Female TV Presenters Must Cover Their Faces, Say Taliban"
Treaty Violated	<u>International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights</u> – Article 2, section 2, "...the rights...in the present Covenant will be exercised without discrimination of any kind as to...religion"; <u>International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights</u> – Article 18, section 2, "no one shall be subject to coercion which would impair his freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice"
Treaty Ratification Status	Not signed but ratified on Jan. 24, 1983; Not signed but ratified on Jan. 24, 1983
Afghan Reports to CEDAW, CRC, ICESCR	<u>ICESCR Concluding Observations 2010</u> – "The Committee regrets the discrepancy between the legal framework and the inequality in practice in sectors such as work, public life, education, and health."
Afghan National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security	"[the Government of Afghanistan] has developed this National Action Plan to achieve...protection of women from all types of...discrimination" and "[the Government of Afghanistan] has developed this National Action Plan to achieve...support and provide a capacity building for civil society...on UNSCR 1325 and women, peace, and security"



Human Rights Council Resolutions  
and Security Council Resolution –  
July 6, 2022

"Deeply concerned about the increasing erosion of respect for the human rights of women and girls in Afghanistan by the Taliban, including...women's full, equal, effective and meaningful participation in public life"

## 26. Reissuance of ban on women's access to public transportation without a mahram

May 29, 2022

Source	<u>Jurist</u> , "Afghanistan Dispatch: Unaccompanied Women Now Banned From Public Transport"
Treaty Violated	<u>International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights</u> – Article 12, section 1, "...the right to liberty of movement"
Treaty Ratification Status	Not signed but ratified on Jan. 24, 1983
Afghan Reports to CEDAW, CRC, ICESCR	<u>ICESCR Concluding Observations 2010</u> – "It is particularly concerned at the fact that some provisions of the Shia Personal Status Law remain discriminatory against women, including...limitation on movements outside the home."
Afghan National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security	"[the Government of Afghanistan] has developed this National Action Plan to achieve...protection of women from all types of ...discrimination"
Human Rights Council Resolutions and Security Council Resolution – July 6, 2022	"Recognizing that limiting women's freedom of movement has a negative impact on their lives," and "Reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights by all women, girls and children...including the right to freedom of movement"

## 27. Ban on women's access to music and movies at computer shops unless accompanied by a male family member

June 2, 2022

Source	<u>Rukshana Media</u> , "Taliban Order Kandahar DJs Not to Transfer Music and Movies Into Women's Phones and Computers, If They Visit Their Shops Alone"
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Treaty Violated	<u>Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women</u> – Article 13 (c), "The right to participate in recreational activities, sports and all aspects of cultural life"
Treaty Ratification Status	Signed on Aug. 14, 1980, and ratified on March 5, 2003
Afghan Reports to CEDAW, CRC, ICESCR	<u>ICESCR Concluding Observations 2010</u> – "The Committee regrets the discrepancy between the legal framework and the inequality in practice in sectors such as work, public life, education, and health."
<u>Afghan National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security</u>	"[the Government of Afghanistan] has developed this National Action Plan to achieve...support and provide a capacity building for civil society...on UNSCR 1325 and women, peace, and security"
Human Rights Council Resolutions and Security Council Resolution – July 6, 2022	"Deeply concerned about the increasing erosion of respect for the human rights of women and girls in Afghanistan by the Taliban, including...women's full, equal, effective and meaningful participation in public life"

## 28. Ban on women taking taxis without a mahram; Ban on women sitting next to taxi drivers

June 9, 2022

Source	<u>BBC Afghanistan</u>
Treaty Violated	<u>Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women</u> – Article 13 (c), "The right to participate in recreational activities, sports and all aspects of cultural life"
Treaty Ratification Status	Signed on Aug. 14, 1980, and ratified on March 5, 2003
Afghan Reports to CEDAW, CRC, ICESCR	<u>ICESCR Concluding Observations 2010</u> – "The Committee regrets the discrepancy between the legal framework and the inequality in practice in sectors such as work, public life, education, and health."
<u>Afghan National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security</u>	N/A
Human Rights Council Resolutions and Security Council Resolution – July 6, 2022	"Recognizing that limiting women's freedom of movement has a negative impact on their lives," and "Reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights by all women, girls and children...including the right to freedom of movement"

