

## Press Release

### **AHRA welcomes the initiative by Australia, Canada, Germany and the Netherlands to hold the De Facto Authorities accountable before the International Court of Justice**

September 26, 2024

Afghanistan Human Rights Advocates (AHRA) welcomes the decision by the governments of Australia, Canada, Germany and the Netherlands to bring the Taliban before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) for its systematic violation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). This legal action is a significant step toward holding the Taliban accountable for imposing a system of gender apartheid on women in Afghanistan.

AHRA was one of the first organizations to [call for international accountability](#) and emphasized the urgent need for international intervention to stop the Taliban's discriminatory policies against women. Since coming to power in Afghanistan, the Taliban has established a rigid system of gender segregation, depriving women of access to education, employment, and participation in public life. These actions violate Afghanistan's laws and its international human rights obligations.

We emphasize that throughout this legal process, the meaningful participation of the citizens of Afghanistan, especially women, must be a priority. Their voices and experiences must be central to the proceedings at the International Court of Justice to accurately reflect the devastating impact of the Taliban's oppressive policies on the women of Afghanistan.

This initiative is not just a legal dispute; it is a stand against the Taliban's gender apartheid and a call to restore women's rights in Afghanistan. As stated in the [statement](#) issued by these four countries and the 22 supporting nations, we also stress that this process should in no way be interpreted or used as a means of engagement with the Taliban regime.

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