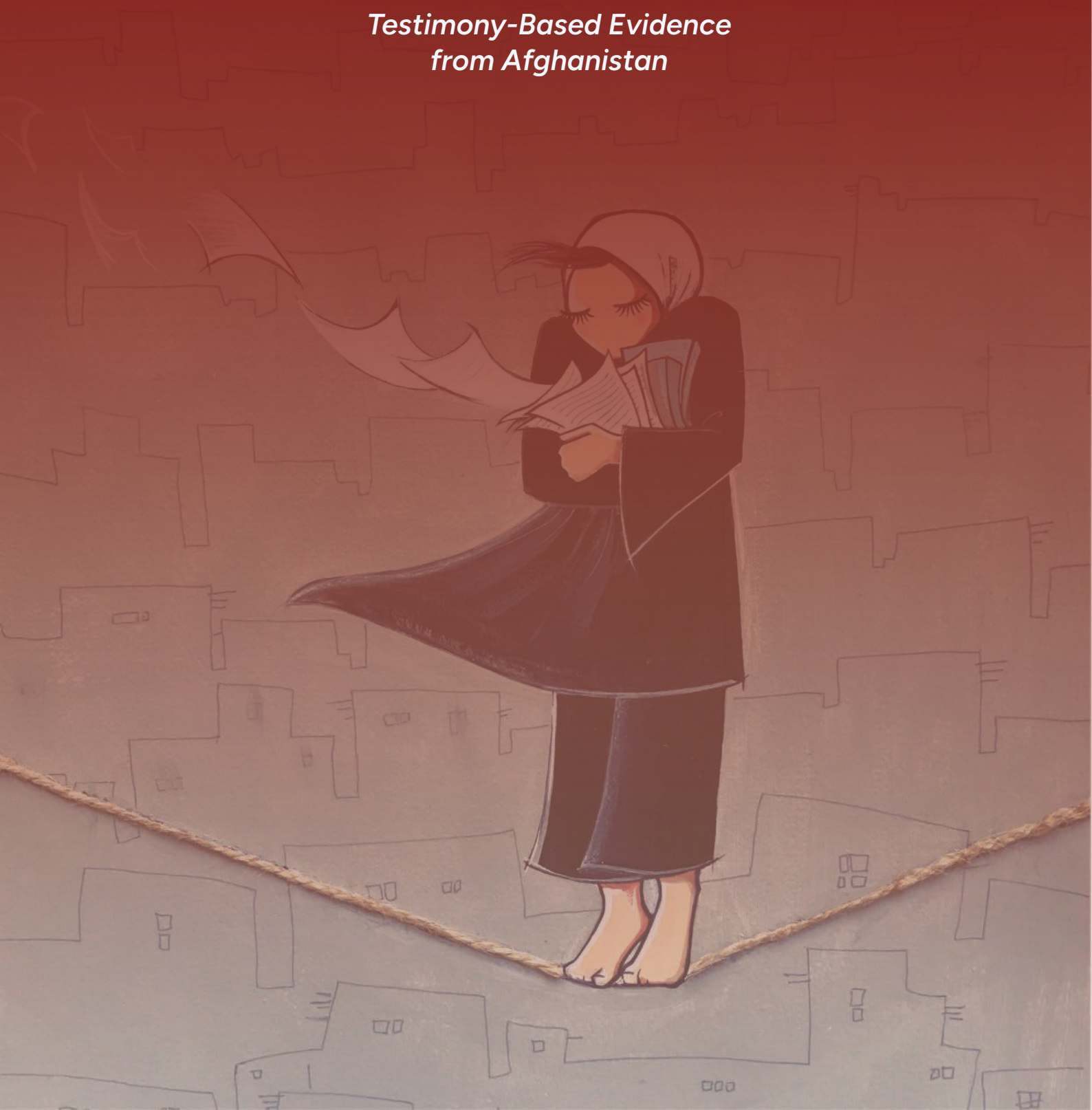




134 WAYS THE TALIBAN WAGE WAR ON WOMEN

*Testimony-Based Evidence
from Afghanistan*



Executive Summary & Introduction

Afghan Women's Resistance Amid Systematic Erasure

Four years after the fall of Kabul, Femena has documented that the Taliban has issued 134 decrees and directives targeting women and girls. These edicts strip away rights in education, employment, healthcare, mobility, and self-expression, dismantling decades of progress. Most recent taliban taliban edicts ban women's voices, windows facing women, women's medical training, and women dining in restaurants with their families.

These are not isolated restrictions. Together, they form a framework of gender apartheid a calculated system designed to remove women from public and political life entirely.

Afghanistan is now the only country on earth to ban girls from schooling beyond grade six and women from universities. Under the "Propagation of Virtue and Prevention of Vice" law, women face harsh dress codes, male guardianship, and even the criminalization of their voices. Those accused of "bad hijab" are abducted, abused, and held without contact with their families.

Despite the danger, Afghan women continue to resist, protesting, organizing, and creating underground networks.

Femena's interviews with detained women activists reveal systematic abuse: torture, sexual violence, solitary confinement, threats against children, and prolonged unlawful detention.

The International Criminal Court has issued arrest warrants for Taliban leaders for gender persecution, an essential precedent that must be expanded.

Summary of Findings

- **Loss of Rights:** Girls are banned from secondary and university education; women are prohibited from most forms of work, barred from public spaces, and denied freedom of movement without a male guardian.
- **Human Cost:** Forced marriages, suicides, and severe mental health crises have sharply increased, with young women bearing the brunt.
- **Targeted Persecution:** Minority communities, especially Hazaras, Tajiks, and Shias, Sikh face disproportionate brutality.
- **Invisible Suffering:** In rural areas, the absence of media allows the harshest abuses to continue without record or remedy.

Purpose of this Publication

This brief amplifies the voices of Afghan women living under Taliban rule, using first-hand testimonies to reveal the human toll behind the statistics. It calls on the international community to reject normalization of the Taliban regime and to take urgent, concrete action to protect and restore women's rights in Afghanistan. It urges the international community to fund and meaningfully support informal women-led civic initiatives inside the country, whose vital work is diminishing due to a lack of access to funding. These informal groups must be recognized not only for their resilience but also for keeping Afghanistan's civic space alive under Taliban repression.

