



PRESS RELEASE REGARDING Current events unfolding in Afghanistan

The Irish Women Lawyers Association is profoundly concerned with the current events that are unfolding in Afghanistan. We stand with the people of Afghanistan and extend our support to them as they navigate through these uncertain times. As an organisation created to recognise women in law and highlight the impact that the law has on women, the IWLA stands with Afghan women and pledges to provide support to the situation in whatever way possible.

The IWLA is aware that female lawyers, judges and the high number of women working in the Afghan legal sphere are at particular risk of violence or imprisonment and supports the statement of Justice Susan Glazebrook, President of the International Association of Women Judges dated 13th August 2021.

The IWLA also shares the serious concerns regarding an increase in gender based violence in the region as a result of recent events. The IWLA calls on the Irish Government to propose a UN Security Council resolution on protecting non-combatants from human rights violations, to recognise the violence and grave risk to human rights taking place. The IWLA also calls on the Irish Government to confirm that deportation orders issued to Afghan nationals will not be enforced.

In line with the recent statement from the Immigrant Council of Ireland, the IWLA supports their call to the Department of Justice to prioritise family reunification applications made by Afghan nationals, to provide support to the families of Afghan nationals living in Ireland and to ensure that the requisite documentation required for such applications is provided the utmost degree of urgency. Additionally, the IWLA urges the Department of Justice to increase the number of humanitarian visas for Afghan nationals who wish to seek refuge in Ireland. We recognise recent comments from Irish Foreign Minister, Simon Coveney, which reflected that Ireland will be taking in a high number of Afghan refugees. The IWLA welcomes this development and asks for confirmation that this plan will proceed and that as such individuals will enter Ireland on a humanitarian basis, that they will not be subject to living in direct provision centres.

The IWLA stresses the need for the Irish Government and the Department of Justice to act with recognition of the current violence and human rights crises taking place in Afghanistan. The IWLA will be organising a fundraiser for Médecins Sans Frontières in Afghanistan shortly to support the provision of medical supplies and care in the region and urges those who can donate to causes such as this to do so.

The IWLA can be contacted on contact@iwla.ie.

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