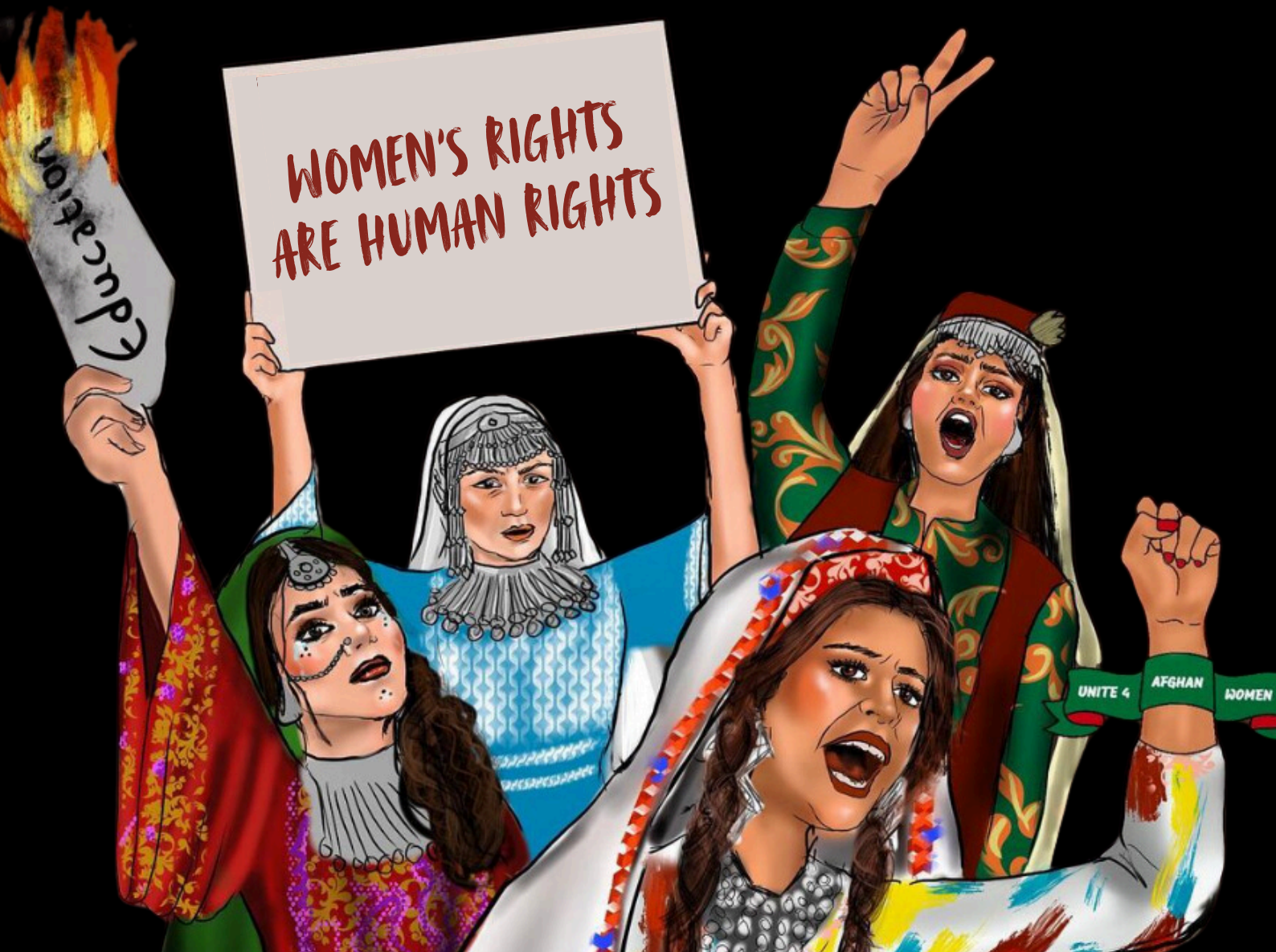




**RISE  
WITH  
AFGHAN  
WOMEN**

**AMNESTY FEMINISTS**

# **2025 ACTION PACK**



# JOIN OUR CAMPAIGN AND RISE WITH AFGHAN WOMEN



## WHAT IS THE SITUATION FOR WOMEN & GIRLS IN AFGHANISTAN?

The Taliban seized control in August 2021 following the withdrawal of US forces. Since then, Afghanistan has been in a downward spiral of human rights violations.

The **Taliban have dismantled institutions** like the Ministry of Women's Affair, Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, Attorney General Office and all gender and human rights focused units aimed to support women and girls.

