

December 22, 2022

[Afghan Youth Engagement and Development Initiative \(AYEDI\)](#)

Statement: Afghan girls and women being stripped of their human right to education, and Canada's lack of meaningful action

On December 20, 2022, the Taliban announced that effective immediately, women and girls are banned from attending private and public universities, further enforcing gender apartheid in Afghanistan. This new policy in addition to restrictions put in place earlier effectively means that all women and girls aged 12 or older are banned from formal education.

This news does not come as a surprise to Afghans, who have been staunch in our message that the Taliban never had any intention of respecting human rights when they took power in August 2021.

With this decision by the Taliban, Afghanistan becomes the only country in the world to ban girls' and women's education. With a staggering 47% of the population under 15 years old, giving Afghanistan one of the highest youth populations in the world, and a 49% female population, the futures of 20 million Afghan women and girls are in limbo.

Unfortunately, the Canadian government has been silent on the plight of Afghan women and girls. The Canadian Campaign for Afghan Peace continues to call on Ministers Mélanie Joly, Harjit Sajjan, Anita Anand, and Sean Fraser to take a lead in international advocacy efforts to preserve the rights of girls, women, and vulnerable groups, including, but not limited to:

1. Immediately meet and consult with the Afghan-Canadian community.
2. Champion international efforts to push for the protection of girls and women's rights, including recognizing the regime of gender apartheid.
3. Prioritize vulnerable groups for resettlement without quotas.

We are outraged. It has been nearly 500 days since Afghan girls and women attended class. They cannot wait a day more. **Canada must go beyond condemnation.** We are demanding immediate and meaningful action from the Canadian Government.

#LetAfghanGirlsLearn #Stand4Afghanistan

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