

UPR 18, January 27, 2014  
Recommendations by Canada

## Afghanistan

### Question

The protection and empowerment of women in Afghanistan will be integral to the success of its future development, stability and security. What measures is Afghanistan taking to ensure that the EAW law, signed by presidential decree, is fully implemented and enforced? What measures is Afghanistan taking to protect women and girls from violence and abuse, including the practice of child, early and forced marriage? What steps are being taking to ensure that Afghan women are included in all decision-making processes? What measures are in place to ensure the full participation of women in the upcoming election?

### Recommendations

Canada recommends that Afghanistan:

1. Take steps to fully implement the Elimination of Violence Against Women (EAW) law, including by: providing training and capacity building to law enforcement officials; implementing standard, country-wide procedures to record and track complaints of violence against women; and ensuring that all allegations of violence against women are thoroughly investigated and referred to the appropriate authorities under Afghan law.
2. Ensure that women and women's rights advocates participate in every stage of negotiations concerning a political settlement to the conflict, and that the rights of women and girls are respected in any eventual settlement.
3. Investigate all allegations of mistreatment or abuse of detainees by the National Directorate of Security, the Afghan National Police, and the Afghan Local Police, and ensure that those who commit such acts are held accountable.
4. Ensure that all of Afghanistan's religious communities are able to practice their religion freely, and that their right to freedom of religion or belief is protected in any new legislation or legislation currently under review.

### Observations (if time allows):

We encourage the Government of Afghanistan to strengthen its efforts to ensure protection for freedom of expression, including media freedom – particularly during this important election year. This freedom is a foundational aspect of any democracy and it is essential that the Afghan people be able to express their views without interference by government officials.

We welcome the Government of Afghanistan's support for the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, and encourage the Government of Afghanistan to increase its support of this vital institution. The Government must work to provide adequate funding to the Commission and ensure that it maintains its independence in order for it to be able to carry out its mandate. We encourage the Government of Afghanistan to put in place mechanisms to ensure the continued independence, effectiveness, and credibility of the Commission.

We expect the Government of Afghanistan to adhere to its obligations by ensuring that the rights of women and girls are fully respected in all legislation being developed – including, in particular, the Afghan Penal Code.