Jamila Afghani, President of WILPF Afghanistan, Remarks to the Oslo Talks

Jamila Afghani, President of WILPF Afghanistan, was the final speaker from civil society representatives to take the floor at the Oslo Talks on 24 January 2022. The following are the key points and remarks made to the Taliban delegation during the Oslo Talks:

- Afghans are deprived of their basic human rights, freedom of expression, and the right to education. Women have suffered significantly as most of them lost their jobs and some are even selling their children to feed the rest of the family.
- The humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan is at its peak. There is no time to “wait and see.” It’s time for action, and Taliban must cooperate as soon as possible with the international community to listen to the voices of the Afghan people and address their urgent needs.
- Taliban must re-open the gates of schools and universities for Afghan girls and ensure the safe continuation of quality education for them by March. Taliban must re-open right away the schools of warm climate provinces as a goodwill gesture towards the people of Afghanistan.
- In order to defend and ensure women’s rights, Taliban must return women to their cabinet positions. The Ministry of Women’s Affairs must resume its function.
- The family court must resume its work and address cases of domestic violence as a priority. As the family court is merged with the civil court and due to the lack of function of End Violence Against Women (EVAW) special courts, domestic violence cases are on the rise and women victims have no place to seek help. The EVAW courts must resume their work and female legal aid workers should be allowed to work and support women victims of violence.
- Afghan women from inside and outside Afghanistan must be heard, and abducted women activists must be released.
- According to the last report of the International Labor Organization, around one million Afghans lost their jobs and more than half of them are women bread winners. The governing institutions need technocrats and professionals to perform. Taliban must ensure their protection and safety. Taliban must not fill the gaps without accounting for experience or knowledge of the field. This country can only be rebuilt by its own male and female children.
- Female teachers, women athletes, female health workers, women judges, women journalists, and women civil society workers must be paid and protected to continue their work.
- Taliban must let an investigative mission of the United Nations present a transparent report of the current humanitarian situation in Afghanistan.
- Afghanistan is a member of the international community and has ratified many international conventions. The Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam is the foundation of Islamic societies that protect human rights and its articles including Article 2 (Right to Life), Article 6 (Human Dignity and Women’s Rights), Article 9 (Right to Education), Article 11 (Right to Liberty), Article 13 (Right to Work), Article 18 (Right to Physical and Financial Immunity), Article 20 (Right to Have Immunity from Unlawful Suffering), and Article 22
(Right to Freedom of Expression) are all guiding principles for an Islamic country and the Taliban must guarantee their commitment to comply with this declaration.

- We don’t have choice but to make Afghanistan home for all of us through communication, dialogue, and working together. Afghanistan should be a home for all of us without any discrimination.

The key points of Jamila Afghani’s remarks to international community on **25 January 2022**:  

- The international community must continue playing a central role in calling for peace in Afghanistan and responding to the humanitarian crisis while addressing the needs of Afghan women and girls.
- End the de facto punishment of Afghan people and immediately allow the flow of urgent aid so it can reach the Afghan people. Specific measures addressing women’s and girls’ needs must be tailored in all humanitarian efforts.
- In the long term, the international organisations delivering aid must give priority to Afghan institutions such as banks, the private sector, and national NGOs in order to support local people and the economy of the country.
- Ensure that the voices and needs of Afghan women are at the front and centre of all funding and advocacy efforts, and focus on centring and elevating the voices of activists inside Afghanistan as well as those currently in exile.
- Prioritise funding to Afghan civil society and, in particular, women’s rights and women-led organisations that are equipped with firsthand knowledge of the current situation and that have been working to advance women’s rights in Afghanistan for decades.
- Introduce a 50 per cent Afghan women quota in any humanitarian missions or negotiations and ensure that international missions and delegations do not prevent women from participating, nor enforce gender segregation.
- UN bodies must put their words into action and support and facilitate a peaceful and long-lasting solution to the crisis in Afghanistan led by Afghan men and women.