134 Ways the Taliban Wage War on Women

The Taliban's decrees form a blueprint for the systematic exclusion of women. Categorized below are the major areas of restriction:



Education Bans

Girls are prohibited from grades 7–12 and universities; the closure of private educational centers for women. Women are barred from medical training, one of the few sectors they were allowed to study.



Public Space Bans

Women are forbidden from parks, gyms, and recreational facilities.



Dress Codes

Mandatory full-body coverings; faces must be veiled in public; punishment of male relatives for women's perceived noncompliance.



Employment Restrictions

Women are barred from most government posts, NGOs, and media; female aid workers are dismissed, disrupting humanitarian programs for women.



Mahram Enforcement

Women cannot travel more than 72km without a male guardian and are denied services including healthcare if unaccompanied. Most recently, the Taliban have extended these restrictions by requiring elementary school girls in some provinces to be accompanied by a male guardian.

Analysis

Each edict is part of a deliberate strategy: reduce women's visibility, strip their economic independence, cut off education, and ultimately normalize their absence from society. The religious and cultural justifications provided lack due process and contradict international human rights standards.

Lived Experiences: Voices from Afghan Women

Afghan women speak at great personal risk. Their testimonies reveal the systematic nature of Taliban repression. Grouped by themes, these voices illustrate the human cost of gender apartheid.

1 - Education Bans Equal to Stolen Futures

"With the closure of the university, I could no longer pursue my studies. I was the only hope for my family. Now I am confined within the four walls of our home."

— Farishta, 22

"One of my friends was forced into marriage at 16 after the schools closed. She now has a child, and her eyes are always filled with tears."

— Marina, 18

"Dozens of girls have developed mental health problems from being out of school. I have taught them lessons simply to heal their wounds."

— Dr. Hasina, 48

2 - Employment & Economic Survival



Photo: UN Women/Sayed Habib Bidell

"With half of society eliminated from public life, the whole country will collapse."

— Shadkam, 26

"We lost our jobs and our homes. We are now homeless in neighboring countries."

— Soraya, 34

Stripping women of work is an engineered collapse of Afghan society's economic backbone.

2 - Employment & Economic Survival



Photo: <https://msmagazine.com/>

"I'm not allowed to leave the house. My family says we shouldn't give excuses to the Taliban and tarnish our honor."

— Ramzia, 30

"When I go out fully covered, even a small slip brings violence. One day, an officer yelled, 'Pull your scarf down,' and I covered my eyes just to escape his voice."

— Anonymous, 22

"The Taliban pick women off the streets for 'bad hijab' and imprison them. It must be stopped."

— Maryam, 25

Dress codes are enforced with violence, turning daily life into a constant source of fear and humiliation.

4- Violence, Imprisonment & Mental Health

Photo: www.newsecuritybeat.org

"I was badly hurt in a Taliban prison. My 13-year-old daughter still trembles when someone knocks. They tried to take her from me."

— Sanam, 35

"Many of the girls have committed suicide after being released from prison. One of them was my friend. I couldn't save her."

— Dibah, 45

"We can breathe, but this is not living. We are prisoners in our own homes."

— Anonymous, 22

Abductions, abuse, and trauma have turned Afghan homes and prisons alike into sites of despair and death. Femena's latest report, "[Afghan Women in Taliban Prisons](#)," based on interviews with former women detainees, details harrowing accounts of torture, humiliation, and solitary confinement inside Taliban prisons, simply for peacefully protesting or refusing to disappear.

5 - Silencing Women's Voices & Erasure from Public Life

Photo: <https://msmagazine.com/>

"The Taliban now say women's voices are Awrat. We are not allowed to speak, leave the house, or even see sunlight."

— Anonymous, 19

"Women are considered shadows who shouldn't even be heard by their own kind. In their world, our voices are an unforgivable sin."

— K. Sadat, 24

"I lost my job, my husband lost his salary, and our family's economy collapsed. The assaults and constant silencing have broken us mentally."

— Shabnam, 32

The erasure of women's voices is deliberate, designed to normalize their absence from every corner of Afghan society. While each quote speaks of individual pain, together they reveal a pattern: the erasure of women's futures, the silencing of their voices, and the steady suffocation of their hopes.

Regional Disparities & Systemic Violence

No Province Spared, No Woman Safe

The Taliban's oppression of women is national in scope but varies in form and severity:

- **Ethnic Discrimination:** Hazara, Tajik, and Shia women face disproportionate harassment, arrests, and denial of aid.
- **Urban vs. Rural:** Urban women may find limited workarounds or underground schools; rural women face near-total restrictions.
- **Media Visibility:** In provinces without internet access and media, abuses happen with complete impunity.

"In remote provinces, they act without fear. There's no internet, no media, no eyes watching."

– Activist

Patterns of abuse indicate targeted repression based not only on gender but also on ethnicity, religion, and geography, a multi-layered form of persecution that leaves the most marginalized women in the most danger.

Demands to the International Community

Your Silence is Their Strength

The women whose testimonies fill these pages cannot lobby governments or speak openly without risking their lives. Their demands, conveyed through activists and allies, are clear:

- **No Recognition and Normalization of the Taliban Regime:** Governments and international bodies must withhold recognition of the Taliban regime until all decrees violating women's rights are revoked. Diplomatic recognition, participation in the UN, or seating in regional bodies would legitimize a system of gender apartheid. States should adopt a unified, binding stance that prevents normalization, avoiding the mistakes of the recent Doha process, where Taliban demands dictated the exclusion of women. Recognition under such conditions entrenches oppression and undermines international human rights norms.
- **International Legal Mechanisms for Accountability:** Support international legal mechanisms, including the ICC's recent arrest warrants for Taliban leaders, and ICJ avenues, to hold perpetrators accountable for crimes against humanity and systematic gender persecution.

