

**Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cyprus**

**Geneva**

**Intervention by the Republic of Cyprus,**

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**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

**46th Session**

Afghanistan

Cyprus welcomes Afghanistan’s participation in the 4th UPR cycle and thanks the delegation for the presentation of its report.

In line with our commitment to promoting human rights globally, Cyprus respectfully recommends that Afghanistan:

Establishes legislative frameworks that safeguard the rights of women and girls, including access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities and implements policies aimed at combating gender-based violence and promoting gender equality.

Investigates, prosecutes, and hold perpetrators accountable for violations of international human rights and humanitarian law, including those targeting civilians, journalists, human rights defenders, and minority groups.

Reviews and amends laws that unduly restrict freedom of expression and ensure full respect for journalists' rights to report freely and without censorship.

Upholds international human rights standards by replacing the death penalty with alternative forms of punishment that respect human dignity and promote rehabilitation and reintegration.

We wish Afghanistan every success in this UPR cycle.