

# Statement of Support and Solidarity with Afghan Women

## Iranian Women's Organisations\*

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We, a coalition of independent Iranian women's organizations, express our solidarity with the women of Afghanistan in the fight against the reinstated Taliban, and deeply commiserate with them on the suffering that has been inflicted upon them. Iranian and Afghan women have a common experience in dealing with political Islam, oppression, repression, and lawlessness imposed by misogynistic and reactionary governments. In these critical times we are determined to raise our voices against the reactionary, fundamentalist, and anti-woman forces in this dangerous situation. Together with the women of Afghanistan, we strongly condemn all human rights violations against women in the name of law, religion, faith, and tradition. We do not support the recognition of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan by any country with the justification that "the Taliban have changed" and "moderated"! We condemn such measures and stand with Afghan women in opposition to it.

The Taliban have recaptured political power and exercised sovereignty over Afghanistan, turning women and girls into sex slaves for their soldiers under the guise of "marriage jihad." We join our voices with Afghan women to insist that the empowerment of political Islam and Taliban neither in the past nor today, has been the choice of the people, especially women, in Afghanistan. The international community needs to respect the right of Afghans to choose their residence and urgently facilitate the relocation of refugees, especially Afghan women, to safe countries and also to recognize their civic rights.



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Urgent entry into safe countries, and respect for civil rights for all Afghan asylum seekers, especially women, is what we support.

Political immunity should be granted to every woman who flees Afghanistan and the rule of the Taliban, this medieval, terroristic group. The basic right to political asylum for women refugees from Afghanistan, and their transfer to safe countries, have been approved by the United Nations High Commissioner of the Refugees. Asylum is one of the most basic human rights issues for Afghan women today.

The struggle of Afghan women against Taliban and their Islamist politics has had a long history. During the reactionary Taliban regime (1996-2001) Afghan women were subjected to the most severe gender-based violence. They were deprived of their human and individual rights and freedoms, including the right to go to school, to work, to leave their homes without a male chaperon, as well as the right to choose their clothing, education, and social activities. However, they showed great awareness, courage, and activism in their struggle against the Taliban and its medieval patriarchy. Today Afghanistan stands with greater courage and strength than before. No longer will Afghan women allow themselves and their children to be sacrificed by the misogynistic and in humane policies of the Taliban.

We, the independent coalition of Iranian women's organizations, who have signed this statement, protest the tragedies that have been inflicted on the people of Afghanistan today, especially on the women. We stand in solidarity with them against political Islam, call for immediate action by international institutions and progressive women's rights movements, human rights organizations, and individual feminists, to respond quickly to the humanitarian needs of the people of Afghanistan, and in particular to help fulfill the demands of this statement.

**Signatory organizations:**

*Iranian Women's Organization of Dallas*

*German Iranian Women's Organization of Koln*

*Parto Women's Organization*

*Women's Organization of Montreal*

*Italia- Iranian Women's Organization*

*International Union of Violence against Women (ICAVI)*

*Iranian Circle of Women for International Networking*

*Radio Avaye Zan of Australia*

*Women of Iran for Sustainable Equality (WISE)*

*Women for Sustainable Freedom and Equality*

*The Organization for Emancipation of Women*

*Stop Honor Killings Campaign*

*Women's Committee Against Stoning, Paris*

*Women's Committee and Fight Against Discrimination - Republican*

*Solidarity of Iran*

*Union of Leftist Women*

*Zanan Group of Northern California*

*Aywin Group of Northern California*

*Women's Group of Northern California*

*Iranian Women's Group of Frankfurt*

*Women's Study Group of Orange County*

*No to Hijab Group*

*Activist Women in Exile of Berlin*

*Everyday Feminism*

*LGBT Institution of Manav*

*Iranian Women's Conference - Hanover*

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