- **Fund and Sustain Women-Led Resistance and Survival Networks:** Donors must redirect humanitarian and development funding away from Taliban-controlled ministries and toward independent Afghan women-led organizations. These include underground schools, safe houses, health initiatives, and women's media and advocacy networks — the last line of defense for girls' education and survival. Secure, discreet funding channels must be created to bypass Taliban oversight, with built-in protections for women activists at risk. Sustained, long-term investment in these networks is essential to preserving a foundation for Afghan women's future.
- **Ensure Inclusive and Representative Peace Processes:** Key forums and processes about the future of Afghanistan, including the Doha process, must guarantee meaningful participation of women, minorities (Hazara, Tajik, Shia, Sikh), youth, and civil society leaders. International mediators should ensure broad representation and embed gender equality as a non-negotiable principle of any political settlement. A durable peace in Afghanistan is impossible if half the population — and entire marginalized communities — are silenced. The reality of Afghanistan extends far beyond the Taliban: the women, young generation, and diverse communities that the Taliban's all-male, majority Pashtun cabinet does not represent hold the values, voices, and aspirations of the nation.

"We are only breathing. That is not the same as living."

– Former university lecturer

Annex

Taliban-Imposed Edicts through 12/31/2024

08/13/2021

The Taliban Cultural Commission ordered imams and mullahs in captured territories to provide Taliban with list of women and girls ages 15-45 who are eligible to be wed to Taliban fighters. Back to old ways: Taliban forcing women to marry terrorists, give up their jobs, The Times of India

08/17/2021

Zabihullah Mujahid, spokesperson for the Taliban interim government, directed Afghan female journalists to remain at home until religious legal frameworks on the question of their clothing are established. Taliban Tell RSF They Will Respect Press Freedom, But How Can We Believe Them?, Reporters Without Borders (Aug. 17, 2021)

08/25/2021

Zabihullah Mujahid, Taliban spokesperson, ordered women to stay home from work. Rob Picheta and Zahid Mahmood, Taliban Tell Afghan Women to Stay Home from Work Because Soldiers Are 'Not Trained' to Respect Them, CNN (Aug. 25, 2021)

08/30/2021

Shaikh Abdulbaqi Haqqani, Acting Minister of Education, declared a ban on co-education and prohibited men from teaching girls. Srishti Goel, In Afghanistan's western Herat region last week, the Taliban ruled that girls will no longer be permitted to sit in the same classes as boys in universities, Republic (Aug. 30, 2021)

09/08/2021

Zabihullah Mujahid, Taliban spokesperson, announced a caretaker government without women. Tim Lister & Eliza Mackintosh, Taliban name ex-Guantanamo detainees and wanted man to new caretaker government, CNN (Sept. 8, 2021)

09/08/2021

Ahmadullah Wasiq, deputy head of the Taliban Cultural Commission, banned women from playing sports. Cyrielle Cabot, Sports ban, segregated education: Afghanistan women worried by first Taliban measures, France 24 (Sept. 11, 2021)

09/17/2021

The Ministry of Women's Affairs was replaced with the Ministry for the Propagation of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice. Alasdair Pal, Taliban replaces Women's Ministry with Ministry of Virtue and Vice, Reuters (Sept. 17, 2021)

09/17/2021

The Ministry of Education banned girls from secondary schools. Betsy Reed, The Guardian (Sept. 17, 2021)

09/20/2021

Zabihullah Mujahid, Taliban spokesperson, announced that professional and working women should remain at home until gender segregation can be implemented. AFP, Taliban Tells Women and Girls to Stay Home From Work and School, CBS News (Sep. 20, 2021)

09/29/2021

Bilal Karimi, deputy spokesperson for the Taliban, announced that women were banned from attending and teaching at Kabul University. Pamela Constable & Haq Nawaz Khan, Kabul University shuts down as Taliban government bans women from campus, for now, The Washington Post (Sept. 29, 2021)

09/29/2021

Zabiullah Mujahid, Taliban spokesperson, announced that women were banned from wearing colorful clothing, perfume, and high heels. Aasha Khosa, Taliban ban perfume, bright clothes for women, Awaz The Voice (Sept. 30, 2021)

11/22/2021

The Minister of Vice and Virtue banned women from appearing in television dramas and required that female journalists wear headscarves on camera. Ehsan Popalzai, Women Banned From Afghan Television Dramas Under New Taliban Media Rules, CNN (Nov. 22, 2021)

11/23/2021

The Ministry of Justice, having stormed and taken over the Afghanistan Independent Bar Association (one of the only bar associations in the world with a quota for women on all executive committees; requires also that at least one vice president be a woman), commanded that all lawyers in the country with licenses to practice from the AIBA acquire new licenses from the Ministry of Justice. Although there is no explicit prohibition on issuing female attorneys licenses to practice, as of July 2022 no female attorneys had been licensed. Farid Ershad, Afghanistan: The Afghanistan Independent Bars Association stormed by the Taliban, International Observatory of Lawyers (Nov. 23, 2021)

12/25/2021

The Ministry of Vice and Virtue banned drivers from driving women without hijab. Dipaneeta Das, Afghanistan: Taliban Ban Drivers From Playing Music In Cars, Having Women Passengers Without Hijab, Republicworld.com (Dec. 26, 2021)

12/26/2021

The Ministry of Vice and Virtue spokesperson, Sadeq Akif Muhajir, announced a ban on long-distance travel for women who were unaccompanied by male guardians (also called mahrams). No Long-Distance Travel For Women Without Male Relative: Taliban, Al Jazeera (Dec. 26, 2021)

11/2021 or 12/2021

Nov. or Dec. 2021 (precise date uncertain): The Ministry of Vice and Virtue banned women from entering health centers without a mahram. Zahra Nader & Nargis Amini, The Taliban Are Harming Afghan Women's Health, Foreign Policy (Mar. 2, 2022)

2022

01/07/2022

Sardar Mohammad Heydari, head of the local branch of the Ministry of Vice and Virtue in Balkh Province, banned women from using bathhouses. Stephanie Glinkski, Taliban Stop Afghan Women From Using Bathhouses in Northern Provinces, The Guardian (Jan. 7, 2022)

