

Higher Education Toolkit

WOMEN IN AFGHANISTAN HAVE BEEN
BANNED FROM ALL HIGHER EDUCATION



You can do
something
about it.



 Canadian Women *for*
Women in Afghanistan
Making the Right to Learn a Reality

WHAT HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS CAN DO ABOUT IT

In December 2022, the ruling Taliban authorities in Afghanistan issued a directive to public and private universities to ban all female students.

Higher education institutions were forced to put the ban into effect immediately, putting an end to the education of tens of thousands of women across Afghanistan, and barring girls and young women who had been hopeful to soon start their university journey.

CW4WAfghan continues to demand that the full right to education be restored for women and girls. In the meantime, we are calling upon higher education institutions to stand in solidarity with Afghan women, take concrete actions to uphold their right to education, and open up opportunities for affected women to find alternative access to higher education by mobilizing university resources and communities.



PROVIDE AFGHAN WOMEN ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION

Your institution can help by providing direct support and educational alternatives for Afghan students currently in Afghanistan or who are displaced within the region by adopting any of the following policies and initiatives:

Accept Transfer Students

Allow women students who were part way through a degree in Afghanistan to transfer into your institution's degree programs, recognizing their prior education and streamlining the admissions process for Afghan women, and/or providing credit towards program completion for courses taken at other institutions or online.

Enable Virtual Enrollment

Allow women who are currently residents in Afghanistan to enroll in virtual certificate, diploma, and degree programs so that they can pursue their higher education from their current locations, through streamlined admission processes. Open up specific courses and programs for online access from Afghanistan.

Waive Application Fees

Remove the application fee requirement for applicants in Afghanistan can make a huge difference under the current circumstances, where women in particular are living with severe economic hardship due to current restrictions.

Assist With Financial Need

Designate spaces for women in Afghanistan at your university so that they can apply for student visas and enroll to attend your university in person. Provide scholarships or reduced fees—such as offering domestic rather than international tuition rates—for women students arriving from Afghanistan or attending virtually from Afghanistan. With donor partners, develop specific grants and scholarships for these students to cover all costs, i.e., tuition plus living.

Help Prepare Future University Students

Provide virtual access to university preparatory programs including ESL, English for Academic Purposes, and exam preparation courses and programs to women currently in Afghanistan, to help them become more eligible to apply to universities outside of Afghanistan.

Contribute Resources and Volunteers

CW4WAfghan operates a learning management system custom developed for Afghan students, DD Courses, which hosts massive open online courses (MOOCs) in Afghan languages, plus English. Our other platform, DD Classroom, offers synchronous secondary and post-secondary courses. Add a MOOC from your university to DD Courses, have your faculty teach a course on DD Classroom, or nominate volunteers from your institution to localize courses with us.

HOW CW4WAFGHAN CAN SUPPORT YOUR INSTITUTION

We will get the word out.

- ▶ Already have a program in place that can help? Add it to our list of opportunities, which we regularly share with women in Afghanistan seeking options and opportunities for higher ed.
- ▶ Or, when you are ready to announce a form of assistance, add it to the list of opportunities, and we will circulate it to eligible women in Afghanistan so they can discover the opportunity your institution is offering. It is helpful if the opportunities you are offering for women in Afghanistan are clearly visible on your institutional website and if there are clear instructions for how Afghan women can apply.
- ▶ Drawing from our own scholarship program alumni and current scholars, graduates of Afghan schools, and our partners, we can support targeted dissemination to prospective candidates for the opportunities you make available.

We can provide guidance on what is most needed right now.

- ▶ We are here to share our experience and guidance on women's higher education needs under the current circumstances in Afghanistan and to help you reach those who need the opportunities your institution can offer.
- ▶ Reach out to us with any questions as you identify or develop opportunities that could help Afghan women realize their right to higher education.

Use our advocacy resources to speak out.

- ▶ Use our advocacy templates and resources to add your institution's voice to the global solidarity movement and to stand in support of women's right to education in Afghanistan. Visit cw4wafghan.ca/advocatenow to access tools and learn more.



ADVOCATE FOR AFGHAN WOMEN'S ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION

Your departments, faculty, and staff can advocate for systems-level change in support of Afghans' right to education by:

Showing Solidarity

Releasing a statement in solidarity with Afghan women on your institution's homepage ([see our template here](#)).

Getting the Word Out

Read and share [our factsheet](#) on the Taliban's war on women's education.

Amplifying

Share [our social media posts](#) to raise awareness, using the hashtags #EducationIsARight, #LetHerLearn, #AllOrNone and use [our social media toolkit](#).

Welcoming Student Refugees

Advocate for your university to expand its student refugee program to provide dedicated spaces for Afghan women, or your school can adopt a [student refugee program](#) if your institution doesn't yet have one.

Advocating

Engage with existing networks and alliances focused on providing higher education for Afghan women and girls to amplify advocacy efforts and share best practices.

Educating

Share information about what is happening in Afghanistan with your students and encourage them to organize their own actions in solidarity with students in Afghanistan.

Taking Action

Support student-led advocacy for the gender equitable right to education.

Higher Education Toolkit

Identify an advocate at your university to connect with us, so we can work together on key actions that will make higher education accessible to those to whom it's denied.



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