## 29. Ban on tailors from sewing women's clothes or taking measurements of women's bodies

June 10, 2022

Source	Amu TV, "Taliban Orders Male Tailors to Stop Making Women's Clothing"
Treaty Violated	<u>Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women</u> – Article 13 (c), "The right to participate in recreational activities, sports and all aspects of cultural life"; <u>International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights</u> – Article 3, "...ensure the equal right of men and women to the enjoyment of all civil and political rights"
Treaty Ratification Status	Signed on Aug. 14, 1980, and ratified on March 5, 2003; Not signed but ratified on Jan. 24, 1983
Afghan Reports to CEDAW, CRC, ICESCR	<u>ICESCR Concluding Observations 2010</u> – "The Committee regrets the discrepancy between the legal framework and the inequality in practice in sectors such as work, public life, education, and health."
Afghan National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security	N/A
Human Rights Council Resolutions and Security Council Resolution – July 6, 2022	"Deeply concerned about the increasing erosion of respect for the human rights of women and girls in Afghanistan by the Taliban, including...women's full, equal, effective and meaningful participation in public life"

## 30. Ban on women's right to sue men in Herat

June 16, 2022

Source	Hasht-e Subh Daily, "'Women Have No Right to Sue Men,' Says Taliban in Herat"
Treaty Violated	<u>Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women</u> – Article 15, section 1, "States Parties shall accord to women equality with men before the law," section 2, "States Parties shall accord to women, in civil matters, a legal capacity identical to that of men," and section 3, "all contracts and all other private instruments... which is directed at restricting the legal capacity of women shall be deemed null and void"
Treaty Ratification Status	Signed on Aug. 14, 1980, and ratified on March 5, 2003

Afghan Reports to CEDAW, CRC, ICESCR

CEDAW Concluding Observations of Third State Report – Section 16 (e), "[the Committee recommends that the State party] Develop partnerships with relevant...legal aid organizations...to help women and girls...to navigate parallel justice systems," and (f), "...raise awareness...of the importance of addressing violations of women's rights through the formal justice system"

Afghan National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security

"[the Government of Afghanistan] has developed this National Action Plan to achieve...women's access to effective, active and accountable justice system"

Human Rights Council Resolutions and Security Council Resolution – July 6, 2022

"Stressing the importance of regarding Afghan women as active agents over their own lives," and "Recognizing that the full realization of the right to education...is an essential condition for achieving sustainable development...including the right to participate in the conduct of public affairs"

### 31. Ban on women attending Friday prayers at mosques in Herat

June 17, 2022

Source

The Silk Way, "Taliban in Herat; Women Not Allowed to Participate in Friday Prayers and File a Complaint Against Their Husband With the Court"

Treaty Violated

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights – Article 18, section 1, "This right shall include freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice, and freedom...to manifest his religion or belief in worship, observance, practice, and teaching," and section 2, "No one shall be subject to coercion which would impair his freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice."

Treaty Ratification Status

Not signed but ratified on Jan. 24, 1983

Afghan Reports to CEDAW, CRC, ICESCR

ICESCR Concluding Observations 2010 – "The Committee regrets the discrepancy between the legal framework and the inequality in practice in sectors such as work, public life, education, and health."

Afghan National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security

N/A

Human Rights Council Resolutions and Security Council Resolution – July 6, 2022

"Deeply concerned about the increasing erosion of respect for the human rights of women and girls in Afghanistan by the Taliban, including...women's full, equal, effective and meaningful participation in public life"