01/07/2022

The local branch of the Ministry of Vice and Virtue in Herat Province, headed by Sheikh Aziz Ur Rahman Al-Mohajer, ordered coffee shop owners not to serve unaccompanied women. Taliban Ban Women From Coffee Shops, Gulf Today

02/02/2022

Akif Muhajir, spokesperson for the Ministry of Vice and Virtue, announced a ban on female government employees entering government offices without hijab. Female Government Employees Aren't Allowed to Go to Work Without Hijab, Rukhshana Media (Feb. 21, 2022)

03/13/2022

Supreme Leader Hibatullah Akhundzada announced that gender segregation of workplaces must be enforced. Letter From the Ministry of Welfare to the Ministry of Health of the Taliban: Women's Offices Should Be Separated From Men's, Radio Azadi (Feb. 28, 2022)

03/24/2022

Waheedullah Hashimi, Taliban spokesperson, announced schools for girls grades 7 and up would remain closed. Masoud Popalzai & Alex Stambaugh, Taliban postpones return to school for Afghan girls above 6th grade, CNN (Mar. 24, 2022)

03/26/2022

The Ministry of Vice and Virtue dictated different days for men and women to visit parks in Kabul. Zuhail Ahad & Ruchi Kumar, Shrinking public space for Afghan women as Taliban expands curbs, Al Jazeera (Apr. 6, 2022)

03/27/2022

The Ministry of Vice and Virtue banned women from traveling abroad without a mahram and without a legitimate reason. Kathy Gannon, Officials: Taliban blocked unaccompanied women from flights, The Associated Press (Mar. 26, 2022)

04/29/2022

Shaikh Abdulbaqi Haqqani, Acting Minister of Education, announced that universities were to offer three days of classes a week for female students and three days for male students in order to ensure gender segregation. Shadi Khan Saif, Taliban splits university week for gender separation, University World News (Apr. 29, 2022)

05/05/2022

Drivers' licenses stopped being issued to women. This appears to have been instituted only at the local level; it was announced publicly by Herat's Traffic Management Institute, but no issuer of the broader announcement has been identified. Sravasti Dasgupta, Taliban regime stops issuing driving licences to women, reports say, The Independent (May 5, 2022)

05/07/2022

Akif Muhajir, spokesperson for the Ministry of Vice and Virtue, issued a recommendation and implementation plan regarding proper hijab practices, stating that the best hijab is for women to wear a burqa or stay home. Margherita Stancati, Taliban Orders Women to Cover Their Faces: Women have also been told to avoid going out in public, The Wall Street Journal (May 7, 2022)

05/07/2022

The Ministry of Vice and Virtue banned women from using public transit without a mahram. Afghanistan: Taliban orders women to stay home; cover up in public, UN News (May 7, 2022)

05/13/2022

Riazullah Seerat, a Ministry of Vice and Virtue official, instructed restaurant owners to segregate male and female diners in Herat Province. "Even if Husband-Wife": Taliban's Restaurant Gender Segregation Plan, NDTV: World News (May 14, 2022)

05/13/2022

Riazullah Seerat, a Ministry of Vice and Virtue official, ordered women and men to go to parks in Herat on different days of the week. Maya Oppenheim, Taliban bans men and women eating together in restaurants in Afghan city of Herat, The Independent (May 13, 2022)

05/19/2022

Sheikh Muhammad Khalid, Minister of Vice and Virtue, ordered female TV presenters on air to cover their faces. Simon Fraser, Afghanistan's female TV presenters must cover their faces, say Taliban, BBC (May 19, 2022)

06/01/2022

Mohammad Abed Abed, official in the local branch of the Ministry of Education in Ghazni Province, ordered female students in grades 4-6 in Ghazni Province to cover their faces while commuting to school, or else face expulsion. Taliban in Ghazni: Female Students from 4th Grade to 6th Must Cover Their Faces, Afghan Online Press (June 1, 2022)

06/02/2022

The local branch of the Ministry of Vice and Virtue in Kandahar banned women and girls from accessing music and movies at computer stores in Kandahar unless accompanied by a male relative. Taliban order Kandahar DJs not to transfer music and movies into women's phones and computers, if they visit their shops alone, Rukhshana Media (June 3, 2022)

06/09/2022

The local branch of the Ministry of Vice and Virtue in Kandahar Province banned women from taking taxis and rickshaws alone within the province. Kandahar women banned from traveling alone in taxis, Pajhwok Afghan News (May 31, 2022)

06/16/2022

Women were prohibited from suing their husbands in Herat Province. "Women Have No Right to Sue Men", Says Taliban in Herat, Hasht-e Subh Daily (June 16, 2022)

06/22/2022

Taliban authorities in Police District 8 of Herat prevented women from attending Friday prayer in the mosque, on the pretext that it was illegal for women to pray outside the home. Taliban in Herat: Women Not Allowed to Participate in Friday Prayers and File a Complaint Against Their Husbands with the Court, Jade Abresham Daily (June 22, 2022)

07/11/2022

Ten percent of female survivors of a massacre in Balkhab were ordered to marry Taliban fighters, One Girl Out of Ten Is Forced to Marry A Taliban Fighter in Balkhab, Nimrokh Media (Ali Rezaei trans., July 11, 2022)

07/18/2022

Qari Din Mohammad Hanif, Minister of Finance, directed women employees of the Ministry of Finance to send male relatives to take their jobs in their stead. Cami Mondeaux, Man's Work: Taliban Direct Women to Send Male Relatives to Take Their Jobs, Washington Examiner (July 18, 2022)

07/21/2022

Male and female employees of the Directorate of Public Health were banned from interacting with each other. Taliban in Ghazni: Male and Female Health Workers Do Not Have the Right to Speak to Each Other, Hasht-e Subh Daily (July 21, 2022)

08/10/2022

Female flight attendants were removed from their jobs. Female Flight Attendants of State-Run Ariana Airlines Told to Stay at Home, Afghanistan International (Aug. 10, 2022)

08/23/2022

Mohammad Sadiq Akif, spokesperson for the Ministry of Vice and Virtue, established the female moral police department. The Taliban Establishes Female Moral Police Department, Nimrokh Media (Aug. 23, 2022)

