Invitation to UN Commission on the Status of Women Official Side Event

Crimes Against Humanity in Afghanistan with a Gender Lens: Strengthening Global Coordination

Tuesday, 12 March 2024 | 10.00am – 11.15am EDT, UN Conference Room 1
Open hybrid side event

Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to invite you to attend an official side event during the 68th Commission on the Status of Women, co-hosted by the Permanent Missions of Afghanistan and Malta, and by Canada’s Feminist Forum for Afghanistan, ICAN (International Civil Society Action Network), Peace Direct and the Women’s Regional Network. The event will take place on Tuesday, 12 March 2024 at 10.00am – 11.15am EDT, in-person in Conference Room 1 of the UN Secretariat Building and online via Zoom.

Since the Taliban’s seizure of power in 2021, women and girls in Afghanistan have been subjected to severe repression of their rights and freedoms, which UN experts, legal scholars and activists agree amounts to a system of apartheid to deliberately subjugate them on the basis of gender.

The Women's Regional Network has recently documented Afghan women's experiences within Afghanistan and those displaced in Pakistan and India, reaching over 1000 respondents. The research findings document rare ground-level data on gender apartheid and provide targeted recommendations for diverse stakeholders. This timely discussion will build on both the rich data compiled in the research and on key advocacy opportunities including upcoming UN debates on the Draft Crimes Against Humanity Convention and the possible inclusion of “gender” in the definition of Apartheid.

The event poses an urgent call for coordinated global action for the codification of Gender Apartheid as a Crime Against Humanity within international legal frameworks. It is intended for the gender, peacebuilding, human rights and humanitarian experts within your organization. The event will be open; please feel free to forward to the appropriate individuals in your mission or office and to share widely.

Please RSVP by Thursday, 7 March 2023 at this link.
If you would like further information, please contact: advocacy@womensregionalnetwork.org