### 32. Order women to send men to work instead of women in Ministry of Finance, Kabul

June 18, 2022

Source	<u>The Guardian</u> , "Send Us a Man to Do Your Job So We Can Sack You, Taliban Tell Female Officials"
Treaty Violated	<u>Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women</u> – Article 15, section 1, "States Parties shall accord to women equality with men before the law," section 2, "States Parties shall accord to women, in civil matters, a legal capacity identical to that of men," and section 3, "all contracts and all other private instruments... which is directed at restricting the legal capacity of women shall be deemed null and void"; <u>International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights</u> – Article 6, section 1, "The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right to work, which includes the right of everyone."
Treaty Ratification Status	Signed on Aug. 14, 1980, and ratified on March 5, 2003; Not signed but ratified on Jan. 24, 1983
Afghan Reports to CEDAW, CRC, ICESCR	<u>ICESCR Concluding Observations 2010</u> – "The Committee notes with concern that the principle of equal remuneration for men and women workers for work of equal value is not guaranteed in the State party."
Afghan National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security	"There are increased numbers of women in the police, military, [and] civil service but still not enough in order to respond to emerging needs of women. Women in the security sector is an encouraging force for more women to join the security forces."
Human Rights Council Resolutions and Security Council Resolution – July 6, 2022	"Reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights by all women, girls and children...including...the right to work"

### 33. Forcing young women to marry Taliban soldiers in Balkhab district of Sar e Pol

July 11, 2022

Source	<u>Nimrokh Media</u> , "One Girl Out of Ten Is Forced to Marry a Taliban Fighter in Balkhab"
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## Treaty Violated

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women – Article 16 (b), "The same right freely to choose a spouse and to enter into a marriage only with their free and full consent"; International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights – Article 10, section 1, "Marriage must be entered into with the free consent of the intending spouses."

## Treaty Ratification Status

Signed on Aug. 14, 1980, and ratified on March 5, 2003; Not signed but ratified on Jan. 24, 1983

## Afghan Reports to CEDAW, CRC, ICESCR

CRC State Report 2019 – Section 33, "The marriage age for girls... is 16... The marriage of a girl under 15 is not permitted."

## Afghan National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security

"The laws of Afghanistan guarantee the protection of women's rights and freedom...[against] offences including forced marriage."

## Human Rights Council Resolutions and Security Council Resolution – July 6, 2022

N/A

### 34. Ban on interaction between women and men employees of Directorate of Public Health in Ghazni

July 21, 2022

## Source

Hasht-e Subh Daily, "Male and Female Health Workers Do Not Have the Right to Talk to Each Other"

## Treaty Violated

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women – Article 12, section 1, "...equality of men and women, access to health care services"; International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights – Article 6, section 1, "...the right of everyone to the opportunity to gain his living by work which he freely chooses"

## Treaty Ratification Status

Signed on Aug. 14, 1980, and ratified on March 5, 2003; Not signed but ratified on Jan. 24, 1983

## Afghan Reports to CEDAW, CRC, ICESCR

ICESCR Concluding Observations 2010 – "The Committee...remains concerned at the low level of women's representation in decision-making position[s] in Afghanistan."

## Afghan National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security

"[the Government of Afghanistan] has developed this National Action Plan to achieve...participation of women in the decision making and executive levels of the Civil Service"; "Create enabling environment for women's participation in the civil service through development of policy of mutual respect in the workplace"

Human Rights Council Resolutions  
and Security Council Resolution –  
July 6, 2022

"Recognizing that the full, equal, effective and meaningful  
participation, inclusion and empowerment of all women and girls...  
is essential for sustainable peace"

### 35. Suspended university education for all female students

Dec. 20, 2022

Source	CNN, "Taliban Suspend University Education for Women in Afghanistan"
Treaty Violated	<u>Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women</u> – Article 10 (a), "The same conditions for...access to studies," and (b), "access to the same curricula"
Treaty Ratification Status	Signed on Aug. 14, 1980, and ratified on March 5, 2003
Afghan Reports to CEDAW, CRC, ICESCR	<u>ICESCR State Report 2009</u> – "The Government of Afghanistan is making efforts to eliminate gender disparities in all levels of education no later than 2020."
<u>Afghan National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security</u>	"[the Government of Afghanistan] has developed this National Action Plan to achieve...increase access to education and higher education for girls and women"
Human Rights Council Resolutions and Security Council Resolution – July 6, 2022	"...bilateral and regional efforts to promote the rights of women... in particular the right to education," and "...the right to education for all is an essential condition for achieving sustainable development"

### 36. Ban on women working for NGOs

Dec. 24, 2022

Source	Reuters, "Taliban Bans Female NGO Staff, Jeopardizes Aid Efforts"
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## Treaty Violated

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women – Article 15, section 1, "States Parties shall accord to women equality with men before the law," section 2, "States Parties shall accord to women, in civil matters, a legal capacity identical to that of men," and section 3, "all contracts and all other private instruments... which is directed at restricting the legal capacity of women shall be deemed null and void"; International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights – Article 6, section 1, "The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right to work, which includes the right of everyone."

