



GFA Statement on Recognizing Gender Apartheid as a Crime Under International Law

Global Friends of Afghanistan stands in solidarity with the global movement now advocating for the recognition of gender apartheid as a crime against humanity, under international law. We join the call to address the institutionalized and systematic oppression faced by women, girls, and LGBTQI individuals around the world, particularly in Afghanistan. The call to recognize gender apartheid under international law is crucial in bridging a significant gap in our global legal framework. It demands that states acknowledge and prosecute crimes that target individuals solely on the basis of their gender, ensuring accountability for those responsible.

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan, in his most recent report, has said that the "pattern of large-scale systematic violations of women's and girls' fundamental rights in Afghanistan, abetted by the Taliban's discriminatory and misogynist policies and harsh enforcement methods, constituted gender persecution and an institutionalized framework of gender apartheid." We must all take steps to confront and eradicate systemic discrimination and violence based on gender. This form of oppression denies individuals their dignity, freedom, and basic human rights, perpetuating cycles of injustice across generations.

As Global Friends of Afghanistan, we affirm our commitment to supporting efforts that seek justice for victims and survivors of gender apartheid. We urge all nations to heed this call, to uphold the rights and equality of all individuals regardless of gender, and to work collectively towards a world where such institutionalized oppression has no place. Now is the time for decisive action. We call upon the international community, including UN Member States, to endorse the legal recognition of gender apartheid and to advance initiatives that promote gender justice and equality worldwide. We let down the people of Afghanistan by making deals with terrorists and extremists. The codification of gender apartheid into international law will help to alleviate some of the pain they are enduring. We owe it to them; we owe it to humanity too. We failed the people of Afghanistan by negotiating with terrorists and extremists. To ease their suffering, we must codify gender apartheid in international law. This is our duty to them and all of humanity.