



SOCIAL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS OF WOMEN IN AFGHANISTAN SOCIETY

Journal Website:
<https://theusajournals.com/index.php/ijhps>

Copyright: Original content from this work may be used under the terms of the creative commons attributes 4.0 licence.

Submission Date: September 09, 2023, Accepted Date: September 14, 2023,

Published Date: September 19, 2023

Crossref doi: <https://doi.org/10.37547/ijhps/Volume03Issue09-05>

Mohidil M. Nizamova

Tashkent State University Of Oriental Studies International Relations And World Politics 2nd Stage Graduate Student, Uzbekistan

ABSTRACT

This article discusses the rise and fall of women's rights in Afghanistan, attempts to shed light on social reforms, their positive and negative effects, and the role of state and non-state actors in supporting or nullifying women's rights.

KEYWORDS

Islamic Emirate, UNCRC, CEDAW, ERAW, NAPWA, UN Security Council, NAP.

INTRODUCTION

The struggle for women's rights in Afghanistan dates back to the 19th century. Afghan society is deeply conservative, religious, and patriarchal, and there has often been a dangerous struggle and competition for women's rights defenders. Social reforms for the liberation of women were one of the reasons for sending Amonullah Khan into exile in 1929 and destroying the communist and republican regimes.

It is worth noting that, despite the political changes, there were no strong and independent public institutions to maintain the state in Afghanistan. Women's rights in Afghanistan have changed throughout history depending on who has ruled the country. While some governments have recognized and strengthened the position of women in Afghan

society by implementing various social reforms, others have caused them to lose their place in society by canceling the reforms. These social reforms aimed at strengthening the position of women were carried out by Amonullah, Zahirshah and the communist regime under the Soviet leadership for a certain period, while Habibullah Khan, Mujahideen and 'The Taliban' governments canceled these reforms.

DISCUSSION AND RESULTS

With the establishment of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan in 1996, 'The Taliban' pursued a very aggressive policy. They banned girls from getting an education after the age of eight, forced women to work, forced them to cover their entire bodies,

including their faces, in public, and banned women from seeing male doctors. Men were members of the family, and women were forbidden to speak loudly in public. They banned women's voices on radio broadcasts and made it illegal to show any images of women in public or at home .

In 2001, after the US-led coalition forces entered the country, a new constitution was adopted in 2004, according to which men and women have equal rights . In it, 25 percent of parliamentary deputies and regional council deputies, as well as 30 percent of the civil service were reserved for women. It is also Afghanistan Women's Rights Act 1325 to promote the future of every woman and develop their contribution to the development of a culture of peace, strengthen leadership roles, combat gender-based violence against women and girls All international conventions such as (UNCRC) and the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) were to be respected and implemented. At the same time, the Ministry of Women's Affairs was established as the main body responsible for expanding women's rights and opportunities. The Elimination of Violence Against Women Act (EVAW) , the National Action Plan for Afghan Women (NAPWA) and the National Action Plans (NAP) for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 were adopted .

Women were appointed as ministers, advisers, deputy ministers, governors of regions, heads of the Human Rights Commission. A number of funding schemes have been launched to implement policies supporting women's rights and to encourage women's participation in civil society, the media, culture and sport, and the private sector. Conducting short-term and long-term trainings to increase the capacity of women in various fields, increase citizens' awareness of women's rights, provide shelter to victims of

domestic violence, and support women entrepreneurs in small and medium-sized enterprises. many projects to support business start-up were developed and implemented.

After the fall of 'The Taliban' regime in 2001 and the strong involvement of the international community, conservative elements of society such as 'The Taliban' retreated and did not oppose any of these reforms. Even supporters of conservative politics have realized that the people are dissatisfied with the Taliban. Under their rule, not much has been achieved other than imposing radical rule and isolation in Afghanistan by engaging in drug trafficking, providing safe havens for terrorists, and persecuting women and minorities.

After September 11, when the US and its allies withdrew their military forces into Afghanistan, gender, social injustice, oppression, and intimidation decreased to a certain extent, and republic, equality, freedom, and democracy were partially restored. This was one of the opportunities for Afghan women. Women's participation in social life has begun to develop, which is evidenced by the progressive participation and leadership of Afghan women in various fields across the country.

