



انجمن مستقل وکلای مدافع افغانستان در تبعید

په تبعید کی دمدافع وکیلانو خپلواکه ټولنه

## Afghanistan Independent Bar Association in Exile

### Statement of the Afghanistan Independent Bar Association in Exile

On the Occasion of International Human Rights Day – December 10

Brussels, December 10, 2025

December 10, International Human Rights Day, stands as a symbol of the global community's unwavering commitment to the fundamental values of equality, justice, and human dignity. This day is an important opportunity to remind ourselves of our collective responsibility to protect the basic rights of all human beings, without any form of discrimination or distinction.

More than four years after the fall of the previous Government and the takeover by the Taliban, Afghanistan is experiencing one of the darkest and most critical periods in its history. Widespread, systematic, and blatant violations of human rights across all aspects of life; the violation of the fundamental rights of women and girls; the suppression of ethnic and religious minorities; arbitrary arrests and punishments of human rights defenders; the commission of war crimes; and the absence of an independent, professional, and accountable judicial system are among the ongoing issues.

By showing absolute disregard for human dignity and human rights principles, the Taliban have dissolved civil and independent legal institutions, including the Afghanistan Independent Bar Association. The annulment of existing laws particularly the Constitution and the dissolution of judicial institutions such as the Attorney General's Office have effectively transformed Afghanistan's justice system into a superficial and non-independent structure that serves only the interests of the Taliban.

On this day, the Afghanistan Independent Bar Association in Exile calls on the international community to uphold the core principles and values of human rights, to heed the justice seeking voices of the Afghan people, and to provide serious and effective cooperation for the restoration of their fundamental rights, civil liberties, and human dignity. In this regard, AIBAIE presents its specific demands to the international community as follows:

#### The AIBAIE Demands from the International Community

As a legal and human rights advocacy institution, the Afghanistan Independent Bar Association in Exile calls on the international community to take practical and effective measures in response to the deep humanitarian and human rights crisis in Afghanistan:

1. **Guarantee the rights of women and girls:** The process of gender apartheid must be recognized as a valid legal framework for addressing the crimes and discriminatory practices of the current regime against women in Afghanistan, to enable meaningful accountability and prosecution.

The Afghanistan Independent Bar Association (AIBA) in exile seeks to preserve the identity of the AIBA and its members, while safeguarding the achievements made over the past 20 years. It is committed to providing legal services to lawyers and defending the rights of citizens, with a particular focus on protecting the rights of women.

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2. **Support human rights defenders and vulnerable individuals:** Host countries should provide security, financial assistance, psychosocial services, and necessary facilities for Afghan human rights defenders, lawyers, social activists, and all vulnerable individuals so that they can continue their human rights activities and remain protected from threats and harassment.
3. **Ensure effective implementation of the UN investigation and accountability mechanism:** While the AIBAIE welcomes the establishment of the UN Human Rights Council's independent investigation and accountability mechanism for examining human rights violations and war crimes in Afghanistan, it emphasizes that merely adopting this mechanism is not enough; its implementation requires strong political will, timely action, and adequate resources.
4. **Strengthen transitional justice processes and documentation of crimes:** Achieving transitional justice, documenting crimes, and ensuring non-recurrence of human rights violations is only possible through cooperation among international institutions, Afghan civil society, and justice advocates. The Afghanistan Independent Bar Association in Exile stands fully ready to engage in comprehensive and constructive collaboration with relevant bodies and international experts in this regard.

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