



To: Mr. Antonio Guterres,  
Townhouse at 3 Sutton Place,  
Manhattan, in New York City, united States

The Secretary-General of the United Nation

Open Letter from Afghan Women's European commission in relation to the Inter-Afghan Talks for Peace

Dear Mr. Antonio Guterres,

We Afghan women are the real victims of the war. We have suffered the worst of the war more than anyone else. We support the position of the Afghan Women's Coalition for Peace, "Our Voice for Our Future," at the Women's Network Press Conference. We stand by them and strongly urge for an end to the existing political crisis and the existing war in Afghanistan. The unconditional release of Taliban prisoners has raised our deep concern and we call for a clear mechanism with details of the legal process and how they can be re-integrated into society.

Afghan Women's Red Lines.

In response to the Intra-Afghani peace talks:

We, Afghan women welcome the start of negotiations between the two sides and state that:

1. Peace is the undisputed right of the people, especially the women of Afghanistan. The process of reaching a peace deal must include all Afghans, particularly the most vulnerable, the victims of war and women as key parties to the peace talks.
2. Both sides of the conflict are responsible for the violence and massacre of Afghans and in destroying our homes and our shared home Afghanistan, and therefore must be ready to compensate for crimes against their victims - widows, orphans, the disabled, the families of the martyrs of this war and oppressed women across the country.
3. A peace deal will only be considered just and fair if it brings lasting stability, prosperity, justice and comfort to all people, and in particular women. We the Afghan women of Afghanistan demand an immediate ceasefire and a sustainable peace.
4. The equal and active participation of women is the only way to achieve a sustainable and just peace. Any agreement without the presence of half of the population of a country is flawed. Such agreement would not be legitimate in the eyes of the Afghan people, especially the women of Afghanistan. Can justice, economic, social and cultural prosperity be achieved without the active participation of half of the population?
5. Afghan women are well aware of their religious, human, citizen and civil rights and will not allow fundamentalist interpretations of Islam as a means to justify the oppressive, anti-

feminist policies and the most extreme forms of violence against women. Being a woman is not a reason for oppression, deprivation, torture and discrimination; belonging to this sex should not be considered a crime.

6. Afghan women need not ask for their legally valid rights. This is due to a strong legal foundation that exists via several operational conventions. The first of which is Sharia law, and following it, the UN Human Rights convention of 1948. Moreover, they are also signees of the 1979 UN convention which advocates against violence towards women; which was formally agreed upon in Afghanistan 1980. Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women adopted by the UN Security Council, the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, the rights are enshrined in the laws of the country.

7. Based on the documents cited: We want to secure and protect our basic human and citizen rights. The achievements are the result of hundreds of years of struggles and sacrifices, especially, for the last 60 years, those of our mothers. Maintaining these achievements and improving the lives of women in Afghanistan is the task of the next government that will be established after peace talks. The real and meaningful presence of women in the systematic structure post peace agreement is an irrefutable necessity.

We believe in the upward trend of civilization and the growth of society. The journey of Afghan women does not intend to take a step back from its progression. Women's rights and gains can't be traded either, and these advancements are not on the table for discussion.

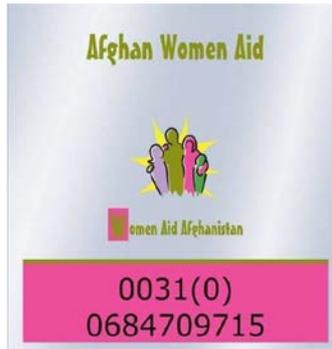
8. The international community, in particular the United States, which has been active in the Afghan war, has a role to play in building the foundation for lasting peace and reconstruction in the country. We call on the international community and the United Nations to provide credible and trusted safeguards to end the war in Afghanistan, cut off the intervention of our neighbors, and eliminate terrorists in our neighboring countries.

9. We urge the negotiating parties to, as Afghans, sincerely stand up for and defend the national interest of the country as a whole. To prioritize its national interests rather than the interest of foreigners. This directive applies first and foremost to the Taliban.

10. We call on the negotiating parties and the international community to provide a clear and transparent definition of the remaining threats to our country's peace and stability. The following groups: ISIL, al-Qaeda, and Haqqani group are still serious threats to peace and stability of the country. There is a widespread presence of militia, drug lords and high levels of corruption within the government. These factors, along with the release of Taliban prisoners and the existence of a strong Taliban armed forces, remain as legitimate and significant concerns to securing enduring peace.

11. We call on the international community, the United Nations, civil society, the people of the world and the global peace movement to lead the process of monitoring Afghanistan's peace dialogues and call for transparency. Hidden deals in these agreements are not acceptable for the Afghan people and Afghan women.

12. Finally, we state that Afghan women will not go backwards and we will not be detredin our fight for equality, justice, freedom and safety. Women's rights activists inside and outside the country, with the support of all those who seek justice around the world, will maintain and progress our civil resistance. With the Taliban's extremist values in practice, those who seek justice, our supporters will not allow women to take a back seat. We will not be silenced again.



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