



WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR
PEACE & FREEDOM

Membership urgent update

Statement on Afghanistan

Dear WILPFers,

WILPF condemns the recent violence throughout Afghanistan and the utter failure of the international community to prevent the disastrous situation unfolding in the country. As our Afghan sisters are struggling to protect themselves and their families, we stand with them in calling for a ceasefire and protection of all Afghans, especially women human rights defenders, journalists, and others who are specifically targeted for their work and identity.

Like all of you, we are in equal measures outraged and dismayed by the rapidly deteriorating situation there. WILPF Afghanistan has warned of this for months.

The International Secretariat and members have been working with WILPF Afghanistan over the last few days on emergency situations and evacuations. This situation is still ongoing.

Thank you to each of you for your actions and support for Afghan women. There is much that needs to be done and the following are some concrete steps you can take. The urgency is around protection and for the UN to work in a coordinated way to assist those who remain in Afghanistan and those who are seeking to leave the country.

1. Lobby your government representatives to:

- Advocate for an immediate nationwide ceasefire, demand that the airport and border crossings remain open so those who wish to leave the country can do so, and enable full humanitarian access.

- Ensure safe passage out of Afghanistan of all women human rights defenders, their dependents and allies. Visas and flights out are needed urgently.
- Welcome Afghan refugees and asylum seekers and do not deport anyone back to Afghanistan.
- If your country is on the UN Security Council, please call your foreign ministry and direct that they provide leadership and coherence, and use all the tools available to the highest body on peace and security including reinstating sanctions, as well as opening of humanitarian corridors.
- Urge the UN Human Rights Council to hold a special session on Afghanistan with the aim of establishing a UN investigative mechanism into violations of international human rights and humanitarian law in Afghanistan.
- Raise critical analysis in the media or other partners of the failures of governments and international community, including on military invasion, arms sales, and abuses of human rights of Afghans.

2. Please make sure that your social media accounts do not draw attention to members of WILPF Afghanistan or other WHRDs there. Please set your Facebook and LinkedIn settings to private and delete any pictures or tags that reveal WHRDs' identities. We know the Taliban have historically used social media accounts to identify WHRDs.

3. Send a message of solidarity to your sisters in WILPF Afghanistan to membership@wilpf.org. The Secretariat will compile and share information via a safe channel.

4. Consider sharing or making a donation to the WILPF Secretariat for members in Afghanistan, or to another organization. For example, those supporting humanitarian aid to internally displaced people ([GoFundMe campaign](#)) or safe houses to protect women in Afghanistan being targeted [[GoFundMe campaign](#) organized by the Women's Regional network and requested by the Afghan Women's Network (AWN), Safety and Risk Mitigation Organization (SRMO) and Afghan Women's Skills Development Center (AWSDC)].

Let us know what else you are already doing in your Section via membership@wilpf.org. See Statements by [WILPF Germany](#) and [WILPF Spain](#) online. Our coalition, the NGO Working Group on WPS, [has also shared recommendations](#) on their channels. What else can WILPF do together?

¹ China, France, Russia, United Kingdom, United States are permanent members of the un security council; Estonia, India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Niger, Norway, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia, Vietnam are elected members.

**In sisterhood,
Joy Onyesoh and Madeleine Rees**

About WILPF

WILPF's mission is to end and prevent war, ensure that women are represented at all levels in the peace-building process, defend the human rights of women, and promote social, economic and political justice.