



**Date: 22nd, July 2021**

**Request for UNSC to perform its role in ensuring International Peace and Security. The need for a mission to Afghanistan.**

The UN Security Council is fully aware of the perilous situation that faces the people of Afghanistan and indeed, neighboring States. UN Special Envoy Deborah Lyons told the Security Council of the "dire consequences" in Afghanistan. She added, "the conflict means increased insecurity for many other countries, near and far."

In such circumstances, the Charter of the UN demands that action, coherent and effective action, is taken to address this threat to international peace and security.

The unconditional withdrawal of NATO and the United States of America from Afghanistan has exposed us, as Afghans, to a wide range of increased conflict and instability. The Afghan nation is undergoing one of the hardest times in its history, with a massive humanitarian crisis due to the Covid-19 third wave, escalation of heavy conflict all around the country, and drought. According to the World Health Organization, at least 18.4 million Afghans require humanitarian assistance. The killing of journalists, government employees, civil society members, and of WHRD by the Taliban, increases daily as they continue to use violence, fear, and persecution to take territory with seemingly no interest to re-engage in peace talks. Hundreds of families from Kunduz, Badakhshan, Takhar, Zabul, Helmand are internally displaced, many women with children who are now desperately trying to get to Kabul in the hope of accessing some sort of safety. A cease-fire is desperately needed and there is a need for multiple humanitarian life-saving actions.

Instead of coherence, there is chaos as different bilateral initiatives are pursued whilst at the same time embassies and members of the International Community leave. This lack of cohesion among international actors is bringing more damage to what we, as women activists and peacebuilders, are doing on the ground in extremely dangerous environments. Civil society is fragmenting as the scramble to get funds, visas, to flee the country, to find solutions for self and family have become priorities in the despair of the current moment.

Leadership is needed. A coherent strategy is needed. We call on the UN Security Council, as the body entrusted in the maintenance of peace and security, to fulfill its obligations.



As a first priority, we demand that the members of the UNSC commit to a country visit to Afghanistan to assess the security situation from an emergency humanitarian perspective in the understanding that the region is being destabilized further.

The main and short term aim of the visit would be to :

- 1.Coordinate the various initiatives being taken in third countries relating to Afghanistan
- 2.Support and use political, economic, Islamic and other influence, to obtain a ceasefire which the UNSC will guarantee
- 3.Give life to the peace process, with members of the UNSC committing to guarantee the process.
- 4.Ensure that the resolutions relating to WPS are fully incorporated and then implemented in that process.
- 5.Develop a coordinated plan with members of the International Community already engaged in Afghanistan for the protection and support of civilians by strengthening the coordination role of the UN Assistance Mission to Afghanistan (UNAMA)
- 6.Use the visit to inform the renewal of the mandate of UNAMA and ensure it includes specific language referencing the UNSC resolutions on WPS

The mission also should visit the area under control of Taliban that people are deprived of basic human rights. There are reports that Taliban forcefully marry girls from each family in Takhar and Badakhshan provinces, they have banned women's movement without a male companion, and girls cannot attend schools after the 6th grade.

Those countries who are supporting Taliban directly and indirectly as UN member state must comply UN mandates and respect International Humanitarian laws.

Time is short. This is an opportunity for the UN to reclaim its role as a Peace Organization . We ask that you work together to help us to build peace and ensure a stable Afghanistan where the human rights of women and marginalized populations are protected.

WILPF Afghanistan