

# AFGHANISTAN: BREAK THE SILENCE



## To: Canada and the International Community

The Taliban as the de facto authorities in Afghanistan have shown a complete disregard of the country's obligations under international law having severely restricted the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association, and access to justice in the country. The Taliban's discriminatory restrictions on the rights of women and girls, with the apparent aim of completely erasing them from public arenas, has also intensified.



The international community cannot continue to take a 'business as usual' approach to the human rights situation in Afghanistan.

We call on you to:

- Take unified and stronger actions to urgently establish a robust accountability mechanism to hold the Taliban accountable for human rights abuses.
- Use all forms of leverage to pressure the Taliban to respect and protect the rights of women and girls, end gender persecution and enable the space for women's meaningful participation in social, political and cultural spheres.
- Take concrete measures towards addressing the practice of corporal punishment by the Taliban and support the establishment of competent, independent and impartial formal justice mechanism to enable access to justice to Afghanistan population, including women.

Yours sincerely.

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For more information about this petition, contact [hhomes@amnesty.ca](mailto:hhomes@amnesty.ca). **Please submit completed petitions to:** Amnesty International Canada, 312 Laurier Avenue East Ottawa ON K1N 1H9.