



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

### Fifty-fifth session

26 February–5 April 2024

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**

**Joint written statement\* submitted by Interfaith  
International, Centre d'accompagnement des alternatives  
locales de développement, Himalayan Research and Cultural  
Foundation, Rencontre Africaine pour la defense des droits  
de l'homme, non-governmental organizations in special  
consultative status**

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

[3 February 2024]

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\* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



## **The Situation of Human Rights in Afghanistan**

The human rights situation in Afghanistan is a matter of great concern. The country has been plagued by conflict and instability for decades, resulting in the violation of basic human rights and the suffering of its people. The situation has only worsened, particularly the situation of women and girls after August 2021 with the Taliban takeover.

One of the most pressing human rights issues in the world, and Afghanistan is the treatment of women and girls. Under Taliban de facto rule, women are subjected to harsh restrictions and denied basic rights such as education, employment, and freedom of movement. Although there have been massive campaigns around the world highlighting the miserable situation of women and girls in Afghanistan since the fall of Afghanistan in 2021, yet the situation remains precarious. Women continue to face discrimination, gender-based violence, and limited access to healthcare and education. The women of Afghanistan have been eliminated from the public life completely.

Minority groups, such as the Hazaras and Sikhs, also face heightened risks under the Taliban de facto regime. There have been reports of targeted attacks and discrimination against these communities.

Additionally, there are concerns about the safety and well-being of individuals who worked with international organizations, the Afghan government, and foreign forces. Many Afghans who collaborated with these entities are at risk of reprisals and threats to their lives.

Freedom of expression and the media also face significant challenges in Afghanistan. Journalists and media workers are frequently targeted and threatened for reporting on sensitive issues. This lack of freedom of expression not only hampers the free flow of information but also undermines democracy and accountability.

The international community has expressed grave concerns about the human rights situation in Afghanistan and has called on the Taliban to respect human rights, uphold international humanitarian law, and protect the rights of all Afghans. Efforts are being made to ensure the safe evacuation of vulnerable individuals and to provide support to those affected by the conflict. But Taliban continues violating the very fundamental rights of Afghans, especially women and girls.

It is crucial for the international community to closely monitor the human rights situation in Afghanistan and hold the Taliban accountable for any violations or abuses. The protection and promotion of human rights should remain a top priority in any discussions or engagements with the Taliban.

Finally, the international community has a crucial role to play in supporting Afghanistan in addressing its human rights challenges. Financial assistance, technical support, and diplomatic pressure can all contribute to improving the human rights situation in the country. However, it is essential that any support provided is conditional on the Taliban to upholding human rights and ensuring accountability for human rights abuses.

In conclusion, the human rights situation in Afghanistan is dire and requires urgent attention. The rights of women, minorities, and journalists must be protected, and the rule of law must be strengthened. The international community must stand in solidarity with the Afghan people, especially women, and support efforts to improve the human rights situation in the country. Only through collective action can we hope to bring about lasting change and ensure a brighter future for Afghanistan.

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