



US WOMEN'S CAUCUS AT THE UN

August 22, 2021

The US Women's Caucus at the UN wishes to express its most grave concern for and unwavering solidarity with every female, young or old, as well as journalists, judges, politicians, activists, and human rights defenders in Afghanistan currently threatened under Taliban rule. The dire circumstances demand [urgent action](#).

As a coalition of US-based NGOs committed to women's human rights, we are devastated to now see that the hard-fought gains for women and girls in Afghanistan have been swept away in the turbulent resurgence of Taliban control. Our members and member organizations have worked with Afghan partners, colleagues, and friends for decades to advance the rights and promote education for women and girls. [Their pleas today are now deafening.](#)

We call upon every country to acknowledge their human rights obligations and stand in solidarity to defend the rights and safety of women and girls as well as all who speak out on their behalf.

We call on President Biden and the US Administration:

-- **To continue** to order the US military to provide swift, safe passage to the airport and out of the country for all American citizens and to give priority to all Afghans who supported the US mission along with other Afghans who are at high risk.

-- **To keep** a military presence in Afghanistan long enough to complete the evacuations, even if that requires staying beyond the stated deadlines.

-- **To use** all available tools at its disposal to welcome Afghans into the US, including by expanding and accelerating the processing for Special Immigrant Visas (SIVs) and P1 and P2s, as well as offering humanitarian parole in order to resettle as many refugees as quickly as possible.

--**To call** immediately for an emergency session of the UN Security Council and propose a strong civilian and atrocity protection/observer mandate to oversee what is actually happening, particularly concerning the situation for women and girls.

--**To work** with international and bilateral partners including its NATO allies to coordinate evacuations and to establish a secure humanitarian corridor to facilitate all evacuations as well as the urgent delivery of humanitarian aid.

-- **To press** Afghan neighbors including India and Pakistan to assume their responsibilities to ensure that their borders are open for refugees and that there will be enough critical assistance including funding, shelter, and telecommunication available to Afghans for resettlement.

We call on the US Congress:

-- **To provide** immediate oversight of the US withdrawal and evacuation process by asking top Defense and State Department officials to testify about their decisions and to develop a protection and atrocities prevention plan.

--**To require** an accounting of how the Administration is using recently appropriated funds to address the evacuation, visa processing, and refugee resettlement processes and to set policies that would make current as well as future financial and humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan contingent upon meeting standards related to the protection of the human rights of women and girls.

And, to Our Members and Partners...

-- **We issue** a call to action to support our sisters in Afghanistan at this time of grave crisis to help fund and wherever possible, to directly welcome and resettle refugees.

-- **We encourage** organizations with Economic and Social Council Status at the United Nations to advocate at the UN and work with other civil society advocacy organizations to issue statements of solidarity, sign on to letters of support, and request Congress to act now.

-- **We urge** individuals to call upon their political representatives **TODAY** to expand or create emergency programs to host Afghan refugees.

Afghan women and girls need to know that they do not stand alone.

Support is needed NOW!

We are US women and US organizations joining in solidarity to collaborate on the UN women's agenda and advocate for gender equality with women of every class, race, culture, creed, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

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