



Human Rights
Institute



WILPF

International Service
for Human Rights



Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada

NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

Human Rights Council

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Item 2: Enhanced interactive dialogue on OHCHR report on the situation of human rights in
Afghanistan - Interactive Dialogue

09 September 2024

Joint Oral Statement¹

Last August marked three years since the Taliban's takeover. Since 2021, the situation has only worsened. Gross and systematic human rights violations and abuses continue to be committed across the country, including serious international crimes, some amounting to crimes against humanity. The recent "Law on the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice," represents a further regression that shows the escalation of the oppressive regime.

We deplore that the Taliban recently prohibited access to the country to the Special Rapporteur on Afghanistan and we thank the Special Rapporteur for his invaluable work to support Afghan Civil Society, which remains vital.

The ongoing collapse of the rule of law and justice system in Afghanistan demonstrates the impossibility to rely on domestic justice to ensure accountability and reparation for victims.

Against this background, we believe this Council has failed to address and adequately respond to the gravity of the situation. Therefore, we call on this Council to take overdue action to establish an independent gender-responsive accountability mechanism, without any further delay. This mechanism will be mandated to investigate, collect, consolidate and preserve evidence, and identify perpetrators of past and ongoing international crimes including the crime against humanity of gender persecution.

Such a mandate would be clearly distinct, but complementary, to the important mandate of the Special Rapporteur. It will help advance justice and accountability for grave human rights violations and abuses, including those faced by women and girls in Afghanistan and will increase the ability of national and international accountability processes to draw from its investigations. Thank you!

This statement was delivered by:

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¹ Joint oral statement by Forum Asia, the International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute, the International Commission of Jurists, International Service for Human Rights, Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and the World Organisation against Torture.