<u>Treaty Ratification Status</u>	Signed on Aug. 14, 1980, and ratified on March 5, 2003; Not signed but ratified on Jan. 24, 1983
Afghan Reports to CEDAW, CRC, ICESCR	<u>ICESCR Concluding Observations 2010</u> – "The Committee notes with concern that the principle of equal remuneration for men and women workers for work of equal value is not guaranteed in the State party."
<u>Afghan National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security</u>	"There are increased numbers of women in the police, military, [and] civil service but still not enough in order to respond to emerging needs of women. Women in the security sector is an encouraging force for more women to join the security forces."
Human Rights Council Resolutions and Security Council Resolution – July 6, 2022	"Reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights by all women, girls and children...including...the right to work"



# APPENDIX 2

## Questionnaire to Teachers in Afghanistan

### Interview Number One:

QUESTION	RESPONSE
1. Name	Anonymous.
2. Age	38.
3. Location/ Province	Zabul.
4. Name of school where you taught: Keep anonymous — but need details of the size of school (teachers and students) and the grades in the school?	Unknown.
5. No. of students and teachers?	Six hundred students and twenty teachers.
6. What did you teach?	Design, painting, English, calligraphy...
7. What is your educational background?	Fine arts.
8. How much did you earn?	Between fifteen thousand and twenty thousand (-200\$)
9. Have you experienced any direct abuse from the Taliban?	Since the arrival of the Taliban my rights as a woman, mother and female teacher have been abused. I don't have freedom.
10. Since when are you unemployed? — Date	After the arrival of the Taliban on Aug. 15, 2021.
11. Since when are schools closed?	Since Aug. 15, 2021 All girls' schools are closed.
12. What are you doing now?	I stay at home for now.
13. Are you applying for another job?	Yes, I have decided to apply for another job
14. Who is dependent on you?	I was part of the economy of the family along with my husband.
15. How many children do you have?	I have one child.
16. How many schools are closed in your province? Are they all girls' schools?	All of the elementary and high schools. Yes, all girls!
17. How many girls are without schools in your province? Are only boys going to those schools now?	I don't know but almost all. Yes, boys only!
18. What are your students doing? Are they being home schooled? How old are they?	Nothing, No home schooling is available. They are 14–18 [years old].
19. Do you wear a niqab when you leave the house?	Yes.

QUESTION	RESPONSE
20. Do you need a male guardian to leave the house?	Yes, I do.
21. Please tell us some stories of the girls who are deprived of school? What do they do? Do you fear they might be forced into marriage? What is their future? What is your future in a Taliban government?	In the current situation, the future of all girls in Afghanistan is uncertain and if this trend continues, girls will have to get married earlier instead of continuing their education, and some families force their girls to get married because of the difficult economic conditions in Afghanistan. More importantly, all I see is darkness and ignorance against women and girls right now in Afghanistan.

## Interview Number Two:

QUESTION	RESPONSE
1. Name	Anonymous.
2. Age	Unknown.
3. Location/ Province	Bamyan.
4. Name of school where you taught: Keep anonymous — but need details of the size of school (teachers and students) and the grades in the school?	Unknown.
5. No. of students and teachers?	Five hundred students and forty-five teachers.
6. What did you teach?	Mathematics.
7. What is your educational background?	BA in Education.
8. How much did you earn?	Around \$180 per month.
9. Have you experienced any direct abuse from the Taliban?	Yes, a Taliban man beat me when I was buying groceries. They abuse all of us including our men because they ignore our religion.
10. Since when are you unemployed? — Date	After Taliban arrival.
11. Since when are schools closed?	Since Aug. 15, 2021 all girls' schools are closed.
12. What are you doing now?	I am at home.
13. Are you applying for another job?	I am not going to work under the Taliban. It's too dangerous.
14. Who is dependent on you?	My parents.
15. How many children do you have?	I am single.

