

WRITTEN QUESTION E-6604/09
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to the Council

Subject: Human rights in Afghanistan - absolute contempt for women

In the midst of major worries and doubts as to the appropriate Western strategy for achieving stability in Afghanistan, the social and personal situation of women continues to be appalling, with very little progress having been made since the Taliban were driven out of government in 2001.

Ill treatment, harassment of all kinds and rape remain the order of the day, without the authorities being able to intervene or having any real interest in doing so. This is happening while the Obama Government – which has decided substantially to step up the number of its troops in the country, while asking European and other countries to send more soldiers – is incapable of preventing the various fundamentalist factions and warlords from continuing to throw their weight around within the Karzai government. It is precisely these fundamentalist groups and warlords who are mainly responsible for the social and individual ill treatment of women and girls, and the extreme restrictions imposed on women in the areas of education, work and freedom of movement.

Does the Council have any initiative in the pipeline to bring effective pressure to bear in order to ensure that the equality of men and women proclaimed in the Afghan Constitution is respected?