



Security Council

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Letter dated 19 August 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Ireland and the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Ireland and Mexico, as co-Chairs of the Security Council Informal Expert Group on Women and Peace and Security, are compelled by the responsibility of that role to urge the Council to place the utmost priority on protecting and vindicating the rights of Afghan women and girls in all decisions and action on Afghanistan's future.

On 16 August, we heard the Secretary-General express in stark terms the risks now faced by Afghan women, who have already suffered too much. This morning, at a meeting of the Informal Expert Group on Women and Peace and Security convened to discuss Afghanistan, we heard shocking reports of human rights violations and abuses directed at women and girls by the Taliban. We condemn unequivocally such abhorrent actions and call for an immediate nationwide ceasefire.

The Security Council must unite and express clearly its rejection of these assaults on the rights of women and girls. Furthermore, the Council must as a matter of urgency call on all parties to respect and facilitate the emergency evacuation and safe and timely departure of Afghans, including human rights defenders, women leaders and those involved in public life, women's rights activists, peacebuilders and journalists, who wish to leave the country.

As violence has exacerbated existing crises of internal displacement, drought and the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the Council must continue to demand full, safe and unimpeded humanitarian access; this must include access for women humanitarians and front-line workers to carry out their lifesaving work throughout the whole country.

The Security Council has called for the establishment of a new Government that is united, inclusive and representative, including with the full, equal and meaningful participation of women. Delivering on our objective requires the Council to maintain unity of purpose and consistently express to all Afghan parties that this is a non-negotiable condition of international engagement.

We would be grateful for the circulation of the present letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Geraldine **Byrne Nason**
Ambassador

Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations

(Signed) Alicia **Buenrostro**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Deputy Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations

