

## **Statement of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) on the Taliban's Imposition of Further Restrictions on the Right to Education and Upbringing of Children in Afghanistan 10 June 2023**

The Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) issues this official statement to express its grave concern over the recent announcement made by the Taliban, whereby they have instructed international organizations to cease all educational activities for Afghan children. This shocking decision has resulted in the disruption of crucial initiatives undertaken by UNICEF, as well as numerous supporting institutions dedicated to the education and upbringing of children in Afghanistan. Consequently, hundreds of thousands of Afghan children, who were benefiting from educational support provided by international entities, will be deprived of their right to education.

The AIHRC firmly believes that the Taliban's imposition of restrictions on the education rights of children and adolescents violates universally recognized human rights standards. Such measures are not only illogical but also oppressive, causing profound harm to the psyche of our society. Moreover, they place international institutions in an exceedingly challenging predicament.

In light of these developments, the AIHRC urgently calls upon the Taliban leadership to cease implementing such questionable policies and oppressive approaches and to instead uphold human rights principles. We further appeal to the international community, particularly governments and influential international organizations, to employ effective means in order to compel the de facto Taliban government to reassess its decisions and abandon these anti-human rights measures.

Furthermore, the AIHRC urges all human rights institutions to persist in their tireless advocacy for the protection of the rights of all citizens, with special emphasis on the rights of women and children. We implore these institutions to remain resolute in the face of the Taliban's regressive rulings and anti-human rights approaches.

In view of the gravity of this human rights issue, the AIHRC respectfully requests the United Nations Human Rights Council to give serious consideration to this matter during its 53rd session in Geneva in June. Additionally, we recommend the establishment of a robust monitoring and accountability mechanism, in collaboration with the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights, to safeguard human rights in Afghanistan.

**Leadership Board of Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission**

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