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The deterioration of women's rights in Afghanistan: a need for global response

Motion for a resolution

tabled by Ms Maria SYRENGELA and other members of the Assembly

This motion has not been discussed in the Assembly and commits only those who have signed it

Since the Taliban's return to power in August 2021, the situation for women in Afghanistan has dramatically worsened. Women who had made significant progress in education, employment, and public life now face severe restrictions. The collapse of the Afghan Government has led to a systematic roll-back of their civil liberties, resulting in the silencing of their voices and crushing their aspirations.

Women are barred from secondary schools and universities, pushing millions into economic dependency and increasing their vulnerability to violence. Draconian laws restrict their freedom of movement and dress, isolating them from public life and essential services without a male guardian. The dismantling of legal protections and rising gender-based violence leave women without justice. Reports of arbitrary detentions of activists and journalists underscore the urgent need for a global response.

The Parliamentary Assembly must urgently examine these violations and advocate for Afghan women's rights. It is essential to develop strategies for humanitarian assistance, promote educational opportunities, and restore legal protections. A monitoring mechanism must be established to ensure that international engagement remains strong, reaffirming commitment to gender equality.

In 2021, Greece played a critical role in a high-risk operation that granted safe passage to approximately 150 Afghan women, including parliamentarians, judges and activists. This discreet mission involved the Greek Government, numerous embassies and NGOs and ensured safe accommodation, medical care and legal relocation for Afghan women, highlighting the urgency of continued international collaboration for their safety and future.

The Assembly must ensure that the voices of Afghan women are heard and their rights and security are protected.

Signed (see overleaf)



*Signed*¹:

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1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
ECPA: European Conservatives, Patriots and Affiliates
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
SOC: Socialists, Democrats and Greens Group