08/29/2022

Jawzjan University authorities ordered female Jawzjan University students to cover their faces in classrooms. Jawzjan University officials: Female students must cover their faces on campus, Rukhshana Media (Aug. 29, 2022)

09/11/2022

Secondary and high schools for girls that had briefly opened in Paktia Province were closed. Taliban close girls' schools in east Afghanistan after they had briefly opened, ABC News (Sept. 11, 2022)

09/26/2022

Sheikh Muhammad Khalid, Minister of Vice and Virtue, ordered media outlets to ensure female TV guests cover their faces. Taliban Whips Out New Mandatory Mask Rule For Female Guests on TV, Afghanistan International (Sept. 26, 2022)

10/06/2022

Local authorities expelled hundreds of female students in Kandahar Province based on the verbal instruction of Taliban educational authorities. Taliban Inspects Girls' Schools, Expels Hundred of Pubescent Students, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (Oct. 6, 2022)

10/07/2022

The Ministry of Higher Education blocked women from choosing agriculture, mining, civil engineering, veterinary medicine and journalism as their university majors because these subjects were alleged to be too difficult for women. Ahmad Mukhtar, Taliban blocks women from college entrance exams in subject deemed "too difficult", CBS News (Oct. 14, 2022)

10/28/2022

Mahajar Farahi, Deputy Minister of Information and Culture, removed the women's seat from the Commission of Media Violations. Mursaleen Muwahed, Women Have No Seat on Media Violations Commission, Tolo News (Oct. 28, 2022)

11/06/2022

Ministry of Vice and Virtue ordered that women could not patronize public baths in Badghis Province. Taliban Closes Public Baths for Women in Badghis Province, Hasht-e Subh Daily (Nov. 6, 2022)

11/10/2022

Akef Mohajer, spokesperson for the Ministry of Vice and Virtue, announced that women and girls were banned from parks and gyms. Associated Press, Taliban ban women from parks and gyms in Afghanistan, NBC News (Nov. 10, 2022)

11/10/2022

Female dressmakers were banned from work, and male tailors were banned from sewing women's clothes or taking measurements of women's bodies. Taliban Orders Male Tailors to Stop Making Women's Clothing, Amu TV (Nov. 10, 2022)

11/14/2022

Supreme Leader Hibatullah Akhundzada and spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid announced the reinstatement of Hudud and Qisas punishments in cases such as robbery, kidnapping and sedition. Afghanistan: Taliban leader orders Sharia law punishments, BBC (Nov. 14, 2022)

12/20/2022

Neda Mohammad Nadim, Minister of Higher Education, banned female students from public and private universities until further notice. Taliban says women banned from universities in Afghanistan, Al Jazeera (Dec. 20, 2022)

12/22/2022

Diaa Hadid, Taliban Expels Female Teachers From Some Schools. So Who Will Teach the Girls?, NPR (Dec. 22, 2022)

12/22/2022

Shaikh Abdulbaqi Haqqani, Acting Minister of Education, banned girls beyond grade six from attending private courses. Breshna Nazari, Taliban's new ruling: Educational courses for girls above the sixth grade were banned, Da Azadi Radio (Dec. 22, 2022)

12/24/2022

Qari Din Mohammad Hanif, Minister of Finance, and Zabihullah Mujahid, Taliban spokesperson, announced a ban on female staff working for international NGOs. Ayaz Gul, Taliban Hold Firm to Ban on Afghan Female Aid Workers, Voice of America (Dec. 30, 2022)

12/27/2022

Women-run bakeries were banned in Kabul. Taliban Edicts Against Afghan Women and Girls, Feminist Majority Foundation.

2023

01/02/2023

Gender segregation was imposed in at least two banks in western Herat Province. Herat Women Complain About Gender Segregation in Banks, Rukhshana Media (Jan. 2, 2023)

01/03/2023

Blind girls' schools were closed in Jalalabad, Nangarhar Province's capital, and Asadabad, Kunar Province's capital. Taliban close schools for blind girls and women in Kunar and Nangarhar provincial capitals: Local sources, Afghanistan International (Jan. 3, 2023)

01/11/2023

The local branch of the Ministry of Vice and Virtue to Herat Province banned women from visiting historic places in Herat. Belquis Ahmadi and Scott Worden, Two Years of the Taliban's 'Gender Apartheid' in Afghanistan, United States Institute of Peace (Sep. 14, 2023)

01/16/2023

Taliban Command in Herat instructed travel agencies in Herat not to sell tickets to women without a mahram. Taliban order tourism companies in Herat: Don't sell tickets to women without a male relative, Afghanistan International (Jan. 16, 2023)

01/21/2023

The Ministry of Higher Education ordered that female students be excluded from university entrance exams

01/25/2023

Female lecturers at Kabul University were instructed to sign their timesheets on the last Thursday of the month in a designated location at the north entrance of campus. Belquis Ahmadi and Scott Worden, Two Years of the Taliban's 'Gender Apartheid' in Afghanistan, United States Institute of Peace (Sep. 14, 2023)

02/01/2023

The Ministry of Vice and Virtue announced, as relayed by Kandahar's Public Health Directorate, that all female health workers must be accompanied by a male guardian. Taliban to Female Health Workers in Kandahar: Do Not Go Out to Work Without Muharram, Hasht-e Subh Daily (Feb. 1, 2023)

02/01/2023

Mawlawi Mohammad Qasim Haqqani, head of the Guidance Department, instructed female staff of hospitals in Kabul to wear black hijab (Arabic long gown) and mask at all times. Taliban to Female Employees in Kabul Hospitals: Wear Full Black Hijab, Rukhshana Media (Jan. 31, 2023)

02/09/2023

Sales of contraceptives were banned in Kabul and Balkh Provinces, Taliban ban sale of medicine and contraceptives, Rukhshana Media (Feb. 9, 2023)

02/18/2023

The Medical Council and Examinations Directorate held exit exams for medical students at public and private universities without female students' participation. The Medical Council exam was held without the presence of girls, 8 a.m Media (Feb. 18, 2023)

