

Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Women's International Affairs and Human Rights Department

A brief report about the situation of women after the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan came into power for Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights CEDAW (Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women) Committee.

It is very clear that Islamic Emirate gives the priority to the principles of Islamic Sharia in all its decisions, and Islamic sharia gives the importance and most value to women, therefore, violence against women is an act against Islamic sharia and its principles. Some incidents may have happened on very low level, but it does not mean that the Islamic Emirate did not pay attention on them, rather, the Islamic Emirate fully implemented the decree of Amir-ul-Mominin [*Haibatullah Akhundzada*] to prevent such incidents and do not repeat again. It is not fair and good that in spite of number of achievements Islamic Emirate is challenging or blaming/claiming for doing nothing in this regard.

In the last 20 years, there were many case of women committing suicide, but by the grace of Allah, we do not have such cases now. This itself shows a clear decrease in the percentage of violence against Afghan women cases and their better mental condition. Since the establishment of the Islamic Emirate, 28,000 drug addicts have been treated, among whom many were women . Only in the last 11 months, 500 female drug addicts have been treated.

Recently, girls' education for a short period of time has been suspended for an interim time, in this short time of suspension we are working on a comprehensive plan to provide better conditions for girls. After drafting a plan, girls' higher education will resume. In the field of education, there are 92,000 female teachers working and receiving salaries, and on country level total 250,000 teachers are working and receiving salaries.

From the time when Islamic Emirate came into power, female workers are still working like before in the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Interior, airports, attorney, and Courts. In other agencies and ministries, female personnel/workers are receiving their salaries at their home, and we are working on a comprehensive plan or work modality for those women to resume commuting to their offices.

Amir-ul-Mominin [*Haibatullah Akhundzada*] issued a special decree one women on 28/1/1443 which protects all the rights of women and girls which will be in line with Islamic Sharia and Afghan society.

Since the Islamic Emirate came into power, not a single incident/case has been recorded in which a women maltreated and immorally. But we must mention that even in during the west created government, the women of those who sacrificed their lives for that the government were maltreat and immorally behaved with. . Islamic Emirate is committed and accountable towards everyone's life, property, honor, and dignity.

All ministries and government directorates' female workers are receiving their salaries at home from relevant ministries on monthly basis. Those ministries and organizations female workers start

working like before from their duty station/ministries who has number of female clients visiting those organizations.

Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan and the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs is trying to provide equal employment opportunities and facilities to all Afghan citizens, including men and women by creating new laws/policies and regulations which will guarantee their rights by those laws.

Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan and the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs has signed several agreements worth of millions of dollars with some partner institutions to provide aid and economic empowerment for women. As part of these agreements, WASA Institute has built two bakery centers in Herat and Farah provinces for 100 women with 127,310 dollars. Similarly, Daris Institute [*unclear on name of organization*] also trained many citizens in the fields of jewelry, English language, marketing, accounting, and jewelry designing in Kabul. Niday-e- Zan Institute (Voice of Women Organisation) has built tailoring, embroidery, and midwifery four centers in Helmand, Nimroz, Zabul and Uruzgan provinces with the cost of (44,022,902) Afghani.

Similarly, the Chamber of Commerce and Investment has organized number of exhibitions inside the country and abroad to attract market for handicrafts which are mostly made by women in the country, this brought a very positive change in the economic status of women. The Islamic Emirate has tried to facilitate the trade of domestic products with other countries. For example, China has exempted tax over some of Afghan local products, and the Islamic Emirate is trying to expand economic transactions between Afghanistan and other countries by the removal of international sanctions.

A commission for the “underprivileged and beggars” has been established, this commission collected more than 26,000 poor and beggars, majority of these poor and beggars are women, the Islamic Emirate is providing cash and food items to all 26,000 people. The Islamic Emirate is also providing support/sponsoring the orphans and victims of last 20 years war of both sides (Islamic Emirate and former regime), whose number reached to 100,000 people. Trading opportunities and facilities has been opened in Kabul, Mazar-e-Sharif, Herat and some other provinces for women, also manufactures/production exhibitions have been opened for women traders, even a major contract for the supply of petroleum products by the Ministry of Interior was received by a female trader, Dr. Aziza Afzali. During current year due to natural disasters many people especially women and children were affected in most provinces, Islamic Emirate provided food items to those people and rescued them from the natural disasters.

Achievement of Islamic emirates:

Afghan and Muslim women access to their basic and Islamic rights is one of the most important achievements of the Islamic Emirate, these are the rights given them by holy Quran and Sunnah. A decree of six articles/points from Amir al-Mu'minin Mullah [*Haibatullah Akhundzada*] has been issued and published to protect women's' rights as per Sharia. The brief articles of the decree are as following:

1: Girl's consent is compulsory for their Nikah, and no one has the right to force them for marital contracts.

