ADDRESSING THE WOMEN'S RIGHTS CRISIS IN AFGHANISTAN

GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2

Issue Description

Since the Taliban returned to power in 2021, Afghan women and girls have faced severe restrictions on education, employment, movement, and public life. Girls are restricted from education after sixth grade, and women cannot attend universities. Women also face restrictions on employment and movement, increasing poverty, forced marriage, and female targeted violence.

Why Has It Not Been Resolved?

The Taliban controls Afghanistan and justifies its policies through Islamic law. International pressure has almost no effect.Countries also have different views on whether to focus on holding the Taliban accountable for human rights violations or on engaging diplomatically and providing humanitarian aid.

Important Stances

1. Western countries usuallylink recognition and normalization with progress on rights. Western countries often say that better rights for women and minorities must come first.
2. Regionalcountriesontheotherhandtendtovaluesecurity,tradeand regional stability. They often continue to maintain ties with the Taliban even if they are concerned about the group's actions.Muslim-majority countries, including members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation have made it clear that Islam does not support banning women's education. They say that religious principles support access to knowledge for all.
3. TheTalibaninresponseseesanycriticismfromoutsideasinterference in their affairs. They reject pressure and insist on their right to govern according to their interpretation of Islamic law.

Organizations and Actions

- UNAMA — monitors human rights violations and engages with the Taliban.
- UN Women and UNESCO — support Afghan women and education programmes.
- UNICEF, WHO, and NGOs — provide healthcare, education, and humanitarian assistance.

Questions for Delegates

- How can the Taliban be influenced without making poverty worse?
- How can women take part in giving aid without getting into danger?
- How should Afghan women be involved in talks?

Sources

Security Council resolution. United Nations Digital Library.

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Five years on: Keeping learning alive for girls and women in Afghanistan.

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Afghanistan: Ten facts about the world's most severe women's rights crisis.

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Afghanistan risks losing 25,000 women teachers and health workers.

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