



Statement by the Women's Advocacy for Equality Network Condemning the Taliban's Repressive Laws

The Women's Advocacy for Equality Network strongly condemns the Taliban's new "Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice" law, numbered 1452, published in the official gazette on 31 July 2024, which represents a blatant violation of the fundamental rights of Afghan citizens, especially women. This law reflects a specific interpretation of the hijab and criminalizes the broadcasting of women's voices (even the recitation of the Holy Quran). It imposes severe restrictions on women's movement and social activities, aiming to completely eliminate women from the public sphere. The law even conditions women's emergency exit from their homes in the presence of a male guardian and, by labeling anything related to women as "awrat" (a term signifying something to be concealed), it targets their individual and social existence and identity. Furthermore, it endangers the presence of international female aid workers.

This decree, along with other similar orders, demonstrates the continuation of repressive policies and the reinforcement of restrictive structures against women and other ethnic and religious groups. The WAEN emphasizes that the right to freedom of expression, the right to choose one's costume, and the right to women's presence in society are undeniable and fundamental human rights. The implementation of these laws is detrimental not only to Afghanistan but also poses a risk to global cultural relations, potentially reviving extremist groups worldwide and endangering global security. From the perspective of the Women's Advocacy for Equality Network, the crisis in Afghanistan has undeniable international dimensions, and a fundamental resolution to this issue requires comprehensive cooperation from international institutions. The WAEN believes that the Taliban lack the political and religious legitimacy to legislate in Afghanistan. By imposing severe restrictions on women's rights and freedoms, including the prohibition of education, work, social participation, and even presence in public, the Taliban have extensively violated international laws, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Articles 1, 2, 26), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Article 28), UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and

Security, and the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). The Women's Advocacy for Equality Network calls on the international community, human rights organizations, and all individuals and institutions who believe in human rights to not remain silent in the face of these injustices and to take practical and effective measures to support the rights of the Afghan people. The following actions are among the most crucial steps needed to address the current situation:

1. Non-recognition of the Taliban as the legitimate government of Afghanistan and preventing any legitimization of their regime.
2. Recognition and criminalization of gender apartheid and the adoption of international legal measures to combat it.
3. Holding the Taliban regime accountable for widespread human rights violations, especially the rights of women and ethnic, linguistic, and religious groups, through international judicial bodies.
4. Cutting off all financial, military, and political support for the Taliban and preventing any interaction with this group and all affiliated individuals, organizations, and institutions.
5. Strengthening and supporting anti-Taliban institutions and women's resistance groups, particularly through financial, educational, and media assistance to bolster internal and international resistance against this regime.

The Women's Advocacy for Equality Network will continue its struggle for justice, freedom, and equality and invites all freedom-loving forces to join in cooperation.

Sincerely,

Women's Advocacy for Equality Network