Rachel Gilmour MP
Liberal Democrat Member of Parliament for Tiverton and Minehead

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

August 2025

**RE: UK GOVERNMENT COMMITMENT TO WOMEN AND GIRLS IN AFGHANISTAN**

Dear Ms Gilmour,

I am writing to express my deep concern for the situation of women in Afghanistan and to ask you 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.

Amnesty International research highlights ways in which the Taliban authorities are committing human rights violations and crimes under international law against the Afghan people, particularly women and girls. Individuals consulted say they believe the international community has failed the people of Afghanistan by not holding the Taliban accountable for the crimes and human rights violations committed, and failing to produce a strategy to prevent any further harm.

Australia, Canada, Germany and the Netherlands announced at the 2024 UN General Assembly their initiation of legal proceedings which could ultimately lead to action at the International Court of Justice against Afghanistan for violations of the *UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW*). This is an important step towards international accountability, and I am pleased the UK has pledged its political support for the case. But the UK must do more to hold the Taliban accountable.

15 August 2025 is the fourth anniversary of the Taliban’s takeover. I ask you to use every opportunity available – through parliamentary questions, speaking in debates and writing to the Prime Minister directly, to ask:

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

Thank you for your consideration

Yours sincerely,