Priority question for written answer P-004474/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: Forced returns of Afghan women to Afghanistan under Taliban rule

Over the past few weeks, reports have emerged that the Dutch Government intends to return two Afghan women to Afghanistan, despite the well-documented and systematic persecution of women under Taliban rule. Since the Taliban takeover, women have been deprived of access to education, employment, freedom of movement, and protection against violence. In its judgment of 4 October 2024 (Cases C-608/22 and C-609/22[1]), the Court of Justice of the EU ruled that such treatment constitutes an 'act of persecution' under the EU Qualification Directive, and that Afghan women may therefore qualify for refugee status solely based on their gender and nationality.

1. Does the Commission agree that, in the light of this ruling, returning Afghan women to Taliban-controlled areas would constitute a violation of EU and international law, in particular the principle of non-refoulement?

2. Is the Commission aware of any ongoing or planned returns of Afghan women by EU Member States, and will it investigate whether these actions are compatible with EU asylum and human rights obligations?

3. Will the Commission take steps to ensure that all Member States uniformly apply the Court's interpretation and immediately suspend any decisions concerning the return of Afghan women until their safety can be guaranteed?

Submitted: 11.11.2025

[1] Judgment of the Court (Third Chamber) of 4 October 2024, *AH and FN* v *Bundesamt für Fremdenwesen und Asyl*. Requests for a preliminary ruling from the Verwaltungsgerichtshof. References for a preliminary ruling – Area of freedom, security and justice – Common asylum policy – Directive 2011/95/EU – ECLI:EU:C:2024:828.