



Women living under muslim laws  
النساء في ظل قوانين المسلمين  
Femmes sous lois musulmanes  
Transnational Feminist Solidarity Network

## **Statement by Women Living Under Muslim Laws on the Third Anniversary of the Taliban's return to power in Afghanistan**

Today marks the sombre anniversary of the Taliban's return to power in Afghanistan, a day that rekindles deep anguish and fear for millions. Over the past 3 years, the Taliban have systematically dismantled the rights of women, ethnic minorities, and gendered communities, plunging the country into a state of extreme repression. Women have been barred from education, employment, and public life, with those who defy these bans facing severe punishment, including public floggings and executions. The Hazara and Shia communities have endured brutal massacres, forced displacement, and targeted bombings at places of worship. Gendered and sexual minorities face relentless persecution, with their very existence criminalized and violently persecuted.

These actions by the Taliban are not just violations of basic human rights but constitute an institutionalized system of oppression called gender apartheid—a crime against humanity. WLUMML calls on global leaders to recognize gender apartheid as a crime under international law and to incorporate it into the Crimes Against Humanity treaty. Furthermore, we urge the international community to withhold any recognition of the Taliban regime, making it clear that their policies of oppression and exclusion are unacceptable on the world stage.

Non-recognition must be paired with concerted efforts to support the Afghan people—particularly women and marginalized communities—through humanitarian aid, safe asylum pathways, and continued advocacy for their rights. The world must unite to stand against the Taliban's brutal regime and take decisive action to prevent further atrocities.

Afghan women, ethnic minorities, and marginalized communities deserve more than our sympathy; they deserve justice, dignity, and the unwavering support of the global community.

With deepest indignation and resolve,

*Women Living Under Muslim Laws (15 August 2024)*