QUESTION	RESPONSE
16. How many schools are closed in your province? Are they all girls' schools?	All of the elementary and high schools. Girls are abandoned.
17. How many girls are without schools in your province? Are only boys going to those schools now?	Almost all. Elementary school girls also don't attend the school properly because of the security. Boys go to school.
18. What are your students doing? Are they being home schooled? How old are they?	They do nothing, they count days until their freedom. They are high school age (14-18).
19. Do you wear a niqab when you leave the house?	Yes.
20. Do you need a male guardian to leave the house?	Yes.
21. Please tell us some stories of the girls who are deprived of school? What do they do? Do you fear they might be forced into marriage? What is their future? What is your future in a Taliban government?	In my province we had girls that could be singers, professors, athletes and politicians. Now we have nothing left. All of those talents were arrested, left the country or now live in hiding. Families rush to marry their daughters because they are afraid of the Taliban that may take them for marriage. Most girls are forced to marry. This is a nightmare I never imagined to happen.

### Interview Number Three:

QUESTION	RESPONSE
1. Name	Anonymous.
2. Age	Unknown.
3. Location/ Province	Herat.
4. Name of school where you taught: Keep anonymous — but need details of the size of school (teachers and students) and the grades in the school?	Unknown.
5. No. of students and teachers?	Unknown.
6. What did you teach?	Principles of Education.
7. What is your educational background?	Bachelor of language education.
8. How much did you earn?	7600 Afghanis per month (almost \$100).
9. Have you experienced any direct abuse from the Taliban?	No.
10. Since when are you unemployed? — Date	From Aug. 2021.

QUESTION	RESPONSE
11. Since when are schools closed?	After the arrival of the Taliban.
12. What are you doing now?	Unemployed.
13. Are you applying for another job?	There are no jobs for women.
14. Who is dependent on you?	My family.
15. How many children do you have?	I am single and living with my parents.
16. How many schools are closed in your province? Are they all girls' schools?	All girls' schools are closed. Yes, all girls.
17. How many girls are without schools in your province? Are only boys going to those schools now?	Thousands.
18. What are your students doing? Are they being home schooled? How old are they?	My students were in primary classes, so fortunately, they are currently included in the school. They are not homeschooled. They are between the ages of 7 and 10.
19. Do you wear a niqab when you leave the house?	Yes.
20. Do you need a male guardian to leave the house?	No.
21. Please tell us some stories of the girls who are deprived of school? What do they do? Do you fear they might be forced into marriage? What is their future? What is your future in a Taliban government?	Most students in secondary and high school get mental illnesses, some of them go to sewing courses, some of them are unemployed, and some of them are forced to get married. I see my future falling in the darkness and back sliding under the Taliban government. I see no future for my generation in the Taliban government.

### Interview Number Four:

QUESTION	RESPONSE
1. Name	Anonymous.
2. Age	Unknown.
3. Location/ Province	Herat.
4. Name of school where you taught: Keep anonymous — but need details of the size of school (teachers and students) and the grades in the school?	Anonymous.
5. No. of students and teachers?	Unknown.
6. What did you teach?	English.

QUESTION	RESPONSE
7. What is your educational background?	Bachelor of English Language Literature.
8. How much did you earn?	8000 Afghanis (\$100).
9. Have you experienced any direct abuse from the Taliban?	Not myself personally.
10. Since when are you unemployed? — Date	Since the Taliban takeover.
11. Since when are schools closed?	Aug. 2021 to the present.
12. What are you doing now?	I am currently a teacher in a private school.
13. Are you applying for another job?	If it is possible, it should be good in terms of security.
14. Who is dependent on you?	Yes, my family.
15. How many children do you have?	I have a child.
16. How many schools are closed in your province? Are they all girls' schools?	Yes, most girls' schools are closed.
17. How many girls are without schools in your province? Are only boys going to those schools now?	About 100 thousand or more. Yes, all girls' schools. All boys go to the school until the 12th grade, girls of 6th grade and under also attend the school.
18. What are your students doing? Are they being home schooled? How old are they?	Our students study in educational courses up to the sixth grade and above. From 15 to 18 years old.
19. Do you wear a niqab when you leave the house?	Yes, I wear a niqab because the security for women is weak.
20. Do you need a male guardian to leave the house?	No.
21. Please tell us some stories of the girls who are deprived of school? What do they do? Do you fear they might be forced into marriage? What is their future? What is your future in a Taliban government?	The girls are afraid of their future, that all their hard work will be wasted and what will happen to their futures if they stay at home. I don't see any good consequences from the Taliban staying in the country. I'm afraid when I teach the girls in schools.

