

EN

E-001568/2024

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Borrell i Fontelles
on behalf of the European Commission
(25.10.2024)

1. On 26 August 2024, High Representative/Vice-President issued a statement¹ on behalf of all Member States, and other European partner countries², to firmly denounce the adoption of the appalling so-called law on the ‘Propagation of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice’, which confirms and extends severe restrictions on the life of Afghans, in particular women and girls. The EU continues to use all its tools to support Afghan women and girls, starting with its assistance, delivered under a ‘by women for women’ approach – ensuring women play a meaningful role in all aspects of aid interventions³.

The EU continues to engage with Afghanistan civil society and – through principled engagement based on the five benchmarks set by the Council⁴ – with the *de facto* authorities, to advocate for the fundamental rights of Afghan women and girls, including in the United Nations-led process, which aims to get the Taliban to respect Afghanistan’s international obligations. The EU has persistently called on the *de facto* authorities to ensure Afghan women’s full and equal enjoyment of human rights, including access to quality education, freedom of expression, movement, and work, as well as participation in decision-making and in all spheres of society and public life.

2. The new EU Directive⁵ combating violence against women and domestic violence recognises that women affected by intersecting forms of discrimination face a higher risk of gender-based violence, and Member States must take this risk into account when identifying victims’ protection needs, granting specialist support, and providing training and information for professionals. The Directive includes honour-related violence in the list of aggravating circumstances. Lastly, it also contains several provisions on awareness-raising and prevention measures.

¹ https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2024/08/26/afghanistan-statement-of-the-high-representative-on-behalf-of-the-eu-on-latest-restrictions-imposed-by-the-taliban-on-the-people/?utm_source=brevo&utm_campaign=AUTOMATED%20-%20Alert%20-%20Newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_id=320

² North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Albania, Ukraine, Republic of Moldova, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Armenia.

³ For further information on EU assistance see Directorate General for International Partnerships website: https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/countries/afghanistan_en; and Directorate General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian aid Operations website: https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/where/asia-and-pacific/afghanistan_en

⁴ <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-11713-2021-REV-2/fr/pdf>

⁵ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ%3AL_202401385