WFWP USA: Afghanistan - Support women and children through prayer and action!

Angelika Selle August 24, 2021





Dear WFWP Friend and Supporter,

Please join us in sending our prayers of support for the people of Afghanistan! Just a few days ago, we watched in shock as the government in Afghanistan was overrun by the Taliban in a swift takeover. This has caused a situation of extreme chaos and fear for the future for many in Afghanistan, especially women and children. Though there are many geopolitical factors surrounding the current situation, our hearts go out especially to the many families who are desperately seeking to protect the ones they love in the face of so much uncertainty and upheaval.

In particular, we pray for the many women and children of Afghanistan who are vulnerable under a regime which has a history of actively denying women's rights. Many mothers, teachers, and women's organizations live now in constant fear for the women and girls they have vowed to help and protect. During the Taliban's last governmental rule between 1996 and 2001, women's rights were not respected, to say the least.



Photo Credit: Stringer, Reuters

Women were denied educational and employment opportunities and they could not appear in public without being fully covered or without a male escort. Punishments for infractions ranged from beatings to executions of many innocent women. Progress for women's rights since 2001 can easily go backwards in this new situation.

Furthermore, in the last few months since the US declared the intention to withdraw

completely from the country, <u>250,000 people have fled their homes</u> due to subsequent increased violence. **80% of those people who are displaced are women and children.** According to the UN, more women and children have been killed in the first six months of 2021 than any other period since 2009.



In this desperate situation, we call for prayers and support for Afghanistan. In spite of these and other challenges, many remain determined and hopeful. With deep courage and commitment, many are continuing their work to help the people of Afghanistan. With the departure of American troops, many humanitarian agencies have also left. However, locally based organizations continue to provide a safe space for women and children and seek to address the terrible refugee situation.

Photo Credit: Rahmat Gul. AP

Let us also continue to pray and raise awareness about this situation. We pray that the resilience of the many amazing women and mothers of Afghanistan can help them find the hopeful future they are seeking. Though the situation may seem bleak, let us continue with the hope that we can each make a small difference through our combined, sincere efforts.

In the words of WFWP Founder, Mother Moon: "No matter how wounded and scarred this world becomes, it can be healed and cleansed by the substantial work of a women's federation united in the vision of God's true love."

Sincerely, Angelika Selle WFWP USA President

& all staff and volunteers of WFWP USA

If you are able to give a donation at this time, there are several organizations continuing to work in Afghanistan to provide much-needed aid.

<u>International Rescue Committee</u>: A trusted organization with a proven track record of working in Afghanistan.

<u>Muslim Aid USA</u>: Working with partners on the ground to provide emergency food and non-food assistance (soap and hygiene kits) to IDPs in Kabul and the Kunar Province.

If you would like to look at more charities currently working on the ground in Afghanistan: <u>click</u> <u>here</u>