02/22/2023

Officials from the Ministry of Vice and Virtue announced the closure of four health centers run by female doctors. Taliban Imposes Restrictions on Activities of Female Dentists in Ghazni; Four Health Centers Closed, Hasht-e Subh Daily, (Feb. 22, 2023)

03/04/2023

The Taliban invalidated thousands of divorce cases that were decided during the Afghan republic. Susannah George, Afghan Women Who Were Divorced Under Prior Government Fear for Their Status, Washington Post (Mar. 7, 2023)

03/06/2023

The Ministry of Higher Education instructed institutes of higher learning to only admit male students in the forthcoming academic year. The start of the new academic year in cold regions for boys was announced on March 5, 8 a.m Media (Mar. 31, 2023)

03/10/2023

Zabihullah Mujahid, Taliban spokesperson, ordered that visits to shrines in Herat be segregated by gender, with women only permitted to go two days a week (and men permitted to go the other five). Taliban in Herat Gender Segregate Shrines, Rukhshana Media (Mar. 9, 2023)

03/12/2023

The Taliban banned the issuance of transcripts and certificates for female university graduates. Belquis Ahmadi and Scott Worden, Two Years of the Taliban's 'Gender Apartheid' in Afghanistan, United States Institute of Peace (Sep. 14, 2023)

03/13/2023

The Small Business Council in Parwan issued a circular to its members who operate beauty salons and instructed them that, pursuant to orders from the local branch of the Ministry of Vice and Virtue, their clients would be required to "take an ablution" before services are initiated.

03/15/2023

Taliban Command in Takhar Province ordered restaurants in Takhar not to serve women unaccompanied by a mahram. Taliban in Takhar: Don't let lone women into restaurants to serve food, Rukhshana Media (Mar. 15, 2023)

03/25/2023

Banks in Balkh Province were ordered to segregate branches by gender, with women having to wait in long lines to reach the tellers. This was possibly only a temporary measure during the month of Ramadan. Taliban Regulates Banks in Balkh Province Based on Gender Segregation, Rukhshana Media (Mar. 25, 2023)

03/25/2023

Supreme Leader Hibatullah Akhundzada changed the Attorney General's Office to the "General Directorate for Monitoring and Follow-Up of Decrees and Directives." Belquis Ahmadi & Scott Worden, Two Years of the Taliban's 'Gender Apartheid' in Afghanistan, United States Institute of Peace (Sept. 14, 2023)

04/04/2023

Female Afghan staff of the United Nations were prevented from reporting to work, while NGOs were ordered to replace board members and those in leadership positions with Afghans living inside Afghanistan. Julia Ingram, Humanitarian Needs in Afghanistan Deepen as Taliban Continues Ban on Women Working for NGOS, UN, PBS News (Apr. 25, 2023)

04/05/2023

The Herat branch of the Ministry of Vice and Virtue banned women from going to restaurants in Herat. Taliban ban women in restaurants in Herat City, Etilaatroz (Apr. 5, 2023)

04/13/2023

A segregated curriculum was proposed for girls above grade four. Belquis Ahmadi and Scott Worden, Two Years of the Taliban's 'Gender Apartheid' in Afghanistan, United States Institute of Peace (Sep. 14, 2023)

05/04/2023

Mawlawi Abdulhai Omar, head of the Ministry of Vice and Virtue's local branch in Kandahar Province, ordered all of Kandahar's provincial departments to ban girls and women from going to health centers and cemeteries. Kandahar Taliban forbid women from visiting health clinics and graveyards, Rukhshana Media (May 4, 2023)

05/08/2023

Abdul Hai Omar, head of Taliban Command in Kandahar Province, banned henna ceremonies in Kandahar Taliban ban 'henna bandan' ceremony in Kandahar, Rukhshana Media (May 8, 2023)

05/11/2023

Media outlets were verbally directed not to produce content about issues regarding women's hygiene. Belquis Ahmadi and Scott Worden, Two Years of the Taliban's 'Gender Apartheid' in Afghanistan, United States Institute of Peace (Sep. 14, 2023)

05/14/2023

The Ministry of Public Health announced that female doctors would not be eligible to participate in its specialization exams, which permit medical school graduates to pursue further studies in their respective fields. Restrictions on Women Healthcare Workers: Access to Healthcare Services for Women on the Verge of Collapse, Hasht-e Subh Daily (May 17, 2023)

06/08/2023

A senior education official in Kabul banned foreign NGOs from providing education programs, including Community-Based Education. Taliban Orders International Organizations to Stop all Education Programs in Afghanistan, Feminist Majority Foundation (June 9, 2023)

06/15/2023

Local government in Herat Province banned women without hijab from wedding venues in the province. Taliban in Herat: Groom banned from entering women's wedding halls, Rukhshana Media (June 15, 2023)

06/17/2023

Women were banned from participating in radio and TV shows alongside male presenters. Female Journalists in Balkh: Taliban's Restrictions Have Put Our Job Safety at Risk, Rukhshana Media (June 17, 2023)

06/18/2023

Ministry of Higher Education allowed only graduating female students at private universities to defend their theses and attend exams online. All other female university students have had their education suspended until further notice.

06/18/2023

Taliban Command in Herat Province required that women in the province perform an ablution before applying makeup. Taliban in Herat: Women and girls must perform ablution before wearing make-up, Rukhshana Media (June 18, 2023)

06/24/2023

The Minister of Vice and Virtue, Sheikh Muhammad Khalid, announced a ban on all female-run beauty salons in Afghanistan per a decree that had been issued by Hibatullah Akhundzada. Ayaz Gul, Taliban Ban Women's Beauty Salons in Afghanistan, Voice of America (July 4, 2023)

07/23/2023

The local branch of the Ministry of Information and Culture in Helmand Province banned television and radio stations from airing female voices in the province. Taliban Bans Female Voices on TV and Radio Channels in Helmand Province, Kabul Now (Aug. 14, 2023)

08/06/2023

The local branch of the Ministry of Education in Ghazni Province banned girls over the age of 10 in the province from attending school. Taliban imposes education restrictions for girls over 10 in several provinces, Kabul Now (Aug. 5, 2023)

