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Women for Afghan Women Condemns Taliban's decision to bar women employees of national and international organizations from work

New York, NY (12/26/2022): [Women for Afghan Women \(WAW\)](#) vehemently condemns the decision by the Taliban de facto authorities announced on December 26, 2022, barring all women employees of national and international organizations from going to work with immediate effect.

As a leading women's rights organization in Afghanistan for over two decades, we believe in the full equality and the right to a life of dignity for all human beings and remain committed to working towards a world in which Afghan women and girls enjoy peace, justice, equality, the freedom to participate in all spheres of life, and the right to live without fear and oppression.

Our brave women colleagues are an indispensable and essential part of our organization that serve as members of our board, executive management, and operational staff. Women are an integral part of our daily, life-saving programs that provide humanitarian, medical, legal, counseling, educational, and other support to any individual that comes to our organization for assistance. They are essential to the social services and operational activities that WAW implements every day.

Without our women staff, we would not and cannot exist.

We join the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Afghanistan in reminding the Taliban that "Any such order would violate the most fundamental rights of women, as well as be a clear breach of humanitarian principles".

The Taliban should immediately end this brutal and senseless policy and allow women to return safely to work. No organization, country, economy, or community can thrive without the equal, full, and meaningful participation of women.

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Women for Afghan Women (WAW) is a grassroots, civil society organization dedicated to advocating for women's rights, challenging the norms that underpin gender-based violence, and influencing harmful attitudes to bring about positive change.

WAW grew from a small network of volunteers established in early 2001 in New York to become the largest women's organization in Afghanistan before the Taliban took over the governance of Afghanistan in 2021. Today, WAW continues to expand its services to provide life-changing programs, women's empowerment education, and vocational training for its clients in the United States (U.S.) and continues to implement its humanitarian programs and work with non-governmental and other partners across Afghanistan.