



## **The Working Group on Girls, Inc. Support Afghan Girls and Women**

The members of the Working Group on Girls, Inc. stand in solidarity with the people of Afghanistan, especially girls and women, who are again facing the insecurity and danger of living under Taliban rule. We are deeply concerned with the plight of girls and women who are forced to flee or remain trapped in fear in their country. Afghan girls and women have courageously fought for their rights even in the face of continued conflict, discrimination, and corruption.

UNICEF reports that “over 4 million children, including 2.2 million girls, are out of school. Around 300,000 children have been forced out of their homes. Many of them have witnessed scenes that no child should ever see and are struggling with anxieties and fears.”

There are reports that Taliban have closed girls' schools; forced girls and women to marry Taliban soldiers in what amounts to sexual slavery; and forced to stay in their homes. Despite the Taliban proclamations their soldiers are engaging in the same brutal tactics and repression of girls' and women's rights that marked their rule twenty years ago.

Girl and women leaders, activists and journalists are targeted and prevented from fully exercising their right to participate in public and political life. The situation of young girls and women are dire, unable to continue their education and fulfil their full potential.

We call on the Taliban Authority, United Nations, international communities, and civil society organizations to protect the human rights especially of girls:

### **Call on to the Taliban Authority**

- Respect universal human rights and humanitarian principles and to take immediate actions to protect the lives of the Afghan people, particularly of girls and women.
- Immediately stop the violence, killing and violation of human rights.
- Stop the forced marriage of girls and women.
- Ensure equal access to quality education and safe spaces to learn for girls and women.
- Allow for girls to access education that includes science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics in curricula. With contents and mediums of education that are gender-neutral and non-discriminatory.
- Create an enabling environment for girls and women to work in all fields and become economically independent decision makers.
- Allow female representation in positions of power in the political, social and economic spheres

## **Call on to the United Nations and International Communities**

- We support the UN Security Council passing a resolution that calls for the Taliban to facilitate safe passage for people wanting to leave Afghanistan, allow humanitarians to access the country, and uphold human rights, including for girls and women. We urge China and Russia to support this.
- We urge the General Assembly to pass a resolution to protect Afghan girls, women and minorities.
- Create an independent and gender-sensitive investigative and accountability mechanism at the United Nations Human Rights Council.
- UN agencies and other NGOs to remain and continue their work and monitor that the rights of Afghan girls, women, nonbinary and queer people especially their rights to education, work and safety.
- Provide urgent humanitarian aid and protect the safety and rights of vulnerable people especially girls and women.
- UNHCR, supported by United Nations member states, to establish safe places for internally displaced people, especially girls and women.
- Member countries open their borders to Afghan people who are at risk and ensure their safe passage, and apply for asylum, giving special considerations to girls, women, children and other vulnerable minority groups.