



Human Rights Council**Fiftieth session**

13 June–8 July 2022

Agenda item 1

Organizational and procedural matters**Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council
on 8 July 2022****50/14. Situation of human rights of women and girls in Afghanistan**

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and recalling relevant international human rights treaties,

Reaffirming also that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interrelated, interdependent and mutually reinforcing, and that all human rights must be treated in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis,

Noting that the ongoing oppression of women and girls in Afghanistan is grave, institutionalized, widespread and systematic,

Emphasizing the critical need to make progress towards the realization of women and girls' enjoyment of human rights in Afghanistan and to bring to an end to the many serious human rights violations and abuses to which women and girls are being subjected,

Recognizing that development, peace and security and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing,

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, political independence, territorial integrity and unity of Afghanistan, and that Afghan people are entitled to freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development,

Recalling the obligations of Afghanistan under international human rights law and international humanitarian law as expressed in, inter alia, the treaties and conventions to which it is a party, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,

Reiterating its unwavering commitment to the rights of all women and girls in Afghanistan in accordance with the State's obligations under international human rights law, and to respect for and the promotion of all women's and girls' full and effective ability to exercise their equal enjoyment of human rights in Afghanistan,



Recalling its thirty-first special session on the serious human rights concerns and situation in Afghanistan, and Human Rights Council resolution S-31/1 adopted on 24 August 2021, its forty-eighth regular session, at which the Council appointed in its resolution 48/1 of 7 October 2021 a special rapporteur to monitor the situation of human rights in Afghanistan, and all relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Security Council on the situation in Afghanistan and on women and peace and security,

Recalling also the statements made by the Secretary-General, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan and the Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), those by several special procedures of the Human Rights Council and treaty bodies on reports of human rights abuses against women and girls in Afghanistan committed by the Taliban, and the press statement on Afghanistan issued by the Security Council on 24 May 2022,

Recognizing that the full, equal, effective and meaningful participation, inclusion and empowerment of all women and girls in all spheres of life are essential for sustainable peace and full and complete economic and social development, as well as the realization and enjoyment of all human rights of all persons in Afghanistan,

Recognizing also the importance of the full, equal, effective and meaningful participation of women in planning and decision-making with regard to mediation, confidence-building and conflict prevention and resolution and of their involvement in all efforts to maintain and promote peace and security, and the need to prevent and redress human rights violations and abuses, such as all forms of violence against women and girls, especially sexual and gender-based violence,

Recognizing further bilateral and regional efforts to promote the rights of women and girls in Afghanistan, in particular the right to education,

Deeply concerned about the increasing erosion of respect for the human rights of women and girls in Afghanistan by the Taliban, including through the imposition of restrictions that limit the enjoyment of the rights to education, the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, work, liberty of movement, freedom of expression and opinion, and freedom of peaceful assembly and association, and women's full, equal, effective and meaningful participation in public life, and emphasizing that these restrictions contradict the expectations of the international community and the commitment made by the Taliban to the Afghan people,

Recognizing that the full realization of the right to education for all is an essential condition for achieving sustainable development and a multiplier right that supports the empowerment of all women and girls to claim their human rights, including the right to participate in the conduct of public affairs and in economic, social and cultural life, and to fully, equally and meaningfully participate in the decision-making processes that shape society, and the transformative potential of education for every girl,

Reaffirming the equal right of every child to education without discrimination of any kind, and expressing concern at the continuation of the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination that girls face,

Deeply concerned that women and girls with disabilities are often subject to multiple, aggravated or intersecting forms of discrimination and disadvantage,

Expressing deep concern at the continued prevalence of violence and discrimination against women and girls in Afghanistan, in all their different forms and manifestations, emphasizing that discrimination and violence against women and girls violate, abuse and impair their enjoyment of human rights, and stressing that perpetrators of crimes involving human rights violations and abuses must be brought to justice and the critical need for victims and survivors to be provided with effective redress, support and remedies,

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 and humanitarian aid, as well as women's ability to generate income for their families and to contribute to the wider economy,

Deeply concerned at the situation of women journalists and media workers in Afghanistan, and underlining the important role played by local journalists and media workers in continuing to carry out essential work, including documenting and reporting, in challenging circumstances,

Reiterating that access to justice and the enjoyment of human rights are indispensable for durable peace and stability in Afghanistan, and stressing in particular that the progress made in the enjoyment of human rights by women and girls prior to 15 August 2021 must be safeguarded and further strengthened,

Stressing the importance of regarding Afghan women as active agents over their own lives and for change and of their full, effective, equal and meaningful participation in peacebuilding, humanitarian and development processes, and expressing concern at the prevalence of threats and violence against women human rights defenders and peacebuilders,

