



# UN WOMEN

***Topic A “Taliban Prohibited Books Written by Women in Universities, as well as it Outlaws the Teaching of Human Rights and Sexual Harassment.”***



# Welcoming letter

Dear delegates,

We are delighted to welcome you to the UN WOMEN committee for the XII edition of CFMUN. This experience will challenge your perspectives, your knowledge, and your ability to defend the voices of women and girls who are often silenced. We encourage each of you to participate confidently, understanding that your words have power and that your ideas can inspire meaningful change.

Throughout these debates, you will have the opportunity to share your strengths, learn from each other, and engage in discussions that may shift the way you see global issues. Every delegate in this room has the potential to make a difference, and we trust that you will approach each debate with respect, integrity, and commitment.

Delegates, do not hesitate to raise your voice—being heard starts with believing in yourself.



Take every opportunity to challenge assumptions, propose solutions, and grow from the experience. Enjoy every moment, because these days will leave a mark.

Kind regards,  
Paulina Albrand and Begoña Chaos

# Table of contents

- I. Committee Background**
- II. Introduction to the Topic**
- III. Evolution of the Topic**
- IV. Relevant Events**
  - A. Panorama**
  - B. Points of View**
- V. UN and External Actions**
- VI. Conclusion**
- VII. Committee Focus**
- VIII. Participation List**
- IX. References**

# I. Committee Background

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN WOMEN) was established in 2010 by the UN General Assembly to accelerate progress in achieving gender equality worldwide. The entity works with governments, civil society, and international organizations to create policies, programs, and standards that promote women's rights, eliminate discrimination, and protect women and girls from violence.

UN WOMEN supports countries in fostering political participation, educational access, leadership opportunities, and economic empowerment. It plays a critical role in humanitarian settings, protecting women's rights in crises, conflicts, and environments where institutions restrict freedom. The committee operates under the principles of human rights, non-discrimination, and equality, with the goal of ensuring that women worldwide have the opportunities and protection they deserve.

## II. Introduction to the Topic

The Taliban's return to power marked a sharp reversal of two decades of progress in women's education. Women are now banned from producing academic work at universities, and professors face penalties for teaching human rights or sexual harassment. These restrictions isolate women intellectually and limit their ability to understand or defend their own rights (UNESCO, 2022).

The ban reflects the Taliban's ideological approach: human rights education is framed as a foreign threat, and women's participation in public knowledge production is seen as unacceptable. The prohibition removes critical discussions on equality, violence, and legal protection from the classroom.

Before 2021, women played an active role in Afghan higher education. More than 70,000 women were enrolled in universities, and women served as professors and researchers (UNESCO, 2021).

Today, this progress has been dismantled, with serious social consequences. Without access to education, women have fewer economic opportunities and limited tools to challenge discrimination, forced marriage, or sexual abuse.

International bodies, including UN Women and UNAMA, have condemned these policies as a form of gender-based apartheid. However, the Taliban continues to control institutions and enforce the bans, leaving Afghan women with almost no legal protection (UNAMA, 2023).

The issue is urgent because it attacks both education and expression. Eliminating women's writing and removing human rights knowledge threaten long-term social development. Delegates must consider how the international community can support Afghan women, protect their voices, and promote solutions that respect cultural contexts while defending universal rights.

### III. Evolution of the Topic

The situation of women's education in Afghanistan has shifted dramatically throughout the country's recent history. During the Taliban's first period of control from 1996 to 2001, women and girls were fully banned from formal education, and female authors faced strict censorship. After the fall of the regime in 2001, international support helped reopen schools and universities, allowing millions of girls to study again. By 2020, Afghan women were participating in higher education, publishing research, teaching at universities, and contributing to literature and journalism (UNESCO, 2021).

This progress collapsed when the Taliban regained power in August 2021. At first, the group announced temporary restrictions, claiming that conditions were "not adequate" for women's attendance. Over time, these measures expanded into full bans. Girls were excluded from secondary schools, women were removed from universities,

and female academics were dismissed. By 2022, the Taliban formalized the prohibition of women's written books in universities and eliminated the teaching of human rights, gender studies, and sexual harassment (UN Women, 2023).

The evolution of this topic shows a clear pattern: the Taliban have moved from limiting women's access to education to controlling the content of knowledge itself. The removal of human rights education and the ban on women's writing seeks to silence women's voices, restrict critical thinking, and reshape Afghan society by eliminating perspectives that challenge inequality. These actions have long-term consequences, affecting not only individual women but the country's cultural, academic, and social development.

## IV. Relevant Events

### A. Panorama

Currently, Afghanistan is considered one of the most restrictive countries for women. The ban on women's education affects millions and has eliminated opportunities for learning, employment, artistic expression, and professional development. The outlawing of human rights and sexual harassment education removes essential protections for women, limiting their ability to understand or defend their rights.

These policies have generated international concern, as they violate global human rights treaties and worsen the humanitarian crisis. Afghanistan faces increasing poverty, limited economic development, and profound social inequality as a result of the exclusion of half of its population from academic and public life.

## **B. Points of view**

### Taliban Government:

Claims the restrictions are aligned with their interpretation of religious and cultural norms, arguing that limiting women's education preserves societal morality. They deny the violations of human rights and reject international pressure, framing it as external interference.