### Interview Number Five:

QUESTION	RESPONSE
1. Name	Anonymous.
2. Age	28.
3. Location/ Province	Kabul.

QUESTION	RESPONSE
4. Name of school where you taught: Keep anonymous — but need details of the size of school (teachers and students) and the grades in the school?	Unknown.
5. No. of students and teachers?	Three thousand students and 36 teachers.
6. What did you teach?	Literature.
7. What is your educational background?	Bachelor.
8. How much did you earn?	Almost 25 thousand (\$200).
9. Have you experienced any direct abuse from the Taliban?	Yes! The Taliban stopped me in the street as I was driving and asked me to give them my car and my smartphone. I refused and returned home.
10. Since when are you unemployed? — Date	After the arrival of the Taliban on Aug. 15.
11. Since when are schools closed?	Since Aug. 15, 2021. All girls' schools are closed.
12. What are you doing now?	I am unemployed.
13. Are you applying for another job?	Yes, I have decided to apply for another job but I am not sure there is any demand for teachers to join other jobs. While most women in other professions are also banned.
14. Who is dependent on you?	I am not dependent on anyone.
15. How many children do you have?	I have two children.
16. How many schools are closed in your province? Are they all girls' schools?	All public elementary and high schools are banned.
17. How many girls are without schools in your province? Are only boys going to those schools now?	Thousands of girls are abandoned. They stay at home with no hope.
18. What are your students doing? Are they being home schooled? How old are they?	Nothing. No homeschooling. High school age (14–18).
19. Do you wear a niqab when you leave the house?	Yes.
20. Do you need a male guardian to leave the house?	Yes, one hundred percent.

QUESTION	RESPONSE
21. Please tell us some stories of the girls who are deprived of school? What do they do? Do you fear they might be forced into marriage? What is their future? What is your future in a Taliban government?	Girls in Afghanistan are treated as slaves, as a property, as a sex material, as a cook and cleaner. Women under the Taliban lost their dignity. Society also supports this kind of male dominance. Our culture is very conservative and we have lots of abusive men that are very happy that Taliban are here and no one will question their abusive behavior. Taliban is equal to evil, life under the Taliban equals to life in hell.

### Interview Number Six:

QUESTION	RESPONSE
1. Name	Unknown.
2. Age	31.
3. Location/ Province	Badakhshan.
4. Name of school where you taught: Keep anonymous — but need details of the size of school (teachers and students) and the grades in the school?	Unknown.
5. No. of students and teachers?	Almost 900 students and 45 teachers.
6. What did you teach?	Geography.
7. What is your educational background?	Bachelor of Education.
8. How much did you earn?	Almost 16000 Afghanis (\$200).
9. Have you experienced any direct abuse from the Taliban?	No.
10. Since when are you unemployed? — Date	After the arrival of the Taliban on Aug. 15.
11. Since when are schools closed?	On Aug. 15, 2021, all girls' schools are closed.
12. What are you doing now?	I am unemployed.
13. Are you applying for another job?	No.
14. Who is dependent on you?	My entire family. My old father and my kids.
15. How many children do you have?	I have two children.
16. How many schools are closed in your province? Are they all girls' schools?	All public elementary and high schools are closed. All for girls.

