*Name and address (include group if you are part of one)*

*Name and address of MP*

Date…. 2025

RE: UK GOVERNMENT COMMITMENT TO WOMEN AND GIRLS IN AFGHANISTAN

Dear …….,

As a member/supporter of Amnesty International UK, I am writing to express my deep concern for the situation of women in Afghanistan and to ask you to take every opportunity to support the UK government in calling out actions by the Taliban that discriminate against women and girls and prevent them from living normal, safe and fulfilling lives. I 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.

Amnesty International research highlights 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. This is based on consultations with 150 individuals, including Afghan human rights defenders, members of academia, women protestors and activists, young people, civil society

representatives and journalists, both those currently residing inside Afghanistan or in exile. They 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 committed, they have also failed to come up with a strategic direction to prevent any further harm.

Australia, Canada, Germany and the Netherlands announced at the 2024 UN General Assembly that they will initiate legal proceedings which 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). Amnesty International welcomes this, as an important step towards international accountability, and was pleased to read that the UK has pledged its political support for the case. But the UK must do more, and I 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.

Afghan women have been campaigning for recognition of ‘Gender Apartheid’ under international law, in order to strengthen efforts to combat institutionalised regimes of systematic oppression on the grounds of gender and hold the Taliban accountable. On 15 August 2025, we mark the fourth anniversary of the Taliban’s takeover, which has had a devastating impact on the country. I am 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,