



# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
8 February 2022

English only

---

## Human Rights Council

### Forty-ninth session

28 February–1 April 2022

Agenda item 2

**Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner  
for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the  
High Commissioner and the Secretary-General**

### **Written statement\* submitted by Imam Ali's Popular Students Relief Society, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[1 February 2022]

---

\* Issued as received, in the language of submission only. The views expressed in the present document do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its officials.



## **Disastrous Situation of Women and Children in Afghanistan**

Afghans have suffered and endured pain for decades, as is known to the entire world. Underdevelopment and deep material and cultural poverty are at the roots of this suffering, which mostly affect the women and children of the region. Children deprived of their human rights such as healthy nutrition, education, and entertainment come in contact with poverty and deprivation and go on to become men and women who lack the necessary social building skills to thrive and develop. As a result, they cannot build and lead their society, thus perpetuating this cycle of suffering.

While in the last twenty years established governments have attempted to provide development infrastructure with the assistance of international organizations, inefficiencies and corruption of some parts of the governments, the depth and breadth of the roots of poverty, as well as the pressure and resistance of superstitious and backward mindsets in opposition to change, have rendered these efforts ineffective and paved the way for the return of the Taliban.

During the months-long negotiations between the international community and the Afghan government, the Taliban's stubbornness and insistence on a backward position were evident. It is evident from the refusal of women to be part of the negotiating team that this is the case. Afghan women and children are also subjected to brutal punishments and restrictions on their education in areas under the Taliban's control. International observers have noted that reactionary groups in Afghanistan have made it their main objective to prevent women from entering society by targeting women, girls, and female students. They do not hesitate to take any action to eliminate women from society and dominate them completely.

Nevertheless, Afghanistan decided to reach an agreement with the Taliban, despite the plight of women and children, setting the stage for a humanitarian catastrophe in the eyes of the world.

We witnessed a lot of pressure on women's employment and education after the Taliban took power in July and August of 2021. Some of the unjust, harsh treatments of women, which met with resistance from women, is the ban on education for girls above the age of twelve, as well as the compulsory wearing of burqa and not being able to leave the house unaccompanied. People were also forced to flee their cities and villages, leading to a mass influx of refugees to neighboring countries and major cities in Afghanistan, the consequences of which are hard to evaluate and it will take years to grasp the magnitude of this tragedy.

As a Jihadist group, the Taliban is incapable of managing Afghanistan's crisis-ridden society or solving its economic and social problems, and only follows religious principles based on statements and inferences of its leaders. The affected families are under so much stress as the situation intensifies.

Families who have spent their life savings trying to find a way out of Afghanistan and have sought asylum in neighboring countries empty-handed, reveal the severity of these damages and indicate how much pressure and violence are affecting various segments of the Afghan society.

### **Since Imam Ali Society (the "Society")**

is in close contact with some of these families, the community has witnessed the irrecoverable damage these injuries have done to their bodies and souls, and has committed to raising their voices to the world calling for more active action.

The Society also included practical and field measures in its agenda in addition to extensive media coverage of the plight of asylum seekers and Afghan people.

In the most impoverished areas of Iran (Islamic Republic of), the Society has been supporting Afghan immigrant families for more than twenty years, and many of the children have shown immense talent in science and art. For instance, the choir group of Avaye Solh (Voice of Peace), recently held a concert. They are growing and developing every day. Our Afghan

children are also very active and innovative in the robotics sector and have excelled in the international arena.

Every year as one of our projects, our community volunteers provide stationery and the necessary legal measures to remove barriers to further education, which allows hundreds of children to be enrolled in the country's education system, and many of them are able to continue their education at universities. Their coaches have been praised for their persistence, talent, and support.

Due to the high number of working Afghan children in Iran (Islamic Republic of), the Society was present in different parts of Afghanistan in 2019 in order to find causes and roots of poverty and offer solutions to solve problems at the source, and to focus on the education sector in June 2021 which focused on providing textbooks for students. The Taliban domination, school closures and departure of most teachers and principals, left the textbook project unfinished.

As the number of asylum seekers increased in Iran (Islamic Republic of), another educational project provided virtual education for some children, which is proving to be successful and is being implemented. Several families were able to receive health and medical services through another plan.

the Society also helps camps that have been set up in different parts of Iran (Islamic Republic of) and need basic living necessities such as clothing, food, and heating equipment. Many families who have fled the country with nothing but the clothes they wear live in these camps.

Ultimately, what is clear is that today, the most pressing humanitarian issue in Afghanistan is severe hunger and cold weather, which threatens the lives of millions of Afghans and is increasing exponentially as international attention closes on Afghanistan, and that if we don't equip this country and continue our passive policies and throw the ball in the Taliban's court, we will witness a humanitarian catastrophe.

Apart from extreme hunger and cold, restrictions and discrimination against women and girls also pose a very serious risk to their physical and mental health, the implications of which are not any less important than hunger and cold, but also rather contribute to the spread of poverty. Women's employment in education and government departments was one of the major sources of income for these families.

Those who work in the medical field are allowed to work, but they do not receive regular salaries. If these circumstances continue, the early closure of clinics is not unlikely. There is no question that closures like these have increased pressure on Afghans and have a direct impact on children's lives.

The role of the widespread dominance of the Taliban on underdevelopment in the current situation cannot be denied, but we should not underestimate the importance of the international community's passive decisions and acceptance of this situation. More developed countries should not neglect their humanitarian and social duties towards more deprived countries and consider themselves as observers, and only pray that these nations can develop despite their dire conditions.

---