Women and girls have been **banned from attending secondary school** and higher education. Afghanistan is now the only country in the world to restricts access to education for girls past the age of 12. Women are restricted from working in the majority of sectors and as a result many families have been **plunged into poverty**. Girls are being **forced into dangerous, unequal marriages** to help ease the financial strain their families are facing.

A **"vice and virtue law"** has banned women's voices from being heard in public and prevents women without mahram (male chaperones) from using transport. "Morality inspectors" (police) are empowered to threaten and detain individuals who violate this morality code. There have been reports of women **detainees being sexually abused** and assaulted by the Taliban.

The Taliban have dismissed allegations of gender persecution and claim they are complying with Sharia (Islamic law) and 'Afghan culture.' Amnesty International has documented that the Taliban's **draconian restrictions** on the fundamental rights of women and girls, together with the widespread use of arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, torture and other ill-treatment, may amount to the crime against humanity of **gender persecution**.

Read a detailed overview of women's rights in Afghanistan [here](#).

Now is a critical moment for the International community to stand up and hold the Taliban to account. In September 2024, Australia, Canada, Germany, and the Netherlands launched an initiative to pursue legal proceedings against Afghanistan at the International Court of Justice (ICJ). We are calling on the UK government to formally join this case and we are also asking the UK Government to support the Afghan women led campaign for 'Gender Apartheid'.



## RISE WITH AFGHAN WOMEN

**WE NEED YOUR  
HELP TO:**

**1**

**ASK YOUR MP JOIN US IN CALLING FOR THE  
UK TO JOIN THE ICJ CASE & TO RECOGNISE  
GENDER APARTHEID**

**2**

**SUPPORT WOMEN JOURNALISTS AND  
FUNDRAISE FOR AFGHAN NEWS PLATFORM  
RUKHSHANA MEDIA**

**3**

**RAISE AWARENESS OF THE SITUATION FACING  
WOMEN & GIRLS IN AFGHANISTAN IN YOUR  
COMMUNITY**



**1**

**ASK YOUR MP TO JOIN US IN CALLING  
ON THE UK TO JOIN THE ICJ CASE & TO  
RECOGNISE GENDER APARTHEID**

### **WHO IS MY MP?**

Find out who your elected Member of Parliament is, and information about them, their voting history, and their contact details [here](#).

### **WHAT DO I SAY?**

You can contact your MP to either:

**1) Share our demands** - use this opportunity to build engagement with your MP, by sharing why this campaign is important to you.

**2) Request a meeting to discuss our calls to action** - this can be really impactful, as you can share why this issue is so important to you or your community.

Letter templates are available in this pack, and a briefing summary for meeting your MP is available [here](#).



WRITE A  
LETTER TO  
YOUR MP



HOLD A LETTER  
WRITING EVENT



MEET WITH  
YOUR MP

KEEP US  
UPDATED!

If you're successful in meeting with your MP, please let us know at [feministnetwork@amnesty.org.uk](mailto:feministnetwork@amnesty.org.uk). We are happy to offer you any support or answer any questions you may have.

It's really important that we track our impact! We want to know if your MP makes any positive statements or commitments to the campaign so we can help you build on that success. Please share your progress with your MP by filling in [this survey](#).

2

## SUPPORT WOMEN JOURNALISTS & FUNDRAISE FOR AFGHAN NEWS PLATFORM RUKHSHANA MEDIA



Zahra Joya



SCAN THE QR CODE OR  
[CLICK HERE](#) TO DONATE

Rukhshana Media is an **independent news platform** publishing reports on issues affecting Afghan women. Editor in Chief, Zahra Joya, now runs the organisation from exile, supported by an **all-women Board** of Trustees, and a group of brave and dedicated **journalists still based in Afghanistan**, most of whom are women. Their reporting is essential for enabling the international community to **hold the Taliban accountable** for human rights abuses affecting women and all Afghan citizens.

After three years of operating in exile, Rukhshana Media lacks long-term financial stability, and **urgently needs support** to continue its vital ongoing work.

£10 could pay for one day's fees for a journalist based in Afghanistan  
£50 could pay for two days fees for a translator based in Afghanistan  
£140 could pay for two weeks fees for a journalist based in Afghanistan



# 3

## RAISE AWARENESS OF THE SITUATION FACING WOMEN AND GIRLS IN AFGHANISTAN IN YOUR COMMUNITY

### WHAT SHOULD YOU SHARE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY?

Show your MP that your community cares about the situation facing women and girls in Afghanistan by engaging in conversation and sharing resources. You can share letter templates to support our MP campaign or collect donations for Rukhshana Media.