QUESTION	RESPONSE
17. How many girls are without schools in your province? Are only boys going to those schools now?	In our province thousands of girls are stopped from education. Yes, all boys are still enrolled.
18. What are your students doing? Are they being home schooled? How old are they?	Nothing. No homeschooling. High school age (14–18).
19. Do you wear a niqab when you leave the house?	Yes.
20. Do you need a male guardian to leave the house?	Yes, of course.
21. Please tell us some stories of the girls who are deprived of school? What do they do? Do you fear they might be forced into marriage? What is their future? What is your future in a Taliban government?	Girls' education is fundamental to development. Taliban stop the society from developing by banning girls' education. They promised that they would open the schools but when I went to the school, they asked me to return back and wait until further notice. I am afraid it will take forever until I hear the further notice. This life of uncertainty under the rule of the Taliban is driving me and my colleagues crazy.

### Interview Number Seven:

QUESTION	RESPONSE
1. Name	Anonymous.
2. Age	25.
3. Location/ Province	Panjshir.
4. Name of school where you taught: Keep anonymous — but need details of the size of school (teachers and students) and the grades in the school?	Unknown.
5. No. of students and teachers?	Almost two thousand students and 55 teachers.
6. What did you teach?	Literature.
7. What is your educational background?	Bachelor of literature.
8. How much did you earn?	Almost twenty thousand (\$250).
9. Have you experienced any direct abuse from the Taliban?	Yes, Taliban killed my brother-in-law.
10. Since when are you unemployed? — Date	After the arrival of the Taliban on Aug. 15.
11. Since when are schools closed?	On Aug. 15, 2021, all girls' schools are closed.



QUESTION	RESPONSE
12. What are you doing now?	I am unemployed.
13. Are you applying for another job?	No. I live hidden.
14. Who is dependent on you?	My family.
15. How many children do you have?	Unknown.
16. How many schools are closed in your province? Are they all girls' schools?	All public elementary and high schools are closed. All of them are girls' schools.
17. How many girls are without schools in your province? Are only boys going to those schools now?	In our province thousands of girls are stopped from education. Yes, all boys are still enrolled.
18. What are your students doing? Are they being home schooled? How old are they?	Nothing. No homeschooling is available. High school age (14–18).
19. Do you wear a niqab when you leave the house?	Yes.
20. Do you need a male guardian to leave the house?	Yes, but I don't get out because it's too dangerous because of the family background of supporting the anti-Taliban movement.
21. Please tell us some stories of the girls who are deprived of school? What do they do? Do you fear they might be forced into marriage? What is their future? What is your future in a Taliban government?	Taliban rules restrict the rights of everyone, women, men, children. They are not designed to do government but to do terror and violence. They committed genocide in my province. They killed many men and took many girls from my village because we belong to the minority. Even if the Taliban open the schools for girls, we still don't want and accept them as a government.

### Interview Number Eight:

QUESTION	RESPONSE
1. Name	Anonymous.
2. Age	43.
3. Location/ Province	Balkh.
4. Name of school where you taught: Keep anonymous — but need details of the size of school (teachers and students) and the grades in the school?	Unknown.
5. No. of students and teachers?	Almost one thousand students and 45 teachers.
6. What did you teach?	History.

QUESTION	RESPONSE
7. What is your educational background?	Bachelor of Arts.
8. How much did you earn?	Almost fifteen thousand (\$200).
9. Have you experienced any direct abuse from the Taliban?	No.
10. Since when are you unemployed? — Date	After the arrival of the Taliban on August 15.
11. Since when are schools closed?	On Aug. 15, 2021, all girls' schools are closed.
12. What are you doing now?	I am unemployed.
13. Are you applying for another job?	Not right now.
14. Who is dependent on you?	My husband and children.
15. How many children do you have?	Three kids.
16. How many schools are closed in your province? Are they all girls' schools?	All girls' public elementary and high schools are closed.
17. How many girls are without schools in your province? Are only boys going to those schools now?	In my province almost thousands of girls are stopped from education. Boys are not stopped.
18. What are your students doing? Are they being home schooled? How old are they?	They have nothing to do. No home schooling is available. High school age (14–18).
19. Do you wear a niqab when you leave the house?	Yes.
20. Do you need a male guardian to leave the house?	Yes.
21. Please tell us some stories of the girls who are deprived of school? What do they do? Do you fear they might be forced into marriage? What is their future? What is your future in a Taliban government?	I have students who try to stay positive and they continue to study at home, but I don't know if they can survive the forced marriage as I see Taliban trying to continue to repress women and girls and even if girls continue to study, university level is not something Taliban want for girls.

