



**Universal Periodic Review 18th session
Review of Afghanistan
Delivered by Ambassador Ellis
27 January 2014**

New Zealand warmly welcomes the delegation from Afghanistan to the Council today.

New Zealand welcomes some progress made on recommendations relating to women's rights, including the adoption of a National Plan of Action for Women. Recognising on-going significant challenges in this area:

- **New Zealand recommends that the Government ensure effective enforcement of the Law on Violence Against Women; and**
- **also recommends abolishing the practice of prosecuting women for "moral crimes".**

New Zealand recognises the effective and valuable work of Afghanistan's Independent Human Rights Commission and welcomes the Government's recent decision to provide financial support for the Commission.

- **New Zealand recommends that the Government further support the Commission's work by employing a transparent and participatory selection process for the Commission's members.**
- **We also recommend increasing and regularising the Commission's core funding.**

New Zealand welcomes Afghanistan's passage of the Law on Prisons and Detention Centres which specifically seeks to better protect the rights of prisoners and detainees.

- **New Zealand recommends that the Government makes every effort possible to ensure the human rights of prisoners and detainees are fully observed in the criminal justice system.**

New Zealand thanks the delegation for their consideration of these recommendations.

Thank you Mr President.