This is also a great opportunity to [support Amnesty's petition](#) calling on the the UK Prime Minister to make Afghanistan a foreign policy priority, and demand the UK work with the international community to ensure that Women's rights are protected in Afghanistan.

### HOW CAN YOU ENGAGE YOUR COMMUNITY?

Some suggestions are:



#### STALL OR EVENT

- Be present at local events or community stalls.
- You can share information and resources to highlight the situation facing women and girls in Afghanistan.
- You can share letter templates to support the MP campaign and/or collect signatures for Amnesty's petition.



#### VIGIL

- Raise awareness by organising a vigil for the anniversary of the Taliban takeover in August.
- Contact other local organisations or diaspora groups to join forces and increase impact.
- Use the event to collect signatures for the Amnesty petition.



#### SUPPER CLUB

- Support a local Afghan restaurant/caterer and host a meal celebrating Afghan culture. Use this as a moment to reflect and discuss the issue.
- Sell tickets or collect donations for Rukhshana Media.

### WHAT IS COMMUNITY MAPPING?

Community mapping is an organising technique that helps locate your local community and its constituents. It involves researching potential allies and identifying who your key partner activist and grassroots groups could be.

Start off by reaching out to Amnesty [local](#), [student](#) and [youth](#) groups. You can reach out to local diaspora groups or other local organisations advocating for this cause.

The Community Mapping template available in this pack will help you build an engagement plan that has influence and impact!



## WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE?

You can order Amnesty Feminist or Rise With Afghan Women (right) stickers to wear and to give out at community events.

We also have leaflets and postcards (right below) detailing the situation in Afghanistan, the Rukhshana Media fundraising initiative and the petition asking for the UK to make Afghanistan a foreign policy priority.

Please let us know what you would like and how many by emailing [feministnetwork@amnesty.org.uk](mailto:feministnetwork@amnesty.org.uk).



## ALL RESOURCES:

### LEARN

- [RWAU website](#) has all our key resources
- [Read our blog](#) detailing history of women's rights in Afghanistan and the Taliban takeover
- [Watch our webinars](#) with inspiring Afghan women
- [Listen to our podcast episode](#) with the Guilty Feminist
- [Read Amnesty's report](#): The Taliban's war on women
- [Read Amnesty's press release](#) supporting the call to recognise Gender Apartheid

### ACT

- [Rukhshana Media GoFundMe](#)
- [Amnesty petition](#) asking the UK government to make Afghanistan a foreign policy priority
- [Petition](#) to recognise Gender Apartheid
- [Letter template](#) - Meeting ask
- [Letter template](#) - Direct ask
- [Briefing document](#) for meeting your MP
- Community mapping [template](#)

### EVALUATE

- Please complete [this survey](#) to share what action you took
- [Email us](#) to share any updates or feedback



# A) DRAFT LETTER TO MP - INVITE FOR MEETING

[Insert Name and Address]

[Insert Date]

RE: UK GOVERNMENT COMMITMENT TO WOMEN AND GIRLS IN AFGHANISTAN

Dear [Title and Name],

We are writing to you today, on behalf of Amnesty International [insert group name]. We are a diverse and active group of local community members, committed to championing human rights, and improving people's lives, both in the UK and around the world. We regularly run events such as [insert local activity] and would be delighted if you wanted to get involved with our activities.

We are writing today, due to our growing concern for the situation on the ground in Afghanistan, and to request a meeting with you so we can discuss further. We wanted to acknowledge the UK Government's continued support for Afghan women and girls, as well as that of previous Governments. In particular we welcome statements from the UK at the UN Security Council in September last year in response to the "vice and virtue" law issued by the Taliban, and comments from Anneliese Dodds, then Minister for Women and Equalities, pledging the UK's political support for international accountability.

[INSERT LOCAL CONTEXT - why is it important to your local community? Are there local Charities or community groups? Do you have a significant number of Afghan refugees in your community? Does your local group include members of the Afghan diaspora?]

We would also like to share with you Amnesty International's research, highlighting how the Taliban de facto authorities continue to commit human rights violations and crimes under international law against the Afghan people, especially women and girls.

Amnesty International carried out consultations with 150 individuals covering a range of stakeholders including Afghan human rights defenders, members of academia, women protestors and activists, young people, civil society representatives and journalists who are currently residing inside Afghanistan or are in exile, who overwhelmingly believe that the international community has failed the people of Afghanistan. Not only have they failed to hold the Taliban accountable for the crimes and human rights violations, they have also failed to come up with a strategic direction to prevent any further harm.