### International Community:

Countries such as France, Canada, and the United States strongly condemn the bans, calling them violations of fundamental rights. They advocate for humanitarian corridors, protection initiatives, and educational programs outside Taliban-controlled institutions.

### NGOs and Human Rights Organizations:

Groups such as Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, and local Afghan organizations argue that the ban endangers women's future, promotes systemic violence, and limits the country's long-term development. They call for

alternative educational platforms and global accountability.

### Afghan Women and Activists:

Despite severe risks, many continue to resist through underground schools, digital platforms, literature, and advocacy. Their perspective emphasizes the need for safe learning spaces, international support, and global recognition of Afghan women's voices.

## V. UN and External Actions

### A. UN Actions

The United Nations has denounced the Taliban's restrictions on women's education through statements and reports from UN Women, UNAMA, and the UN Secretary-General. UN Women has documented violations and advocated for the restoration of women's access to universities, including the right to write academic work and participate in intellectual production (UN Women, 2023).

The UN Security Council has issued statements urging the Taliban to respect women's rights and reverse the bans. UNESCO has supported alternative access to knowledge through online education, scholarships, and partnerships with institutions outside Afghanistan. These efforts aim to preserve educational opportunities while formal systems remain closed.

## **B. External Actions**

International NGOs and civil society groups have developed parallel initiatives to support Afghan women despite restrictions. Organizations such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch have documented abuses and provided platforms for Afghan female writers and academics.

Several governments, including France, Canada, and Norway, have supported programs for Afghan women to continue studying abroad. Local networks have created underground learning spaces and digital literature circles to protect women's voices. These actions seek to maintain educational development while advocating for long-term solutions inside Afghanistan.

## VI. Conclusion

The ban on women's written books in universities and the prohibition on teaching human rights and sexual harassment represent a direct attack on women's rights, freedom of expression, and the future of Afghanistan's intellectual development. These actions remove women from education and silence perspectives that challenge inequality. The United Nations plays a key role in documenting violations, supporting activists, and maintaining access to knowledge through alternative platforms. The international community must continue working to restore women's rights to education and protect their voices during this period of extreme restriction.

## VII. Committee Focus

UN Women must propose solutions that are realistic and achievable for different contexts, so both developed and developing countries can reach agreements during the committee. The measures discussed should address the current restrictions on women's education in Afghanistan and support the recovery of their right to write, study, and learn about human rights.

The committee is encouraged to present short, medium, and long-term solutions, each supported with clear arguments and reasonable steps.

When considering solutions to this topic, the following points must be addressed:

- How are Afghan women and girls affected by the bans on written books and human rights education?

- What can delegations implement to support women's access to education inside or outside Afghanistan?
- How can safe alternatives be created for women to learn about their rights and report discrimination or harassment?
- What diplomatic or humanitarian tools could encourage the Taliban to reverse these restrictions?

## VIII. Participation List

- Argentine Republic
- Canada
- Federal Republic of Germany
- Federal Republic of Nigeria
- Federative Republic of Brazil
- French Republic
- Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
- Islamic Republic of Iran
- Islamic Republic of Pakistan
- Japan
- Kingdom of Norway
- Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- Kingdom of Sweden
- Kingdom of Thailand
- Kingdom of the Netherlands
- People's Republic of China
- Republic of India
- Republic of Indonesia
- Republic of Kenya
- Republic of South Korea
- Republic of South Africa

- Republic of the Philippines
- Republic of Turkey
- Russian Federation
- State of Qatar
- The Commonwealth of Australia
- United Arab Emirates
- United Kingdom
- United Mexican States
- United States of America

## IX. References

Australian Institute of International Affairs.  
(September 26th of 2025). Erasing Women's Words:  
The Taliban's Ban on Books  
<https://www.internationalaffairs.org.au/australianoutlook/erasing-womens-words-the-talibans-ban-on-books/>

BBC. (September 18th of 2025). Taliban ban books  
written by women from Afghan universities.  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c0kn7yyzrjgo>

Human Rights Watch. (2023, December 6).  
Afghanistan: Taliban's ban on women's education.  
Human Rights Watch.  
<https://www.hrw.org/news/2024/09/17/talibans-attack-girls-education-harming-afghanistans-future>

UNESCO. (2022, December 22). Afghanistan:  
UNESCO condemns Taliban decision to ban women  
from higher education and calls for its immediate  
revocation.

<https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/afghanistan-unesco-condemns-taliban-ban-women-higher-education>

UNESCO. (2021). Education in Afghanistan: Data and trends (Global Education Monitoring Report). UNESCO. <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/afghanistans-education-system-facing-deepening-crisis-both-girls-and-boys-warn-unicef-and-unesco>

UNICEF. (2021). Education brief: Afghanistan. UNICEF Afghanistan Country Office. <https://www.unicef.org/afghanistan/education>

United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA). (2023, August). Human rights in Afghanistan: Annual report 2022–2023. United Nations. <https://unama.unmissions.org/un-afghanistan-2023-annual-report>

[UNWOMEN. \(December 2nd of 2025\). About UN Women](#)  
[UNICEF. \(2021\). Education brief: Afghanistan. UNICEF Afghanistan Country Office.](#)



UN Women. (2023, September). Gender alert: Afghanistan crisis update. UN Women.  
[UNICEF. \(2021\). Education brief: Afghanistan. UNICEF Afghanistan Country Office.](#)