In 2014, Ashraf Ghani was appointed as the President of Afghanistan. Partly because of his reformist image, Ghani attracted large numbers of voters among women and youth, promising social, political and economic reforms. After the National Unity Government was launched, his wife opened the First Lady's Office to serve Afghan women and children.

During this period, the benefits were not only observed in the government, but 3G internet and cheap Chinese smartphones enabled thousands of Afghan girls across the country to access social platforms such as Facebook and Twitter and stay informed about

Afghanistan and the world. Private TV channels allowed girls and families to watch Indian, Turkish and Western TV series, to get acquainted with the culture and traditions of other countries. At the same time, access to education has increased significantly in urban and rural Afghanistan, and private courses have enabled girls to learn English and communicate with the world. In a short period of time (from 2014 to 2019), all these changes were significant .

However, after the recapture of Kabul by 'The Taliban' on August 15, 2021, the rights of Afghan women in the country were again violated and they were confined to their homes, undermining economic stability. Such opportunities and rights that Afghan women have gained in the last twenty years have disappeared. Whether it is girls' enrollment in schools and universities, women's employment in the public service, women's participation in public administration, business entrepreneurship, civil society and mass media advocacy, women's rights not only cases of restricting their rights, but also their rights and freedoms have increased .

The international community is giving priority to the empowerment of women in Afghanistan. It appears that the movement for women's rights was a controversial and dangerous movement that was used as one of the reasons for the fall of governments. Although Islamist and conservative groups ostensibly base their opposition to women's rights on Islam, women's liberation actually runs counter to the country's conservative traditions, which deeply value female modesty and chastity. It is very difficult for the patriarchal society of Afghanistan to empower women, allow them to exercise their rights and be independent.

The sincere and tireless efforts of the Afghan women's movement would not have been successful without

the strong financial and political support of the international community. It is the US forces that have been largely dependent on the financial support of international donors. Until the establishment of the Provisional Administration under the leadership of 'The Taliban', the socio-economic situation of women worsened again. In general, conservative and fundamentalist groups such as 'The Taliban' strongly and aggressively oppose women's rights.

CONCLUSION

As a result of various crises and conflicts in Afghanistan, as well as due to the influence of the layers of religious movements in the country, the social and political rights of the Afghan people have been limited. During the leadership of Afghan Emir Amonullah Khan, Zahir Shah, former Afghan President Hamid Karzai, and Ashraf Ghani, the Afghan people were free and their rights were ensured, and a number of reforms were carried out, but like 'The Taliban' the policies of radical and conservative forces that severely limit the opportunities of the Afghan people are still continuing. This may return the Afghan society to the Middle Ages and lead the country to socio-political chaos. The fact that 'The Taliban' has imposed more than 30 prohibitions against women reflects the above picture.

REFERENCES

1. Buranov, S. (2022). Afghanistan as a Bridge Connecting Central and South Asia. *International Journal of Multicultural and Multireligious Understanding*, 9(2), 319-323.
2. Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. *The Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan*. - 2004.

3. Boronov, S. (2022). Internal and external factors of taliban origin. *Journal of Social Research in Uzbekistan*, 2(02), 15-23.
4. Suhrob, B. (2020). The durand line-key of the afghan problem. *International Journal of Scientific and Technology Research*, 9(2), 1315-1318.
5. Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. Law on Elimination of Violence against Women (EVAW), Ministry of Justice, 2009.
6. Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. Afghanistan's National Action Plan o UNSCR 1325- Women Peace and Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Directorate of Human Rights and Women's International Affairs, 2015.
7. Fratus M, "What was life like under Taliban rule in the 1990s". - 18 August, 2021.
8. "Afghanistan: Taliban morality police replace women's ministry" BBC News. - 17 September, 2021.
9. "Afghan Women Activists meet Taliban in Oslo" Afghanistan Times. - 25 January, 2022.
10. "Freedom House, Afghan and International NGOs Launch the Afghanistan Human Rights Coordination Mechanism" Freedom House - 27 January 2022.
11. Taliban Ban Girls from Secondary Schools in Afghanistan. Available from: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/sep/17/taliban-ban-girls-from-secondary-education-in-afghanistan>.

OSCAR
PUBLISHING SERVICES