

## Update on women, peace and security in Afghanistan February 18<sup>th</sup> 2022

---

The Informal Expert Group (IEG) of the Security Council on Women, Peace and Security discussed the situation in Afghanistan in July 2016 ([S/2016/673](#)), November 2016 ([S/2016/1059](#)), December 2017 ([S/2018/11](#)), July 2019, and 19 August 2021 ([S/2021/770](#)). This update summarizes relevant developments since the last meeting in August 2021.

### Developments in the Security Council

Immediately after the last meeting of the IEG on Afghanistan, the **co-chairs of the group sent a letter** to the President of the Security Council echoing some of the issues and recommendations raised during the meeting and calling on the Council to unite and express clearly its rejection of the assaults on the rights of women and girls.

On 30 August 2021, the Council adopted **resolution 2593 (2021)** addressing recent developments in Afghanistan. The resolution reaffirmed the importance of upholding human rights, including those of women, children and minorities, and encouraged all parties to seek an inclusive, negotiated political settlement, with the full, equal and meaningful participation of women.

On 17 September 2021, the Security Council adopted **resolution 2596 (2021)**, extending the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) without changes for six months. The resolution emphasized the importance of the establishment of an inclusive and representative government and the full, equal and meaningful participation of women, as well as upholding human rights, including for women, children and minorities. In the resolution, the Council asked for a **written report on strategic and operational recommendations for the mandate of UNAMA**, and this was submitted on 28 January 2022. The strategic objectives outlined in the report include a) to work with all actors to promote effective, responsible and inclusive Afghan governance and society while advancing reconciliation, b) to help strengthen the respect for and protection of fundamental rights and freedoms of all Afghan men and women, and c) to support the provision of essential services to the Afghan population and contribute to creating economic and social conditions that can lead to self-reliance and stability. As part of the structure of the Mission, the Secretary-General recommends a Human Rights Service under the Office of the SRSG, which among other things would focus on the protection of the rights of women and girls and the prevention and elimination of gender-based violence (GBV), and a Governance and Community Affairs Service which would promote inclusive and participatory governance structures at the national and sub-national level, as well as broad participation of women, youth, minorities, and people with disabilities.

In December 2021, the Council adopted two resolutions related to sanctions. **Resolution 2611 (2021)**, adopted on 17 December 2021, renewed the mandate of the Monitoring Team supporting the Afghanistan Sanctions Committee for one year, and included a general reference reaffirming the importance of upholding human rights, including those of women, children and members of vulnerable populations and minorities. **Resolution 2615 (2021)**, adopted on 22 December 2021, added a humanitarian exemption to the sanctions regime. In the resolution, the Council called on all parties to respect the human rights of all individuals, including women, children, and persons belonging to minorities, and demanded all parties to allow full, safe, and unhindered humanitarian access for the personnel of UN humanitarian agencies and other humanitarian actors regardless of gender. The resolution also reaffirmed the importance of upholding

human rights including those of women, children and members of vulnerable populations and minorities, and recalled that they have been disproportionately affected by the humanitarian crisis. Relevant excerpts of all resolutions mentioned in this section are included in the annex.

**Five Afghan women from civil society briefed the Council** since the last meeting of the IEG. In September 2021, **Wazhma Frogh**, co-Founder of the Women and Peace Studies Organization, lamented that the world had not listened when women warned about the absence of a political settlement and that they had been kept away from the Doha talks. She called on Council members to grant visas to Afghans at risk and to ensure the protection of Afghan female aid workers, civic professionals, and community organizers. She also recommended that Council members include Afghan women in their own mediation teams and facilitate meetings of delegations of women across different professions with the Taliban. At the same meeting, Malala Yousafzai, co-Founder and Board Chair of the Malala Fund, urged the Council to support education for Afghan girls. **Fawzia Koofi**, the first woman Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Afghanistan, briefed the Council in its meeting on peacebuilding and sustaining peace in October 2021. She called on the UN to demand the protection and inclusion of Afghan female aid workers and peacebuilders and asked the UN to facilitate a meeting of a delegation of Afghan women with the Taliban. In November 2021, **Freshhta Karim**, Director of Charmaghz, highlighted the importance of an inclusive political structure and called on the global community to support local actors, NGOs and associations so that they can continue their grass-roots work for peace. At the Open Debate on Protecting Women's Participation in January 2022, **Zarqa Yaftali** warned that the oppression of women and civilians by the Taliban is increasing daily and that any steps to recognize the Taliban would be an endorsement of the oppression of the women of Afghanistan. Emphasizing that UNAMA's role in Afghanistan is more important than ever, she urged the Council to ensure that the Mission continues to monitor the human rights situation and that Afghans are supported in humanitarian and peacebuilding efforts at the community-level. Later that month, women's rights activist **Mahbouba Seraj** called for a strong monitoring and reporting mandate for a new political Mission and for it to play a key role in supporting dialogue with the Taliban and ensuring broad and inclusive consultations with diverse Afghans. Urging that human rights, women's rights and accountability be part of every conversation with the Taliban, she called for clear conditions related to the protection of women's rights when discussing any economic and political support to the Taliban. She also called on the international community to stop sending all-male delegations to meetings with the Taliban and highlighted that diverse representation of Afghan women must be part of all ongoing negotiations with the Taliban.