On August 15 2025, we mark the fourth anniversary of the Taliban's takeover, and the devastating impact this had had on the country. Please can you advise when your next surgery is and when we can meet with you? We would really appreciate the opportunity to discuss how Amnesty's research could help guide the UK's strategy, and how we can support Afghan women and girls living in our own community.

Thank you for your kind attention on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

[FULL NAME]

[FULL ADDRESS]

## B) DRAFT LETTER TO MP - DIRECT ASK

[Insert Name and Address]

[Insert Date]

RE: UK GOVERNMENT COMMITMENT TO WOMEN AND GIRLS IN AFGHANISTAN

Dear [Title and Name],

We are writing to you today, on behalf of Amnesty International [insert group name]. We are a diverse and active group of local community members, committed to championing human rights, and improving people's lives, both in the UK and around the world. We regularly run events such as [insert local activity] and would be delighted if you wanted to get involved with our activities.

We are writing today, due to our growing concern for the situation on the ground in Afghanistan. We wanted to acknowledge the UK Government's continued support for Afghan women and girls, as well as that of previous Governments. In particular we welcome statements from the UK at the UN Security Council in September last year in response to the "vice and virtue" law issued by the Taliban.

[INSERT LOCAL CONTEXT - Why is it important to your local community? Are there local charities or community groups affected? Do you have a significant number of Afghan refugees in your community? Does your local group include members of the Afghan diaspora?]

We would also like to share with you Amnesty International's research, highlighting how the Taliban de facto authorities continue to commit human rights violations and crimes under international law against the Afghan people, especially women and girls.

Amnesty International carried out consultations with 150 individuals covering a range of stakeholders including Afghan human rights defenders, members of academia, women protestors and activists, young people, civil society representatives and journalists who are currently residing inside Afghanistan or are in exile, who overwhelmingly believe that the international community has failed the people of Afghanistan. Not only have they failed to hold the Taliban accountable for the crimes and human rights violations, they have also failed to come up with a strategic direction to prevent any further harm.

As I am sure you know, Australia, Canada, Germany, and the Netherlands announced at the 2024 UN General Assembly, that they will initiate legal proceedings, that could ultimately lead to action at the International Court of Justice against Afghanistan for numerous violations of the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). We welcome this, as an important step towards international accountability, and we were pleased to read that the UK has pledged its political support in the case. But the UK must do more, and we urge you to use your platform and influence to stand up for the people of Afghanistan. The UK can play a leading role to prevent further abuses and hold the Taliban accountable.

Additionally, Afghan women have been campaigning for recognition of 'Gender Apartheid' under international law, in order to strengthen efforts to combat institutionalized regimes of systematic oppression on the grounds of gender and hold the Taliban accountable.

On August 15 2025, we mark the fourth anniversary of the Taliban's takeover, and the devastating impact this had had on the country. We are asking you to use every opportunity available – through parliamentary questions, speaking in debates, writing to the Prime Minister directly, to ask:

1. What is the UK Government currently doing to protect the rights of women and girls in Afghanistan?
2. Is the UK Government planning to formally join Canada, Australia, Germany and the Netherlands case at the International Court of Justice?
3. How will the UK Government formally support the campaign to codify Gender Apartheid under international law?

Thank you for your kind attention on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

[FULL NAME]

[FULL ADDRESS]



## C) COMMUNITY MAPPING TEMPLATE

**DEMOGRAPHIC** (e.g. what do you know about the community? Who are they?)

**KEY DATES** (e.g. Local holidays, festivals, human rights related dates etc.)

**LOCAL ISSUES** What are the most important local issues? What do locals care about?

**ORGANISATIONS & GROUPS**  
(e.g. Activist groups, rights holders, charities, social groups, businesses etc.)

**DECISION MAKERS & INFLUENCERS** (e.g. Politicians, community leaders, local journalists, local celebrities etc.)

**INSTITUTIONS** (e.g. Schools, universities, colleges, hospitals, places of worship, government buildings, etc.)

**PHYSICAL SPACES** (e.g. Parks, community halls, public spaces, markets, town centre etc.)

Front image by Lida Afghan @LidasEyes  
Illustrations used throughout by Izzie Rickets @IzzieRickArt



Amnesty Feminists are a network of activists focusing on defending the human rights of women and girls, wherever they're denied. We stand in solidarity and in defiance with women human rights defenders everywhere.



@amnestyfeminist



@amnestyfeminist



feministnetwork@amnesty.org.uk