



Parliamentarians for Global Action  
Parlamentarios para la Acción Global  
Action Mondiale des Parlementaires  
برلمانيون من أجل التحرك العالمي



MONTREAL INSTITUTE FOR GENOCIDE  
AND HUMAN RIGHTS STUDIES

## LARGE-SCALE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN AFGHANISTAN: WHAT CAN BE DONE TO PREVENT NEW ATROCITIES?



15 SEPTEMBER 2021



5:30PM – 7:00 PM  
(KABUL)

9AM – 10:30 AM  
(NEW YORK)

3PM – 4:30 PM  
(THE HAGUE)



THE ROUNDTABLE WILL BE  
HELD ONLINE (VIA ZOOM),  
[PLEASE REGISTER >>](#)

On May 1st 2021, the United States began the withdrawal of their troops from Afghanistan after 20 years of presence in the country. Instantaneously, the Taliban – whose ruling between 1996 and 2001 was marked by violent extremism and fundamentalist application of the Islamic law – took control of the country, allegedly committing atrocities and serious human rights violations against Afghan civilians, including women and girls, children, journalists, human rights defenders, members of Parliament, and any individuals who worked or supported Western powers. Now that Afghanistan is under a de facto government ruled by the Taliban and that the last foreign troops have recently left the country ahead of the symbolic date of September 11, this roundtable aims at fostering a discussion on the current situation and what can be done to prevent the commission of new atrocities in Afghanistan.

An open and fruitful exchange is necessary to explore ways how the international community, including Parliamentarians, can act to try to have an impact towards the prevention of atrocity-crimes and to improve, to the extent possible, the safety and security of the Afghan civilians. From the willingness already expressed by several countries to welcome Afghan refugees to public condemnations of the atrocities committed by the de facto government, various efforts to address the situation have already been put forward. Taking stock of the [Milan Forum in Preventing Violent Extremism and Mass Atrocities](#) held in 2017, the Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies and Parliamentarians for Global Action organise this roundtable to offer an opportunity to raise awareness on the tools available and to find concrete actions that can be undertaken by legislators to protect fundamental rights and prevent further perpetration of crimes targeting the most vulnerable.



## AGENDA



9:00 – 9:05 WELCOMING REMARKS

**HON. KASTHURI PATTO**

*MP (Malaysia),  
Deputy-Convenor of the International Law & Human Rights Programme*



9:05 – 9:10 KEYNOTE REMARKS

**LT.-GEN. ROMÉO DALLAIRE**

*former Canadian Senator,  
MIGS Senior Fellow and Commissioner to the Principles for Peace initiative*

*What Parliamentarians must understand about the challenge of protecting civilians  
from atrocity crimes in peace and stability operations: Lessons from Afghanistan*



9:10 – 9:30 PANEL I: BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT: THE IMPLICATION OF FOREIGN POWERS

**MR. CHRIS ALEXANDER**

*former MP (Canada) and Ambassador of Canada to Afghanistan*

*The involvement of the United States and the 'war on terror' - The role of foreign powers, including Pakistan*

**HON. SYED NAVEED QAMAR**

*MP (Pakistan) and Chair of PGA International Council*

*Views on the current situation and on the implication of Pakistan*



9:30 – 9:50 PANEL II: VIOLENT EXTREMISM, FUNDAMENTAL SHARIA LAW AND ITS IMPLICATION

**PROF. MOHAMED ELEWA BADAR**

*Professor of Comparative and International Criminal Law & Islamic Law at  
Northumbria University*

*Reasoning with the Taliban; Can the Path to Water be Found?*

*The Sharia in its literal translation signifies 'a clear path to water', i.e. a path to the well-being of the believers. This presentation aims to discuss the viability of bringing the Taliban rule in line with this central aim of Sharia and with international human rights standards in light of their record from 1996-2001 and their current manifestos.*

**MS. FARAHNAZ ISPAHANI**

*Senior Fellow, Religious Freedom Institute;  
Former Member of the National Assembly of Pakistan*

*How the application of fundamental Sharia Law will affect the human rights of the Afghan population,  
including women, children, minorities, journalists, and human rights defenders*

 9:50 – 10:15 **PANEL III: ON- GOING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION AND WHAT CAN BE DONE TO PREVENT THEIR FURTHER OCCURRENCE?**

**MS. RUKHSAR AZAMEE**

*Media Officer at American Branch of the International Law Association (ABILA), a former producer for Tolo News channel in Afghanistan and a former member of the PGA Secretariat*

**MS. MARIAM SAFI**

*Founding executive director of the Organization for Policy Research and Development Studies*

*Focus on the violations of human rights of women and girls by the Taliban and the steps forward*

**HON. MARIAM SOLAIMANKHAIL**

*MP (Afghanistan)*

*What can be done by the international community and the role members of Parliament can play to protect human rights*

 10:15 - 10:25 **OPEN DISCUSSION AND QUESTIONS**

 10:25 - 10:30 **CLOSING REMARKS**

**MR. ALI EHSASSI**

*MP (Canada), PGA Board member*

**CO-CHAIRS:**

**MR. KYLE MATHEWS**

*Executive Director of MIGS*

**DR. DAVID DONAT CATTIN**

*Secretary-General of PGA*



## ABOUT PGA

### VISION

Contribute to the creation of a rules-based international order for a more equitable, safe and democratic world.

### MISSION

Inform and mobilize parliamentarians in all regions of the world to advocate for human rights and the Rule of Law, democracy, human security, inclusion, and gender equality.

### STRATEGY

Through a peer-to-peer methodology, country-by-country strategy, and the convening of national and regional parliamentary workshops, PGA seeks to educate, sensitize, build technical and legal capacity, and strengthen the political will of parliamentarians to take concrete initiatives and legislative actions to achieve results on PGA's campaign objectives.

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## ABOUT MONTREAL INSTITUTE ON GENOCIDE STUDIES

The Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies (MIGS) is recognized internationally as Canada's leading ideas and leadership institute for the prevention of genocide, mass atrocity crimes and violent extremism. MIGS conducts in-depth research and proposes concrete policy recommendations to resolve conflicts before they degenerate into mass atrocity crimes. MIGS has achieved national and international recognition for its role as an idea and leadership incubator working with policymakers, academics, leading research institutions, and the media. Today, MIGS is Canada's leading voice and international partner on threats to human security.

For more information on the MIGS, do not hesitate to contact us:  
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