### **Women's participation in the political process and in public life**

Since the Taliban takeover, women have been **largely erased from politics and public life**. The current **governance structure is exclusively male** and majority Pashtun, with other ethnicities starkly under-represented or absent. All members of the "care-taker cabinet" announced on 7 September 2021, as well as all 34 provincial governors, are men and many of them are designated on the UN sanctions list. Women in the justice sector as well as women who previously served in the security sector in uniformed and civilian capacities have been excluded from service. This has severe repercussions for the many widows who served in the police and have no breadwinners at their households.

Some women civil servants have returned to work, at least partially, in areas of health and education. Reports from Herat indicate that female staff of the *de facto* Department of Refugees and Repatriation were permitted to resume work, up to three days per week, in the same positions, functions and office space as before. Salaries are still being paid for women in the Public Services of the Ministry of Interior Affairs and there are reports of women police officers who have been invited to return to work, but face language barriers as *de facto* authorities' police officers speak only Pashto. However, most of the women who previously served in the justice and security sectors have not been able to return to their jobs.

The Taliban **dismantled the country's gender equality architecture**. There has been no formal decision on the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA) and Provincial Departments of Women's Affairs, whose former premises now house offices of the Ministry of the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice, which the Taliban reinstated and tasked with enforcing the Taliban's interpretation of Islamic law. The Taliban threatened MoWA staff and confiscated equipment and gained access to files, including sensitive case files with details of women victims of violence.

**Fewer than 100 out of 700 women journalists** are still formally working in privately-owned radio and TV stations in Kabul. New media restrictions introduced by the Taliban ban women actors from acting in films. UN Women has warned that the absence of women from the media landscape amounts to erasing women from the public eye and normalizing male dominance.

**Women's civil society has been severely affected by the Taliban takeover.** Many women leaders fled the country fearing reprisals for dedicating their lives to gender equality. In a rapid perception survey conducted by UN Women in October 2021, 65 percent of respondents indicated that women's civil society organizations had stopped working in their area since 15 August 2021, due to new restrictions imposed by the Taliban, lack of financial liquidity, and security concerns. This number is likely to increase with the continued deterioration of the economic situation and the crackdown on women protesters in recent weeks. Women staff working on GBV, protection and women's empowerment reported a higher level of risk. Many Afghan women leaders who left the country continue their political work and advocacy in exile. Several of them participated in the talks with the Taliban held in Oslo in January 2022. Women activists in exile face many challenges, including issues related to immigration and income generation.

Since 15 August 2021, in some cities across the country, **women held peaceful protests** for their rights. They marched on streets with protest signs or wrote their demands on walls at night. Due to the clampdown on protests by the *de facto* authorities, they have more recently switched to holding assemblies behind closed doors and disseminating their advocacy messages on social media. Most have had to stop altogether. Human Rights Watch reported of a violent crackdown on a women's protest in Kabul on 16 January 2022 where armed Taliban pointed firearms at the protesters, used electric shock devices and pepper spray against them, and verbally and physically assaulted the women protesters. **Women protesters and human rights defenders have been threatened, abducted, disappeared, killed and subjected to other forms of reprisals.** On 5 November 2021, the 29-year-old women's rights activist **Frozan Safi** was found shot dead in Mazar-e Sharif by an unknown perpetrator, after going missing around two weeks earlier. On 19 January 2022, following a protest about women's rights in Kabul on 16 January 2022, two women, **Tamana Paryani**, and her three sisters, and **Parwana Ibrahim Khil** and her brother-in-law were abducted. Two more women's rights activists who had participated in the 16 January protests, woman activist **Mursul Ayar** and **Dr Zahra Mohammadi**, were taken on 2 and 3 February 2022 respectively. After repeated calls by the Secretary-General, UNAMA, OHCHR and the broader international community, the Mission announced on 12 February 2022 that all four women activists and their families had been released by the *de facto* authorities. However, there have been further reports of disappearances and house raids. Many women activists are desperate to find safe houses or be evacuated as they face threats not only from the Taliban but sometimes also their families.

