



# AWPLN

## **Announcement of the Afghan Women Parliamentarians and Leaders Network, in relation to the first anniversary of the fall of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.**

For many years, ending the war and terrorist activity, while ensuring peace and security, in a way that affords sovereignty and self-determination, have been the basic demands of the Afghan people. The international community worked alongside Afghan people in this effort to secure a society that upheld fundamental rights and freedoms.

To our deep regret, over the last year, under the autocratic and illegitimate regime of the Taliban, our country has lost all gains it made towards this vision.

All rights and freedoms, including that of a diverse media, of regular people to associate and move freely, of women and girls to study and work, of ethnic and religious minorities, have been severely repressed and destroyed by an extremist ideology.

Poverty and unemployment have peaked. Customs and revenue money accrued to the country is being used by the Taliban, not to build the nation, but to oppress and violate defenceless people.

The country has fallen into a state of lawlessness, with the Constitution and other governing laws suspended. Extrajudicial filed trials and crimes against people take place with impunity. Arbitrary house-to-house searches have forced people to live in fear, creating trauma and dangerous mental health conditions for individuals and families.

The monopoly of power with the Taliban insurgents has caused blood to flow in Afghanistan and many people have been slaughtered every day in an offensive that is continuing till this moment.

Alongside this, the irresponsible withdrawal of foreign forces, while various terrorist groups from different countries were still present and while the Taliban were approaching cities, caused irreparable damage to the people of Afghanistan and even to international security. The US-Taliban signed Doha Agreement has endangered the will and the lives of Afghan people, while side-lining the voices of Afghan people, especially women.

Such short sighted and ill-advised action has once again created serious threats to international security while leaving Afghan people to face serious danger.

To reverse the current situation, we urgently suggest that the following things be considered by the United Nations and its Security Council in dealing with Afghanistan:

1. The international community, while supporting the process of meaningful peace talks between all parties, should give primary and comprehensive support to the fundamental rights of the Afghan people and their demands, to create an inclusive system that represents the participation of the diversity of Afghanistan.
2. Governing systems should be renegotiated through a universally accepted process and a democratically elected federal parliamentary system with a prime minister, which expresses the collective will and ensures the presence of Afghanistan's diverse communities in power, is established.
3. Aid and humanitarian assistance must continue, through transparent and legal mechanisms, to be directly delivered to the people and avoid use by the Taliban.
4. Human rights must be restored, including the elimination of poverty and hunger, and the right of women and girls right to access school, work and meaningfully participate in leadership roles and society.

Our hopes are for the realization of justice and the rule of law in Afghanistan, and for the happiness and pride of the Afghan people.

*\*The AWPLN is an international body of women who were parliamentarians and leaders in Afghanistan prior to August 2021, now operating collectively in exile globally, to restore an inclusive, stable and prosperous Afghanistan for all Afghan people*