



## **Fact Sheet: Report on the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan**

### **19 June 2023**

#### **What methodology was applied during the drafting process?**

To inform the report on the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan, multiple information gathering processes were utilised, with an emphasis on hearing directly from Afghan women inside Afghanistan. At the beginning of the process, key informant interviews were conducted with women to discuss the outline of the report and to seek advice on how to reach as wide a variety and number of women and girls in Afghanistan as possible.

Primary information gathering for the report included interviews and group discussions on thematic areas with 70 Afghans, followed by a survey of 2112 women in 18 provinces focused on three topics: restrictions on women and girls, their economic situation, and mental health – enabled the collection of information from a wide range of women, in rural and urban settings, single, married, widowed, with and without children, and of different age groups and professions. Focus groups with a further 159 women in Afghanistan provided deeper insight into the survey data, and importantly, recommendations from women in Afghanistan. The report also contains information gathered by the Special Rapporteur and the current Chair of the Working Group during a visit to Afghanistan.

#### **Did the de facto authorities cooperate with the joint mission?**

The Special Rapporteur and the Chair of the Working Group visited Afghanistan from 27 April to 4 May 2023. The experts visited Kabul and Mazar-e-Sharif, conducted site visits, and met with representatives of the de facto authorities in the capital and at the provincial level.

#### **What were the main findings of the experts?**

Women and girls are systematically discriminated against in every aspect of their lives. This is exemplified by the continual issuance of edicts that restrict their fundamental rights, including their freedom of movement, attire, behaviour, access to education, work, health and justice. Punishment for women's and girls' perceived or actual contravention of the edicts is meted out to the individuals concerned and male family members. The Taliban's punishment of those who transgress its rights-violating edicts, enforcing severe fundamental rights deprivations through acts or crimes of violence, such as arbitrary detention, torture or inhuman or degrading treatment raises serious concerns that gender-based persecution and gender apartheid is occurring in Afghanistan under the de facto rule of the authorities.

#### **Is the joint report publicly available?**

The experts presented the [joint report](#) to the Human Rights Council on 19 June 2023, which is available on the websites of the Human Rights Council, the Special Rapporteur, and the Working Group. There are also [Dari](#) and [Pashto](#) versions of the report.

For more information, please contact [hrc-sr-afghanistan@un.org](mailto:hrc-sr-afghanistan@un.org) and [hrc-wg-discriminationwomen@un.org](mailto:hrc-wg-discriminationwomen@un.org)