**Women who had worked in the security sector** have also been targeted. On 4 September 2021, Nigar Banu, a police officer in Ghor province, eight months pregnant, was tortured and killed. Alia Azizi, a former military officer and head of the women prison in Herat, disappeared in October 2021 and her whereabouts remain unknown. Women who served in the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces (ANDSF) are targeted not only by the Taliban but by their own family and communities, as the ANDSF is accused of having betrayed the people of Afghanistan by surrendering territories to the Taliban without fighting. While over 100 women judges were evacuated to the United Kingdom in December 2021, many Afghan **women in the justice sector** working as judges, prosecutors, and lawyers remain in hiding fearing retribution,

including from convicted prisoners who were freed by the Taliban, notably men convicted of GBV. Similarly to women judges, the Directors of the Department of Women's Affairs are often perceived as having helped women get divorced or prosecute their husbands for abuse, and now face risks of retaliation.

UNAMA Human Rights Service is monitoring these violations across the country and engaging with *de facto* authorities to stress the importance of investigations and accountability for all killings, arrests and disappearances, as well as the lawful use of force.

### **Other human rights issues**

Despite assurances that women's rights will be respected according to Islam, **the Taliban have rapidly and drastically reversed the gains made on women's and girls' rights**. In a joint statement issued on 17 January 2022, a group of more than 30 UN experts, including many Special Rapporteurs, called the restrictive measures instituted by the Taliban "a collective punishment of women and girls, grounded on gender-based bias and harmful practices." Many women activists speak of a gender apartheid.

**Women's right to freedom of movement** has been severely restricted. On 26 December 2021, the Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice issued a new directive banning women's long-distance travel by road unless they are accompanied by a *mahram* (male relative) and they wear a hijab to cover their head and face. This followed earlier reports of the Taliban imposing the use of a *mahram*. Families are also imposing restrictions on the mobility of women and girls as a protection measure. In her briefing to the Security Council, Ms Seraj explained the far-reaching consequences of these restrictions: they prevent women from seeking health care, from escaping situations of domestic violence, and finding employment. Women-headed households are especially impacted by *mahram* rules. Women leaders also reported that women face difficulties in obtaining passports, especially when they do not have a male relative.

**Access to justice for women** and vulnerable groups is effectively denied with the closure of courts, including the specialized courts, prosecution units, and legal aid offices that addressed violence against women.

**Girls' right to education** has been severely curtailed. In 27 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces, girls have been systematically barred from grades 7 to 12. It has now been more than 150 days since many Afghan girls attended school. The Taliban pledged to allow all Afghan girls to return to school after 21 March 2022. On 2 February 2022, and only in some regions, public universities began to reopen for all female and male students, but there are reports about strict rules on gender segregation, strict dress codes for women, and concerns about the curriculum moving forward.

According to a report published by Human Rights Watch and OutRight in January 2022, the situation for **LGBT people** in Afghanistan dramatically worsened since August 2021. The report documented two cases of rape by members of the Taliban. Furthermore, those who have fled to nearby countries face difficulties due to restrictive legislation in most of the neighboring countries.

Cases of **violence against women and girls** are rising. With restrictions placed on women's fundamental freedoms, many women are locked in their homes, fearing for their safety and unable to seek support. Displacement, loss of livelihoods, increase in poverty, and the skyrocketing prices of daily necessities are all compounding the vulnerability to violence. The sharp rise in outward irregular migration puts women and children at a **heightened risk of trafficking**. Poverty resulting from the economic crisis has caused many to resort to **negative coping strategies**, such as child and forced marriage, trafficking, and sex work, with women and girls being disproportionately affected. With no means to verify reports, anecdotal reports include the sale or forced marriage of young girls and women as a reward to Taliban fighters, and frequent reports of parents selling their daughters, even infants, due to the risk of starvation. Girls are at a heightened

risk of abuse because of the *de facto* authorities' definition of a child, which for them is any individual not showing any signs of puberty, contradicting international standards on child protection. Cases of **conflict-related sexual violence** (CRSV) continue, with verified incidents affecting underage girls in 2021. Even before the Taliban takeover, COVID-19 had seriously impacted efforts to document, verify, and respond to incidents of CRSV, with no means to verify cases due to lack of monitoring mechanisms in place.

