# Position Paper

*United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)*

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| **Committee** | United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) |
| **Country** | Federative Republic of Brazil |
| **Delegate** | Ayansh Aggarwal |
| **School / Grade / Section** | Modern School, 9-C |
| **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 Brazil, what is happening to women and girls in Afghanistan is not just a political argument; it is a crisis that is bigger than all of us. Ever since August 2021, the Taliban has basically taken away women's basic rights.

Girls are completely locked out of high schools and universities. Women have been removed from their jobs, including important roles with the UN and aid groups. Then in 2024, the Taliban passed the "Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice" law, which forbids a woman's voice from being heard in public. It is an erasure of women from public life.

Our own Brazilian Constitution is built on the values of human rights and equality between men and women. Brazil is also a proud State party to CEDAW. Because of these values, we firmly believe this Council cannot just sit back and watch. We need to speak up clearly and use legal tools that have the power to bring real justice to the people of Afghanistan.

## Brazil's Position

Brazil condemns every restriction the Taliban has placed on women's education, work, freedom of movement, and political life. When we served on the Security Council, we joined other nations in demanding that the Taliban reverse these decrees. There is also a purely practical side to this: Afghanistan has little chance of rebuilding its economy or society while keeping half of its population locked away at home.

When it comes to using the exact term "gender apartheid," Brazil believes we need to take a careful and sound legal path. In December 2023 and again in April 2024, we gave our input on the International Law Commission's draft articles on crimes against humanity. We said we are open to discussing making the systematic oppression of women a formal international crime, like racial apartheid. But such a crime must be defined precisely so that it holds up in a real courtroom later. Still, we cannot let long debates over words stop us from helping people right now. No matter what it is called, what the Taliban is doing already violates international human rights law, plain and simple.

## A Path Forward for the International Community

Brazil wants the international community to focus on four main priorities:

1. **Keep gathering the facts.** We need to give full support to the UN Special Rapporteur and UNAMA. Their independent reports give this Council reliable information so that no one can deny what is happening.

2. **Ensure real accountability, not empty talk.** Brazil welcomes HRC Resolution 60/2 of October 2025, which set up an independent mechanism to preserve evidence of these crimes. As a party to the Rome Statute, Brazil also welcomes the International Criminal Court's July 2025 arrest warrants for gender persecution. We urge everyone to give both of these legal paths steady political and financial backing.

3. **Protect humanitarian aid.** Food and medicine must reach women and girls directly. This means female aid workers must be allowed to do their jobs safely. If women are blocked from delivering aid, help will never reach the women who need it most.

4. **Make diplomacy depend on progress.** Any talks with the Taliban, such as the Doha process, should rely on real steps to restore women's rights. Afghan women must also have a real seat at the table.

## Brazil's Commitments

Brazil believes that actions speak much louder than words. We encourage other countries to expand their refugee policies and schemes for vulnerable Afghan citizens. We also intend to keep working in multilateral forums to make sure the future crimes against humanity treaty includes a clear, enforceable rule against systematic gender oppression.

## Conclusion

Afghanistan will never achieve lasting peace or a stable economy while half its population is shut out of schools, jobs, and daily life. The whole world needs to stand together to defend human dignity while applying international law precisely. Brazil calls for stronger UN monitoring, full backing for the ICC, safe access for aid, and a powerful legal framework against institutionalized gender oppression. Our goal is simple: a new Afghanistan where every woman and girl can go to school, and every woman can work, speak, and live with dignity.

## References


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- Joint statements of the Security Council signatories of the Statement of Shared Commitments on Women, Peace and Security (2022–2023).