



8 September 2025

UN Human Rights Council, 60th session (8 September to 8 October 2025)

Item 2: Enhanced interactive dialogue on the report of the Special Rapporteur on Afghanistan

Statement on Afghanistan

Speaker: Daphne Genatio via pre-recorded video

We welcome the focus of the Special Rapporteur's upcoming report on the impacts of funding cuts on civil society and NGOs working in and on Afghanistan. Afghan women activists, feminist groups, and women-led organizations have been among the hardest hit - despite already operating with minimal resources and under immense pressure and now facing closure due to donor withdrawal. These organizations are vital to the survival, dignity, and agency of Afghan women and girls. We urge Member States and donors to urgently restore, increase, and sustain flexible funding for women's civil society.

We remain deeply concerned over the worsening violations of women's rights. Since the Taliban takeover, Afghan women have been systematically erased from public life, facing policies that amount to gender persecution and apartheid. We echo the CEDAW Committee's call to dismantle these discriminatory systems and urge the international community to treat these violations not only as a women's rights issue, but as crimes under international law.

We also reiterate the call for an independent accountability mechanism to complement the Special Rapporteur's mandate. Addressing impunity, advancing accountability, and supporting victims' rights to justice, truth, and reparation is essential. Only by centring Afghan women in policy, funding, and diplomacy can the international community help reclaim rights, dismantle gender apartheid, and rebuild peace.

Thank you