

August 8, 2022

United Nations Security Council
760 United Nations Plaza
Manhattan, New York City, NY 10017

Dear Representatives of the UN Security Council:

The undersigned organizations, joined by others facing security threats and therefore unable to publicly join the statement, strongly urge that the UN Security Council fully re-apply the Resolution 1988 travel ban against Taliban leadership before August 19, which will be just days after the one-year anniversary of Taliban's brutal takeover. The travel ban exemption was originally issued to allow travel to international talks to support Afghan reconciliation and peace. But instead, Taliban leadership have used their ability to travel to seek international recognition while imposing a regime of terror at home. In other words, they can travel while Afghan women are barred from freely leaving their homes to work, go to school, and at times even access health care.

Reinstating the ban will demonstrate that there are some consequences of Taliban deprivation of human rights for the Afghan people, as well as the fact that under their watch Al Qaeda and other terrorist groups are thriving — amply demonstrated by the presence of late al-Zawahiri in Kabul. The opposite decision, a refusal to re-impose the travel ban, would signal acceptance of Taliban excesses and links to terrorism, discrediting the UN's role and the international community's commitment to human rights and a stable outcome in Afghanistan. If the Taliban really want to talk in the future, they can request exemptions to the ban for specific meetings, send lower-ranking officials rather than so-called "ministers," or use virtual communication, the only way some girls can access their right to education.

Allowing the travel ban exemption to expire would be a targeted gesture — applying to fewer than 15 people — that would not hurt ordinary Afghans, yet would effectively send a message that there is international accountability for the Taliban.

This action is overdue.





Sincerely,

Afghan American Foundation



The Liberty Coalition

Alliance in Support of Afghan People (ASAP)



Mina's List



International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN)

France Afghanistan Club



Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace & Security



Afghan-American Women's Association

Afghan-Norwegian Women for Change

Women Living Under Muslim Laws



Women Regional Network

OMID International

Strategic Advocacy for Human Rights (SAHR)

Feminist Majority Foundation

Rights Monitor

Hunt Alternatives

Afghans for a Better Tomorrow

Afghan Voices of Hope

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