On 3 December 2021, the Taliban issued a “**special decree on women’s rights**” which upholds women’s right to consent to marriage and instructing the *de facto* Supreme Court to adjudicate cases involving women. It also stated that women have a share in their husband’s property. However, the decree does not set a minimum age for marriage, nor refer to the full spectrum of the rights of women and girls, including their rights to education, to work, to freedom of movement, or to participate in public life. No concrete steps have been taken to implement the Decree so far.

As of now, there exists no independent body to monitor the human rights situation in Afghanistan. The **Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission** (AIHRC) has been unable to operate since the Taliban takeover. Taliban members have searched several AIHRC offices across the country, making inquiries about the whereabouts of AIHRC staff. On 24 December 2021, the *de facto* cabinet announced that it would retain the AIHRC although with a different name.

On 7 October 2021, the UN Human Rights Council adopted a resolution to create a **Special Rapporteur on Afghanistan**. The resolution explicitly called for the integration of a gender perspective and a survivor-centered approach throughout the work of the mandate. However, the position has yet to be filled, and human rights organizations and women leaders continue to call for a more robust monitoring, reiterating the need for an independent, international investigative mechanism.

On 27 September 2021, the Prosecutor at the **International Criminal Court** filed an application to the Pre-Trial Chamber to resume its investigation in Afghanistan and to focus on the investigation of crimes allegedly committed by the Taliban and IS-K. In a statement, the Prosecutor highlighted the persecution of women and girls.

The Protection Cluster in Afghanistan has identified many **challenges specifically relating to monitoring the human rights situation of women and girls**, including the absence of female staff and concerns about collecting, recording, and storing data on GBV. Respondents to protection surveys in rural communities often cite daily survival needs as their most immediate challenge. Their overriding sense of desperation impedes detail and accuracy with respect to the human rights violations that they face, including restrictions on the rights of women and girls.

### **Humanitarian issues and women’s socio-economic situation**

The **humanitarian situation in Afghanistan deteriorated dramatically** in 2021, with significant consequences for the most vulnerable among the population. According to OCHA, more than **710,000 people (80 percent of them women or children) have been newly internally displaced by conflict** in 2021 in 33 out of 34 provinces, bringing it to a total of some 4 million displaced by conflict inside Afghanistan as of December 2021. Many displaced women and girls lack access to reproductive and maternal health care, are at an increased risk of GBV, and have difficulties to travel and leave the country due to lack of official documentation and identification which impacts Afghan women and girls disproportionately.

**Afghan women and girls make up around half of Afghan refugees in neighboring countries** and are disproportionately affected by the current crisis, adding to millions of Afghan refugees from previous waves of violence. In 2021, 23 percent of refugees arriving in neighboring countries were girls and 26 percent

women, including a large number of female-headed households. Refugee women and girls face a heightened risk of and exposure to GBV, exploitation, and trafficking, which compound the challenges already faced by those fleeing for their safety. The neighboring countries which host the refugees have themselves high rates of intimate partner violence and child marriage. Refugee, asylum-seeking and displaced women and girls in neighboring countries also face barriers in accessing education, basic health, including sexual and reproductive health, services, and in accessing livelihoods opportunities. An estimated **19 percent of displaced women and girls are living with a disability** and are even more vulnerable.

**Access to services for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence** no longer exists. Shelters, which even before the Taliban takeover were limited to Kabul and some provincial capitals, have been shut down due to the Taliban threatening service providers. Family Guidance Centers (FGC), which offered GBV counselling, legal services and referrals have largely stopped these services, resulting in the loss of critical community entry points for women to access information, referrals and support for GBV. Most incidents of violence and harmful practices against women and girls are increasingly going unreported or left to be resolved through traditional dispute resolution mechanisms, which are typically discriminatory against women.

The interruption of international aid had profound **impacts on the health care system** and specialized services for women and girls. Women with more complex health needs, such as pregnant women and survivors of GBV, have reportedly been facing major access issues. Challenges cited include fear and insecurity, mobility restrictions (use of *mahram*), long distances to reach available health services, lack of safe transportation for women, and lack of trained female staff. The UN estimates that every two hours a mother dies from pregnancy-related complications in Afghanistan, which would lead to 51,000 additional maternal deaths from now until 2025. This is in addition to the 4.8 million unintended pregnancies due to lack of family planning. COVID-19 vaccination rates among women are also disproportionately low.

