

Afghanistan: MEPs to discuss conditions for women and girls

On Tuesday morning, Members will hold a hearing with experts on the deteriorating situation in Afghanistan for women and girls.

When: Tuesday, 21 March, from 9.00 to 10.30.

Where: European Parliament in Brussels, Spaak building, room 1A2

You can follow the hearing [live](#).

The hearing will be opened by [Robert Biedroń](#) (S&D, Poland), Chair of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality and [Petras Auštrevičius](#) (Renew, Lithuania), Chair of the Delegation for relations with Afghanistan.

This will be followed by presentations from Tomas Niklasson, Special Envoy of the EU for Afghanistan, European External Action Service (EEAS), Alison Davidian, Special Representative to Afghanistan, UN Women, and Negina Yari, Chair of the Women Advisory Group and Executive Director, Afghans 4 Tomorrow. Members will then have the chance to exchange views with the experts.

Background

Since taking power in August 2021, the Taliban have imposed a long list of rules and policies that comprehensively prevent women and girls from exercising their fundamental rights, including to expression, movement, work, and education.

In January, Musal Nabizada, a young former politician, was shot dead in her home. She had served as a Member of Afghanistan's democratic institutions and worked for NGOs that are against the increasing restrictions on Afghan women's rights and freedoms. In December last year, the Taliban banned women from universities, further limiting their education after already excluding girls from secondary schools last March. On 24 December, Afghan women were banned from working for NGOs, bringing the delivery of many essential services and aid to a halt.

Further information

Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

Delegation for relations with Afghanistan

EP Press release: Women in Afghanistan have become victims of gender apartheid (02.02.2023)

European Parliament Research Service: The situation in Afghanistan - Essential benchmarks for EU engagement (September 2021)

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