



## **Oral Statement by the International Bar Association**

51st Session of the Human Rights Council

Enhanced ID on human rights situation of women and girls in Afghanistan

12 September 2022

### **The Need to Assist Women and Girls in Afghanistan**

The IBA's Human Rights Institute (the IBAHRI) welcomes this opportunity to engage in the enhanced interactive dialogue on the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan.

After the Taliban took over, women lost everything that they have been working on for the last 20 years. In September and October 2021, the IBAHRI evacuated close to 103 Afghan women at risk, female judges, lawyers, journalists and human rights defenders, and their family members (close to 500 people in total). However, many more remain in Afghanistan and live in fear. Every week, the IBAHRI receives emails asking for evacuations of women facing unimaginable threats. However, as many privately-run evacuations ceased, there are not many options to assist them.

One year after the takeover, women have not been able to return to work and there is no guarantee that they will ever be allowed to do so. Girls are still out of school and there is no guarantee that they will ever be allowed to return. Women protesting against their oppression are violently attacked by the Taliban. They have no recourse to justice.

As their human rights continue to be denied and violated, the Special Rapporteur mandate is essential to monitor and report on the human rights situation in Afghanistan. However, the dire situation in the country and the atrocities affecting women and girls require a more robust response.

The IBAHRI therefore calls on:

- this Council to establish an ongoing accountability mechanism mandated to investigate alleged violations of human rights law amounting to international crimes in Afghanistan, including crimes against women and girls;
- States to put pressure on the Taliban to ensure that women and girls are guaranteed to the right to education, and to work in employments of their choosing;
- States, and in particular the neighbouring States, to provide women and girls with assistance, including with safe haven.

Thank you.

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