While the country is experiencing one of the biggest food insecurity and malnutrition crises globally, **women's ability to access nutrition** and related services is restricted. Analysis showed that one of the main barriers for women accessing nutrition treatment services is due to *mahrams'* inability to accompany them to facilities. OCHA projects that in 2022 more than 800,000 pregnant and lactating women will suffer from acute malnutrition, along with over 3 million children under five.

**Women humanitarian workers** are facing significant barriers to meaningfully engaging in the design and delivery of humanitarian response activities due to restrictions in women's right to work, sex-segregation in the workplace, clothing regulations, *mahram* requirements, and safety and security concerns regarding travelling to and from work. Experts warn that the lack of safe, equal and unrestricted participation of women in humanitarian settings risks marginalizing the contribution of women and reduces the ability of women and girls in need to access services. It also compromises the humanitarian principle of impartiality and in practice means humanitarian actors would actively discriminate against women and girls due to restrictions by the *de facto* authorities. Following the continued engagement by the international humanitarian community, the Taliban in some provinces issued full or partial agreements permitting women aid workers to do their jobs. However, the agreements are conditional even where full participation has been granted. For example, women humanitarian workers are often required to have a *mahram* to escort them while they do their work, which creates additional challenges and costs for those delivering services. The presence of men is especially problematic when female humanitarian workers are attempting to deliver protection and health services to women and girls and is likely to result in many not seeking the assistance they need.

**The UN Transitional Engagement Strategy (TEF)**, which is the overarching strategic planning document for the UN system's assistance in 2022, states that gender equality and women's rights will be mainstreamed across all activities. Gender equality is integrated in all three strategic objectives of the **Humanitarian**

**Response Plan 2022** as well as in all clusters, plans and indicators. The promotion of gender in humanitarian action is one of the plan's strategic response priorities. The Humanitarian Country Team has committed to emphasizing the centrality of women's and girls' rights and the participation of women and women's civil society organizations. In December 2021, the Humanitarian Country Team established the **Afghan Women's Advisory Group**, which comprises nine women from humanitarian agencies and independent civil society organizations and is supported by the Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Group. In October 2021, the UN launched a **Special Trust Fund for Afghanistan** to support programming in the areas of socio-economic support and recovery for community resilience and the protection of livelihoods while strengthening links to peace and humanitarian action. The Fund committed to the application of a Gender Equality Marker to ensure that a percentage -ranging from a 15 percent minimum to a 30 percent target for select interventions- is devoted to supporting gender equality and women's empowerment as a principal objective. UN Women is part of the Fund's Steering Committee.

**Many Afghan women have lost their jobs** since August 2021 due to Taliban-imposed restrictions on women's mobility and conditions on their participation in the public sphere. In a rapid perception study conducted by UN Women in October 2021, 100 percent of participants indicated that they know women who have lost their jobs in the previous month. Job loss has been observed across most sectors but women in particular professions such as media and civil society are reporting additional challenges. Some of these barriers result from self-censoring by families and women in the absence of a clear directive from the Taliban allowing women's full participation in the workforce. Restrictions of women's employment have a particularly devastating impact on women-headed households who also face constraints in registering for unconditional cash transfers in some districts. Experts warn that the **restrictions imposed by the Taliban on women's employment are exacerbating the economic and financial crisis**. UNDP estimates that restricting women's employment may inflict an immediate economic loss of up to USD 1 billion (or up to 5 percent of GDP).

### **Recommendations**

In the upcoming negotiations on Afghanistan in the Security Council, the Security Council should retain the references to women's participation and women's rights in recent resolutions (see annex) and ensure that women's participation and the protection and promotion of the human rights of women and girls are both stand-alone strategic objectives and priorities of the Mission and mainstreamed through all its functions and activities. The Security Council could consider the following language in operational paragraphs:

*Urges all actors to ensure the full, equal and meaningful participation of women, including displaced and refugee women, in any negotiations about the future of Afghanistan.*

*Condemns threats, attacks, disappearances, arbitrary detention, and killings of women, including women human rights defenders, peacebuilders, journalists, and women in the public sector, and requests the Mission to monitor and report these violations.*

