



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

2014/2230(INI)

19.2.2015

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

for the Committee on Foreign Affairs

on the current political situation in Afghanistan
(2014/2230(INI))

Rapporteur: Mariya Gabriel

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality calls on the Committee on Foreign Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

- A. whereas the withdrawal of international military forces could be used as an opportunity by the opponents of women's rights to roll back the progress made in the last decade;
- B. whereas the final report of the EU Election Assessment Team (EAT) 2014 states that security concerns are one of the main impediments to women's participation in the elections; whereas the report establishes a clear link between women's political participation and rural/urban inequalities in access to public services;
- C. whereas the 2004 Constitution holds men and women equal before the law; whereas the situation of women remains extremely worrying;
 1. Is convinced that Afghan women play a crucial role in the development of their country; while acknowledging that the post-Taliban regime has made possible a rise of women in the public sphere, strongly condemns the string of physical assaults against women, and calls on the authorities to ensure their protection and the free and safe exercise of their activities; asks the Afghan authorities not to jeopardise the recent achievements in women's rights in order to ease peace talks with the Taliban;
 2. Recalls that women's and girls' illiteracy is an obstacle to their involvement in public life; encourages the authorities to further address the obstacles to girls' access to education, including early and forced marriage, early child bearing, lack of security and insufficient geographical coverage in terms of school infrastructure;
 3. Underlines that reinforcement of the rule of law, reform of the judiciary system and state-building are key elements in enforcing legal provisions on gender equality and the protection of women's rights;
 4. Calls for better enforcement of the law on elimination of violence against women; emphasises the importance of the fight against impunity and better access to formal justice.