### Interview Number Nine:

QUESTION	RESPONSE
1. Name	Anonymous.
2. Age	32.
3. Location/ Province	Uruzgan.

QUESTION	RESPONSE
4. Name of school where you taught: Keep anonymous — but need details of the size of school (teachers and students) and the grades in the school?	Unknown.
5. No. of students and teachers?	Almost eight hundred students and 20 teachers.
6. What did you teach?	Islamic studies.
7. What is your educational background?	Theology.
8. How much did you earn?	Almost ten thousand (\$120).
9. Have you experienced any direct abuse from the Taliban?	Yes, the Taliban lashed me on the street.
10. Since when are you unemployed? — Date	After the arrival of the Taliban on Aug. 15.
11. Since when are schools closed?	On Aug. 15, 2021, all girls' schools are closed.
12. What are you doing now?	I am jobless.
13. Are you applying for another job?	Not right now.
14. Who is dependent on you?	My entire family.
15. How many children do you have?	Unknown.
16. How many schools are closed in your province? Are they all girls' schools?	All girls' public elementary and high schools are closed.
17. How many girls are without schools in your province? Are only boys going to those schools now?	I don't know the exact number but only in my province almost thousands of girls are stopped from education. Boys are not stopped.
18. What are your students doing? Are they being home schooled? How old are they?	They do nothing. There is no home-schooling opportunity. High school age (14–18).
19. Do you wear a niqab when you leave the house?	Yes.
20. Do you need a male guardian to leave the house?	Yes.
21. Please tell us some stories of the girls who are deprived of school? What do they do? Do you fear they might be forced into marriage? What is their future? What is your future in a Taliban government?	I have no hope for the future of the girls in this country. This is such a pity that they learned what freedom and democracy are and now they are taken from them. I feel this very severe pain every moment I live under the Taliban and I count days until either I escape or they get lost.

## Interview Number Ten:

QUESTION	RESPONSE
1. Name	Anonymous.
2. Age	27.
3. Location/ Province	Kandahar.
4. Name of school where you taught: Keep anonymous — but need details of the size of school (teachers and students) and the grades in the school?	Unknown.
5. No. of students and teachers?	Almost five thousand students and 120 teachers.
6. What did you teach?	Social science.
7. What is your educational background?	Sociology.
8. How much did you earn?	Almost 25 thousand (\$300).
9. Have you experienced any direct abuse from the Taliban?	Yes, I was threatened by a Taliban when I was participating in a protest.
10. Since when are you unemployed? — Date	After the arrival of the Taliban on August 15.
11. Since when are schools closed?	On Aug. 15, 2021, all girls' schools were closed.
12. What are you doing now?	Unemployed.
13. Are you applying for another job?	I am not planning.
14. Who is dependent on you?	My family.
15. How many children do you have?	I have one child.
16. How many schools are closed in your province? Are they all girls' schools?	Public elementary and high schools are closed. They all belonged to girls.
17. How many girls are without schools in your province? Are only boys going to those schools now?	Thousands of girls are without school. Boys can attend schools.
18. What are your students doing? Are they being home schooled? How old are they?	There is nothing they can do but to wait until they return to the school or get married. There is no home-schooling opportunity. Their age is high school age (14–18).
19. Do you wear a niqab when you leave the house?	Yes.
20. Do you need a male guardian to leave the house?	No.

QUESTION	RESPONSE
21. Please tell us some stories of the girls who are deprived of school? What do they do? Do you fear they might be forced into marriage? What is their future? What is your future in a Taliban government?	Girls in Afghanistan have willingness, talent, and capacity. They will take their freedom back. I believe in them because I saw my students grow and made extraordinary changes to their society. They also have lots of brave role models. In my province, which is very conservative, we could make a lot of progress in the past two decades. Life under the Taliban means everything we did just disappeared overnight. We feel useless, unwanted, oppressed and low-confidence.

# **PRINCETON SPIA AFGHANISTAN POLICY LAB**



This report is compiled by the Fellows of The Afghanistan Policy Lab at the  
Princeton University School of Public and International Affairs

