

POSITION PAPER

FairGaze FreeVoice MUN 2.0

Delegate: Ayansh Aggarwal

School: Modern School

Grade / Section: 9-C

Country: Republic of India

Committee: United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)

Role: Press – Reporter

Agenda: Addressing the Institutionalization of Gender-Based Discrimination in Afghanistan: Examining the Recognition of “Gender Apartheid,” Accountability Mechanisms and the International Community’s Responsibility to Protect Fundamental Rights.

Introduction

For India, the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan is not simply a political issue. It is a human issue. When girls are unable to attend school, women are prevented from working, or people are restricted from taking part in public life because of their gender, the effects are felt by entire families and communities.

India believes that every person deserves dignity and equal opportunity. At the same time, India believes that the international community must respond in a way that is practical, responsible and based on international law. The Human Rights Council should therefore continue to focus on the rights of Afghan women and girls while encouraging dialogue and peaceful solutions.

India’s Position

India is deeply concerned about the restrictions placed on women and girls in Afghanistan, particularly in education, employment, movement and participation in society. Education is especially important because denying girls the chance to learn can affect their entire future and the future of the country.

India supports the protection of women’s and girls’ rights and believes that they should have access to education, healthcare, employment and opportunities to contribute to their communities. India also believes that any discussion about whether the situation should legally be described as “gender apartheid” should be based on international law, evidence and careful legal consideration.

For India, the name used to describe the situation should not become more important than the people affected by it. The priority should be protecting fundamental rights and achieving real improvements in the daily lives of Afghan women and girls.

What Should the International Community Do?

First, the United Nations should continue documenting the situation on the ground. Independent and reliable reporting is important because it allows the international community to understand how restrictions are affecting ordinary people.

Second, humanitarian assistance must continue. Women and girls should be able to receive food, healthcare, education and other essential support without discrimination. Assistance should reach the people who need it most.

Third, India supports continued diplomatic engagement. Countries should use dialogue to encourage the Afghan authorities to remove restrictions that prevent women and girls from participating fully in society. A lasting solution will require international cooperation as well as engagement with Afghan stakeholders.

Finally, when credible evidence shows serious human-rights violations, the appropriate United Nations bodies should preserve evidence and consider accountability mechanisms that are consistent with international law.

Accountability should be fair, evidence-based and focused on protecting victims.

India's Proposed Approach

India would encourage the Human Rights Council to concentrate on four practical areas: protecting access to education, improving access to healthcare and humanitarian assistance, supporting women's economic participation, and maintaining international monitoring and dialogue.

India also believes that Afghan women should have a voice in discussions about their own future. International decisions about Afghanistan should take into account the experiences of the people who are directly affected by these policies.

Conclusion

India believes that Afghanistan can only have a peaceful and stable future if all sections of its society are able to participate. Women and girls should not have to choose between their basic rights and their safety or education.

The international community should remain united in defending fundamental human rights, but it should also remain practical and focused on results. India therefore supports continued UN monitoring, humanitarian assistance, constructive diplomacy and appropriate accountability. The goal should be simple: an Afghanistan where women and girls can learn, work, receive healthcare and live with dignity.

References

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948).
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).
- United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security.
- Relevant United Nations Human Rights Council and UN human-rights reports concerning Afghanistan.