08/12/2023

Women were banned from selling art at Kabul galleries. Hamid Fahim, Afghan Girl's Painting Exhibition in Kabul, Afghanistan International (Aug. 12, 2023)

08/26/2023

Hibatullah Akhundzada, the Supreme Leader, banned women from Band-e Amir National Park. Somayeh Mandegar, Why were women banned from traveling to the Amir Dam of Afghanistan National Park?, Rukhshana Media (Aug. 30, 2023)

09/2023

The governor of Uruzgan banned women in Uruzgan from performing remote work for NGOs. Belquis Ahmadi and Scott Worden, Two Years of the Taliban's 'Gender Apartheid' in Afghanistan, United States Institute of Peace (Sep. 14, 2023)

09/2023

The local branch of the Ministry of Information and Culture in Helmand and Maulvi Abdul Ahad Talib, Helmand's former governor, warned women in Helmand not to use social media platforms such as Facebook, TikTok, and Twitter/X. Belquis Ahmadi & Scott Worden, Two Years of the Taliban's 'Gender Apartheid' in Afghanistan, United States Institute of Peace (Sept. 14, 2023)

09/14/2023

The local branch of the Ministry of Vice and Virtue in Bamiyan Province banned sales of short dresses to women in the province. Taliban to Bamiyan sellers: Don't bring women's short and tight clothes into the market, Rukhshana Media (Sept. 14, 2023)

10/20/2023

The Ministry of Finance issued instructions to NGOs in Kabul not to permit women to hold the title of director. Belquis Ahmadi and Scott Worden, Two Years of the Taliban's 'Gender Apartheid' in Afghanistan, United States Institute of Peace (Sep. 14, 2023)

10/22/2023

Religious police in Kandahar instructed elementary schools and women's madrasas in Kandahar via letter that the only acceptable form of hijab going forward is the burqa. Belquis Ahmadi & Scott Worden, Two Years of the Taliban's 'Gender Apartheid' in Afghanistan, United States Institute of Peace (Sept. 14, 2023)

10/25/2023

Women were banned from working with videography/photography companies at weddings in Faryab. Belquis Ahmadi and Scott Worden, Two Years of the Taliban's 'Gender Apartheid' in Afghanistan, United States Institute of Peace (Sep. 14, 2023)

11/11/2023

The Ministry of Public Health informed the Ministry of Economy that women's health centers (among other programs) would be prohibited if they were not government-run centers operated by NGOs. Belquis Ahmadi and Scott Worden, Two Years of the Taliban's 'Gender Apartheid' in Afghanistan, United States Institute of Peace (Sep. 14, 2023)

11/22/2023

The religious police in Herat Province banned all sewing of women's clothes in the province. Taliban Shut Down Women's Tailors in Herat, Rukhshana Media (Nov. 22, 2023)

12/05/2023

Religious police suspended nursing and midwifery education for female students in Kandahar Province. Belquis Ahmadi and Scott Worden, Two Years of the Taliban's 'Gender Apartheid' in Afghanistan, United States Institute of Peace (Sep. 14, 2023)

2024

01/01/2024

The National Examination Authority announced that female students who did not observe Taliban-prescribed hijab would not be allowed to attend exams, one of which was happening for the Ministry of Public Health that same day. Taliban: Women who do not observe the "hijab" will not be biometric in health positions, Rukhshana Media (Jan. 1, 2024)

01/2024

In Farah Province, Governor Noor Mohammad Rohani issued a verbal order making black hijab, face mask and gloves mandatory. Source: contacts on the ground. Belquis Ahmadi and Scott Worden, Two Years of the Taliban's 'Gender Apartheid' in Afghanistan, United States Institute of Peace (Sep. 14, 2023)

01/2024

In Logar Province, the religious police announced over loudspeakers in mosques and public spaces that women and girls may not wear white pants and shoes outdoors, and that those who disregard the order have no right to complain about the consequences. Belquis Ahmadi and Scott Worden, Two Years of the Taliban's 'Gender Apartheid' in Afghanistan, United States Institute of Peace (Sep. 14, 2023)

01/2024

In Nangarhar Province, the Ministry of Vice and Virtue prohibited traditional singing, dancing, and clapping during wedding processions. Both women and their mahrams will face punishment if found engaging in such activities. Belquis Ahmadi and Scott Worden, Two Years of the Taliban's 'Gender Apartheid' in Afghanistan, United States Institute of Peace (Sep. 14, 2023)

02/14/2024

Mullah Abdul Haq Waseeq, head of the General Directorate of Intelligence, directed General Directorate of Intelligence units to prevent organizations from taking photos of men and women together during meetings or the distribution of aid. Belquis Ahmadi and Scott Worden, Two Years of the Taliban's 'Gender Apartheid' in Afghanistan, United States Institute of Peace (Sep. 14, 2023)

02/22/2024

The local branch of the Ministry of Education in Kabul Province forced private educational centers in Kabul to sign commitment letters stating that they would not accept girls as students beyond the sixth grade. Moqim Mehran, Taliban Tightens Educational Restrictions on Girls: Educational Centers Forced to Sign Commitment Letters, Hasht-e-Subh Daily (Apr. 22, 2024)

02/25/2024

Abdul Rasheed Omari, the security commander in Khost Province, banned girls from calling into media outlets in the province. Taliban Bans Girls' Phone Calls to Media Outlets in Khost Province, Afghanistan journalists center (Feb. 25, 2024)

02/28/2024

Acting Minister of Vice and Virtue Mohammad Khaled Hanafi and Abdul Ghaffar Farooq, Ministry spokesperson, announced that women on television must wear black hijabs and cover their faces such that only their eyes remain visible. Taliban Official Warns of Potential Ban on Women's Work in Media if Appearance Guidelines Not Met, Afghanistan Journalists Center (Feb. 28, 2024)

03/19/2024

Women were banned from working at carpet-weaving factories in Nangarhar Province. Taliban Bans Women Working in Nangarhar Carpet Weaving Factories Over Claims of Inappropriate Hijabs, Rukhshana Media (Mar. 19, 2024)