2: No one can do *bad* marriage (marry women and girls for the sake of getting rid of enmity between both/their families).

3: After the death of the husband, the rights of the woman in his inheritance/legacy have been emphasized and it has been made clear that the widow has the power to determine her own destiny, and no one can force her for marriage.

4: According to the articles 4, 5, and 6 of this decree, women Sharia-based rights such as the right of inheritance, the right of dowry, and the rights to be feed is the responsibility of husband. It is clarified that husband should provide above mentioned rights to his woman.

The said decree is the first decree of Islamic Emirate regarding the protection of women's rights, if we pay close attention to the details of the decree, all aspects of women's lives and rights are included in it, such as:

Rights of a widow:

A harmful tradition and belief was that if a woman became a widow and her *Idah* (in Islam *Idah* means, a widow must remain at home and unmarried for 410 days) period was completed, her in-laws and relatives would not allow her to get married of her own choice and outside of in-laws' family. As the family members inherited her deceased husband's property like any other property. But according to the decree of Amir al-Mu'minin [*Haibatullah Akhundzada*], now the widow has the right to marry with her own choice and outside of the in-laws' family.

Right of women in dowry:

The Islamic Emirate has announced that who he wants to marry a girl or a widow, he must pay a dowry to the woman. And she has the right to choose the amount of dowry (the amount of dowry is not at the discretion of the government or the family, but it can be done with the consent of both the wife and the husband).

Women marriage right:

Islam has given the adult woman the right to marry of her own choice. A father or a guardian cannot force a woman to marry a certain person. Instead, it is the right of a girl or woman to marry whomever she wants, and the Islamic Emirate has also emphasized this right of women and girls.

The right of inheritance:

The right of inheritance is also considered one of the main and important rights of women that was revived by Islamic Emirate. Every Afghan woman has full right of legacy/inheritance all over the country.

The presence of Westerners and the destruction of women's rights:

Western countries repeatedly stated that they came here to support Afghan women, but slowly and gradually this issue disappeared. The international community thought that they had two or three women representatives in the cabinet, but they took everything away from Afghan women. Their situation in all areas such as health, education and training, employment, freedom from violence, legal equality and political participation was very heartwarming/encouraging and many women lost their civil and status rights to find a job.

Rape and sexual assault and sexual harassment was another one of those cases which the previous government, dealing with perpetrators of sexual harassment and assault had turned into a culture of immunity and liberty. The previous government did not want to weaken the unity of its allies by implementing Sharia laws. Therefore, women's rights were one of the first things that were neglected.

Facilitating Vocational tailoring training for women:

- In coordination with the de facto authorities of Kunduz province, a donor organization has provided 400 poor women tailoring training facilitation in Kunduz province. The officials of this province stated that the purpose of this tailoring program is to help and support poor and vulnerable families.
- A six-month training program has been launched for hundreds of unemployed men and women in Herat province to increase their professional capacity building skills. After training, these trained men and women will be provided with job opportunities in the industrial city of Herat and other institutions. In each period of this program, eight hundred people, most of them are women, will receive technical and vocational education. Handicrafts work is very traditional and cultural in Afghanistan which is mostly run by women. Since then it has been gone down from previous generations to the present generations. Afghan women those who make handicrafts solve many of their financial problems, and Afghanistan's handicrafts are among the highest handmade products in the world. But unfortunately, in the past few decades of war, the industry of Afghanistan has fallen from development and some Afghan women have kept the rest of their business and products for their self-sufficiency. Carpets and rugs weaving, Glam weaving, bags weaving, semi weaving wool weaving, garment weaving, hat weaving, pearl weaving and silk weaving and dozens of other arts that are among the famous handicrafts of Afghanistan, traditionally made by Afghan women.
- For this purpose, a two-day exhibition of women's handicrafts from Balkh, Jawzjan, Samangan, Faryab, and Sar-e-pul provinces was organized by the local authorities and UNDP in Mazar-e-Sharif city.
- On the other hand, all the sectoral organizations have provided employment to hundreds of people by signing resolutions with national and international organizations. Among 50 projects, 2,441,668 people benefited with employment opportunities and most of them are women and they directly benefit from their services.
- By a committee, led by Minister of State the Deputy Minister of Economy, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs and the membership of the Afghan Red Crescent, with the aim of strengthening the economy and eradicating poverty in the country, had many positive achievements in the past years. One of the big achievements is that gathering more than 26,000 charity collectors in Kabul, more than half of them were women and young girls.
- And for the first time, a substantial support center has been established on country level for vulnerable, lost, abandoned, mentally retarded and disabled and young girls. Which has all humanitarian and educational services and accountable for all 34 provinces of Afghanistan. Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs reported that for now, 2,022 women employees in

different departments of the Ministry of Interior are actively performing duties and are enjoying all the privileges that are given to an employee by the government.