*Requests the Mission to take fully into account gender considerations as part of priority tasks and as a cross-cutting issue throughout its mandate and to meaningfully support, engage and consult with a wide range of diverse women's civil society organizations, networks and women-led organizations, community groups, women human rights defenders and women in diaspora in all areas of its work.*

*Requests the Mission to support women's full, equal, and meaningful participation in any political dialogue and promote their general inclusion in political life.*

*Requests the Mission to monitor and report on the human rights situation in the country with a particular focus on the human rights of women and girls.*

*Recognizes the importance of ensuring that the Mission has adequate gender-related expertise, capacity, and resources to protect and promote women's rights and participation.*

*Stresses the importance of integrating gender considerations across humanitarian programming, including access to the full range of medical, legal, psychosocial and livelihood services, without discrimination, ensuring women and women's groups can participate meaningfully and are supported to be leaders in humanitarian action, and demands that all parties allow full, safe, and unhindered humanitarian access for the personnel of United Nations humanitarian agencies and other humanitarian actors regardless of gender.*

*Encourages the adoption a survivor-centered approach in preventing and responding to gender-based violence, ensuring that prevention and response are non-discriminatory and specific, and respect the rights and prioritize needs of survivors, including groups that are particularly vulnerable or may be specifically targeted.*

With regards to **sanctions**, the recommendations made at the last meeting of the IEG on Afghanistan were not reflected in the most recent resolutions on sanctions in Afghanistan, but they are still relevant: the inclusion of listing criteria related to the restriction and violations of human rights, in particular women's rights, and conflict-related sexual violence; the integration of gender as a cross-cutting issue across the investigations and reporting of the Monitoring Team; and the inclusion of gender expertise in the Monitoring Team. In addition, the Council should consider inviting women from civil society to brief the Sanctions Committee.

Most of the **recommendations** made at the last meeting of the IEG on Afghanistan are still relevant, namely on practical support to women at risk, advocacy in support of women's participation, direct financial support to women's organizations, and the condemnation of violence against women human rights defenders. In addition, the IEG co-chairs and other Council members should:

- Ensure that all delegations engaging with the Taliban have a strong representation of women at senior level, and support direct negotiation opportunities between Afghan women leaders and the Taliban.
- Support the establishment of an independent human rights monitoring mechanism to conduct investigations and gather evidence on violations of women's and girls' rights and sexual and gender-based violence, including conflict-related sexual violence.
- Continue to advocate for and support the prioritization of gender equality and the systematic consultation of women's civil society organizations in the operations and allocation of resources of the Special Trust Fund for Afghanistan.
- Support and advocate for the full, equal and meaningful participation of women, without any restrictions, and the consultation of women civil society organizations on the design, delivery and monitoring of humanitarian assistance in Afghanistan.
- Advocate with all countries to allow civilians fleeing Afghanistan access to their territories, guarantee the right to seek asylum, ensure respect for the principle of non-refoulement at all times, suspend forcible returns, and support targeted and life-saving initiatives to prevent and respond to gender-based violence and empower and build resilience of Afghan refugee women and girls in host countries, in line with the 2022 Regional Refugee Response Plan.



## **ANNEX**

### **Relevant language in resolution 2593 (2021)**

*OP 4. Reaffirms the importance of upholding human rights including those of women, children and minorities, encourages all parties to seek an inclusive, negotiated political settlement, with the full, equal and meaningful participation of women, that responds to the desire of Afghans to sustain and build on Afghanistan's gains over the last twenty years in adherence to the rule of law, and underlines that all parties must respect their obligations;*

### **Relevant language in resolution 2596 (2021)**

*Emphasizing the importance of the establishment of an inclusive and representative government, further emphasizing the importance of the full, equal and meaningful participation of women, and upholding human rights, including for women, children and minorities.*

### **Relevant language in resolution 2611 (2021)**

*Underlining that all parties must respect their obligations under international humanitarian law in all circumstances, including those related to the protection of civilians, and reaffirming the importance of upholding human rights including those of women, children and members of vulnerable populations and minorities.*

### **Relevant language in resolution 2615 (2021)**

*Expressing deep concern regarding the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, including food insecurity, and recalling that women, children, and minorities have been disproportionately affected,*

*3. Calls on all parties in all circumstances to respect the human rights of all individuals, including women, children, and persons belonging to minorities, and comply with their applicable obligations under international humanitarian law (...) and demands all parties allow full, safe, and unhindered humanitarian access for the personnel of United Nations humanitarian agencies and other humanitarian actors regardless of gender;*