03/22/2024

Saleswomen were banned from selling their wares on the street in Jalalabad, Nangarhar Province. Women in Nangarhar banned by local Taliban from selling bangles in street stalls, Rukhshana Media (Mar. 22, 2024)

03/25/2024

Supreme Leader Hibatullah Akhundzada reinstated death by public stoning as a punishment for women accused of adultery. Akhtar Makoi, Taliban leader says women will be stoned to death in public, The Telegraph (Mar. 25, 2024)

04/2024

All employed women were required to obtain a work permit from the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs. Belquis Ahmadi and Scott Worden, Two Years of the Taliban's 'Gender Apartheid' in Afghanistan, United States Institute of Peace (Sep. 14, 2023)

04/07/2024

Women were banned from cohosting shows with male journalists, while reporting on women's rights and violence against women was prohibited. Belquis Ahmadi and Scott Worden, Two Years of the Taliban's 'Gender Apartheid' in Afghanistan, United States Institute of Peace (Sep. 14, 2023)

04/22/2024

Radio stations were prohibited from broadcasting women's voices in Khost, Logar, Helmand, and Paktia Provinces. Inter Press Service, Afghan Women's Voices Stifled as Taliban Tightens Media Controls, Global Issues (Apr. 22, 2024)

04/22/2024

The religious police in Herat verbally instructed restaurant owners to prohibit men and women from dining together without first showing a marriage certificate. Entering restaurants in Herat: Taliban ask clients to sign marriage certificates, Hasht-e-Subh Daily (May 26, 2024)

06/18/2024

The salaries of female government employees were cut to 5,000 afghanis (approximately \$70 USD), regardless of job, qualifications, or experience. Abubakar Siddique, 'Systematic Discrimination': Taliban's Drastic Cut In Salaries Of Female State Employees Triggers Anger, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (June 18, 2024)

06/30/2024

The Ministry of Education suspended pay for all female employees

07/05/2024

The local branch of the Ministry of Vice and Virtue in Daykundi Province mandated that women and girls wear Arabic-style Islamic hijabs outside their homes. Besmellah Zahidi, Taliban Mandates Arabic Style Hijab in Daykundi Province, KabulNow (July 5, 2024)

07/17/2024

The Ministry of Vice and Virtue banned women and girls from parks—including Khwaja Ghar, Dara-e Shakh and Dara-e Rang—in the Garziwan district of Faryab Province. Taliban bans women from recreational areas in Faryab

07/23/2024

The Taliban mandated that female students wear the "chadur namaaz," full body cover. Girls Banned from Entering Educational Centers in Herat Without Prayer Tents, Rukhshana Media (July 24, 2024)

08/21/2024

Supreme Leader Mullah Hibatullah Akhundzada issued a new law laying out a wide-ranging series of rules and enforcement mechanisms. In particular, women are prohibited from leaving the home without veiling in loose-fitting clothing, covering their face, driving in cars while either unveiled or unaccompanied by a mahram, and either mingling with or speaking in front of unrelated men. John Butt, The Propagation of Virtue and Prevention of Vice Law, translated into English, Afghanistan Analysts Network

08/24/2024

The Ministry of Information and Culture issued a warning to radio stations in Khost and Paktia that they are prohibited from broadcasting educational programming for students beyond the sixth grade, which had gained in popularity among female students whose education has been suspended since the Taliban's return to power. Khost Taliban 'stop' broadcast of education above sixth grade in local media, Afghanistan International (Aug. 26, 2024)

09/14/2024

The Ministry of Vice and Virtue has instructed imams at select mosques in Kandahar Province to urge their communities to prevent women from using smartphones. Belquis Ahmadi and Scott Worden, Two Years of the Taliban's 'Gender Apartheid' in Afghanistan, United States Institute of Peace (Sep. 14, 2023)

09/19/2024

The local branch of the Ministry of Vice and Virtue in Balkh reissued an order prohibiting women from entering parks. Belquis Ahmadi and Scott Worden, Two Years of the Taliban's 'Gender Apartheid' in Afghanistan, United States Institute of Peace (Sep. 14, 2023)

28/11/2024

November. 28, 2024: The Taliban in Bamyan province shut down girls' educational classes that were supported by UNICEF, effectively barring young females from accessing these community-based learning opportunities

03/12/2024

December. 3, 2024The Taliban shut down all medical training programs for women including nursing, midwifery, dentistry, and lab sciences revoking a previous exemption that had allowed female trainees

29/12/2024

Hibatullah Akhundzada the Taliban's supreme leader issued a decree banning the construction (and mandating the blocking) of windows in homes that overlook areas typically used by women like courtyards, kitchens, and wells with the aim of preventing women from being seen from neighboring homes.

30/12/2024

The Taliban intensified enforcement of rules banning Afghan women from working with local and international NGOs, announcing that noncompliant organizations risk having their licenses revoked or operations shut down.

2025

22/07/2025

Taliban impose 'mahram card' requirement for female employees in Kandahar

<https://amu.tv/187800/>

16/09/2025

The Taliban's Dar al-Ifta has decreed that women's photos on national ID cards are optional inside Afghanistan. For women abroad or seeking medical care overseas, photos are still required.

Status on ordinary passports remains unclear; some media outlets claim women are being issued passports without photos, but strong documentary evidence of a formal ban is not yet available.

[Photos Of Women On Afghan ID Cards Optional, Says Taliban | Afghanistan International](#)

19/09/2025

The Taliban completely shut down fiber-optic internet services (Wi-Fi / cable internet) across Balkh Province, citing the need to "prevent immorality."

The order reportedly came from Taliban supreme leader Hibatullah Akhundzada.

While mobile internet remains functional, the ban has severely impacted homes, businesses, universities, and public institutions.

This shutdown disproportionately affects women and girls, cutting off access to online schools, remote work opportunities, and vital information sources at a time when most in-person education for women is already banned.

[Taliban leader restricts internet access in an Afghan province to 'prevent immorality' | Euronews](#)

19/09/2025

Taliban ban books written by women from Afghanistan educational curriculum.

[Afghanistan bans female authors from university curricula](#)



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