As consistently emphasised, the EU shares the concerns on human rights in Afghanistan, including the restrictions to the rights of women and girls, especially freedom of movement and access to education and to work. Women’s rights remain a key policy priority for the EU, both in dialogues with the Taliban, support provided to Afghanistan and in engagement with civil society and activists, such as the EU-initiated Afghan Women Leaders’ Forum.

The EU suspended development assistance to Afghanistan following the Taliban takeover, but continues to provide humanitarian assistance and to support the basic needs of the population without legitimising or recognising the Taliban regime. Following discussions by EU Ministers responsible for development cooperation in October 2021, the President of the Commission announced EUR 1 billion to support efforts in Afghanistan, including support to neighbouring countries in addressing the needs of Afghans outside the country. Out of this amount, EUR 250.6 million were allocated in 2021 in support basic services, such as health, and education, as well as food security and livelihoods. This support is implemented via United Nations agencies and selected Non Governmental Organisations.