



Q&A

WOMEN IN AFGHANISTAN

Here are answers to some of the questions that may come up during the session.

If there are other questions that you do not have answers for, this is fine. Tell the young people that they have come up with a good question – you could ask the teacher to make a note of it – and they can research it on the internet. If it is a discussion question that does not have a right or wrong answer, put the question to the group. Or if time is tight ask the teacher to follow up with the class afterwards.

What does resilience mean?

Resilience is facing difficult situations by being positive and determined to make things better by solving problems.

Who are the Taliban?

The Taliban emerged in 1994 after years of conflict and many of their members were former fighters. They came together with the aim of making Afghanistan an Islamic state. The Taliban ruled in Afghanistan from 1996 until 2001.

Who are Human Rights Defenders (HRD)?

Human Rights Defenders in this context are brave women in Afghanistan, including doctors, teachers, police officers who go to work every day despite facing serious threats to their lives.

Why are Parween and Dr D played by actors in the Amnesty films?

The first reason is to protect their identities so we do not put Parween and Dr D at risk. The second reason is to make a contrast with the teacher and Dr who are reading their stories, who – unlike Parween and Dr D – can do their jobs without direct personal danger to themselves.

Why did the international community intervene in Afghanistan in 2001?

After the Al'Qaeda attacks on the World Trade Centre in on September 11 2001, the US led an international military campaign in Afghanistan, as the government in Afghanistan did not denounce Al'Qaeda. World leaders, including those from the UK and USA, regularly cited the need to improve Afghan women's rights as justification for the intervention.

What is a secret school?

Because educating girls, under the Taliban was illegal, and since then in some provinces, still not fully excepted, some schools started underground and still operate that way. A secret school is a school that is not open about the fact it is a school, so maybe it happens in someone's living room or maybe in a tent within a refugee camp. This makes it safer for the teachers and students.

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