Underlining the need to preserve and build on the political, economic and social achievements of the Afghan people made over the past 20 years, and for further improvement in this regard, in particular to address poverty and the delivery of services, stimulate economic growth, create employment opportunities, tackle corruption, enhance transparency, increase domestic revenue and promote and implement obligations under international law to protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Reaffirming the importance of combating terrorism in Afghanistan while fully respecting human rights, and ensuring that the territory of Afghanistan is not used to threaten or attack any other country, to plan or finance terrorist acts, or to shelter or train terrorists, and that no Afghan group or individual supports terrorists operating on the territory of any country,

Expressing deep concern at the dissolution of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission and the shrinking of space for civil society in Afghanistan,

Welcoming the visit of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to Afghanistan in March 2022 and the first mission of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan in May 2022, and noting the statement issued at the conclusion of that mission, in particular the integration of a gender perspective and of a survivor-centred approach in the conduct of the mission, and acknowledging the access and cooperation provided,

Emphasizing that maintaining peace and sustainable development can contribute to the enjoyment of human rights by the Afghan people, including women and girls,

Expressing deep concern at the dire humanitarian and economic situation in Afghanistan that has undermined the enjoyment of a full range of economic, social and cultural rights of the people of Afghanistan, including women and girls,

Recognizing the need to help to address the substantial challenges facing the economy of Afghanistan, including through efforts to restore the banking and financial systems and efforts to enable the use of assets belonging to the Central Bank of Afghanistan for the benefit of the Afghan people, including women and girls,

Stressing the crucial importance of the Taliban respecting the independence of humanitarian operations and allow and guarantee for all humanitarian staff, including all women staff, rapid, safe and unhindered access to the entire territory,

Expressing its deep condolences and sympathy to the people of Afghanistan for the deadly earthquake of 22 June 2022 and the aftershock on 24 June, highlighting the need for intensified humanitarian aid and other support to address the suffering of those directly affected, and expressing its appreciation for the humanitarian aid already provided to Afghanistan, which is of the utmost importance for the promotion and protection of the human rights of Afghan women and girls,

1. *Condemns in the strongest possible terms* all human rights violations and abuses committed against all individuals, including women and girls, in Afghanistan, including all forms of discrimination and violence, including sexual and gender-based violence;

2. *Reaffirms* its unwavering commitment to the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights by all women, girls and children in Afghanistan, including the right to freedom of movement, the right to education, the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including their sexual and reproductive health, the right to work and the right of access to justice on an equal basis with others;

3. *Calls for* an immediate end to all human rights violations and abuses against all individuals in Afghanistan, including all women and girls, respect for all their human rights and respect for the right of all women to actively and equally participate in all aspects of civic, economic, political and public life, and to ensure that law and policy reforms and practices are not discriminatory, in text or effect, against women and girls and are consistent with international human rights law and standards;

4. *Calls upon* the Taliban in particular to reverse the policies and practices that currently restrict the human rights and fundamental freedoms of Afghan women and girls, to ensure that women and girls have opportunities and access to inclusive and quality education at all levels, equal to those afforded to men and boys, and as promised, to immediately open schools for girls of all ages;

5. *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 and support women and girls;

6. *Also calls for* measures to ensure that victims of sexual and gender-based violence have access to justice and to an effective remedy and reparations, with a human rights and gender perspective, including measures to guarantee their protection, and support, including any psychosocial or medical needs;

7. *Reaffirms* that the right to education, enshrined in international human right law, can help to enable the realization of many other human rights, particularly for girls;

8. *Reiterates* its call for an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned process for the establishment of a participative, inclusive and representative government, including with regard to gender and all ethnic and religious minorities, and ensuring the full, equal, effective and meaningful participation of women and youth in decision-making positions and processes;

9. *Calls for* the reinstatement of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission or the establishment of a similar independent institution in compliance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles), and the reinstatement of the Ministry of Women's Affairs;

10. *Calls upon* all relevant actors in Afghanistan to cooperate fully with the special procedures of the Human Rights Council and the treaty bodies, and other international bodies seized with the situation in Afghanistan, to grant them unhindered access to the country without delay, and to provide them with all necessary information and support;

11. *Requests* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to organize an enhanced interactive dialogue during its fifty-first session, with the participation of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan, other relevant human rights mechanisms, United Nations bodies and agencies, including the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, and non-governmental organizations, including Afghan women's rights organizations in Afghanistan and the diaspora;

12. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

41st meeting
8 July 2022

[Adopted without a vote.]