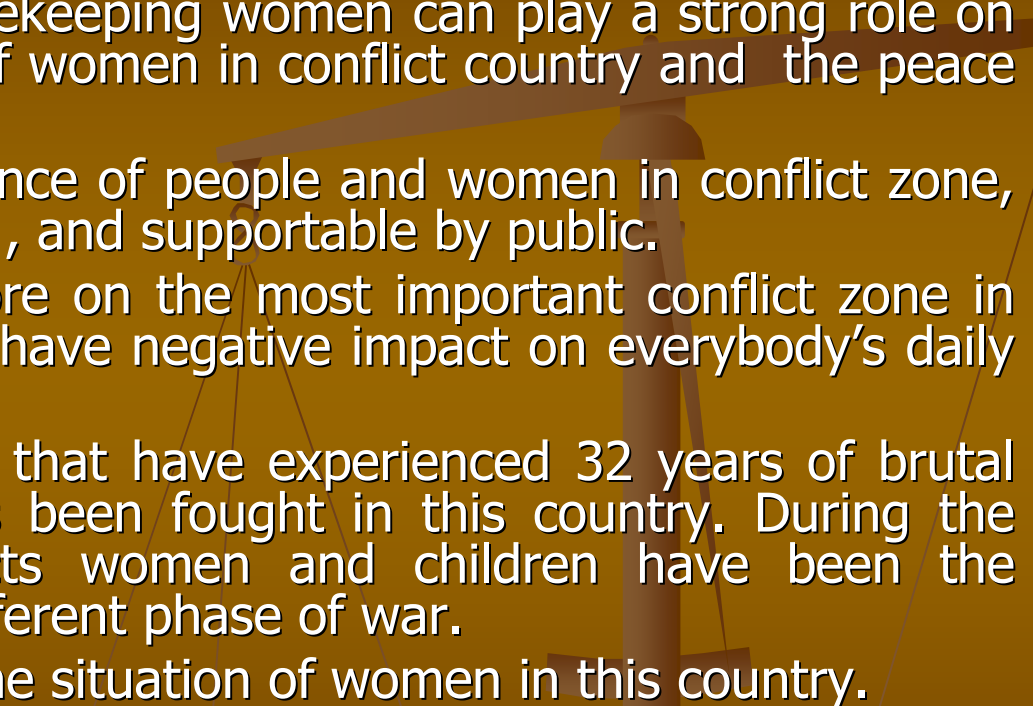


10 years after the 1325 resolution and women's role in peace building in Afghanistan

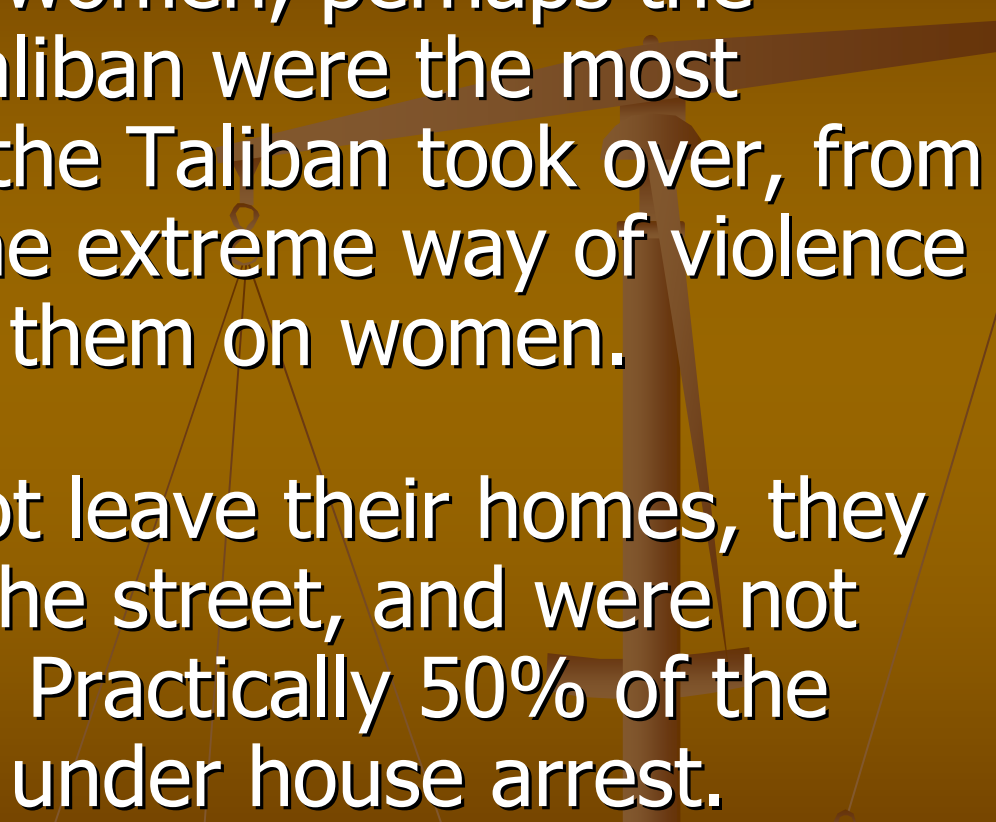


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- I am not expert on peacekeeping and women's role on it, but there is no doubt that in peacekeeping women can play a strong role on building the confidence of women in conflict country and the peace keepers.
 - With building the confidence of people and women in conflict zone, peace can be sustainable , and supportable by public.
 - I would like to focus more on the most important conflict zone in this century. which dose have negative impact on everybody's daily life.
 - Afghanistan is a country that have experienced 32 years of brutal war. The proxy war has been fought in this country. During the whole course of conflicts women and children have been the primary victims of the different phase of war.
 - I will talk briefly about the situation of women in this country.

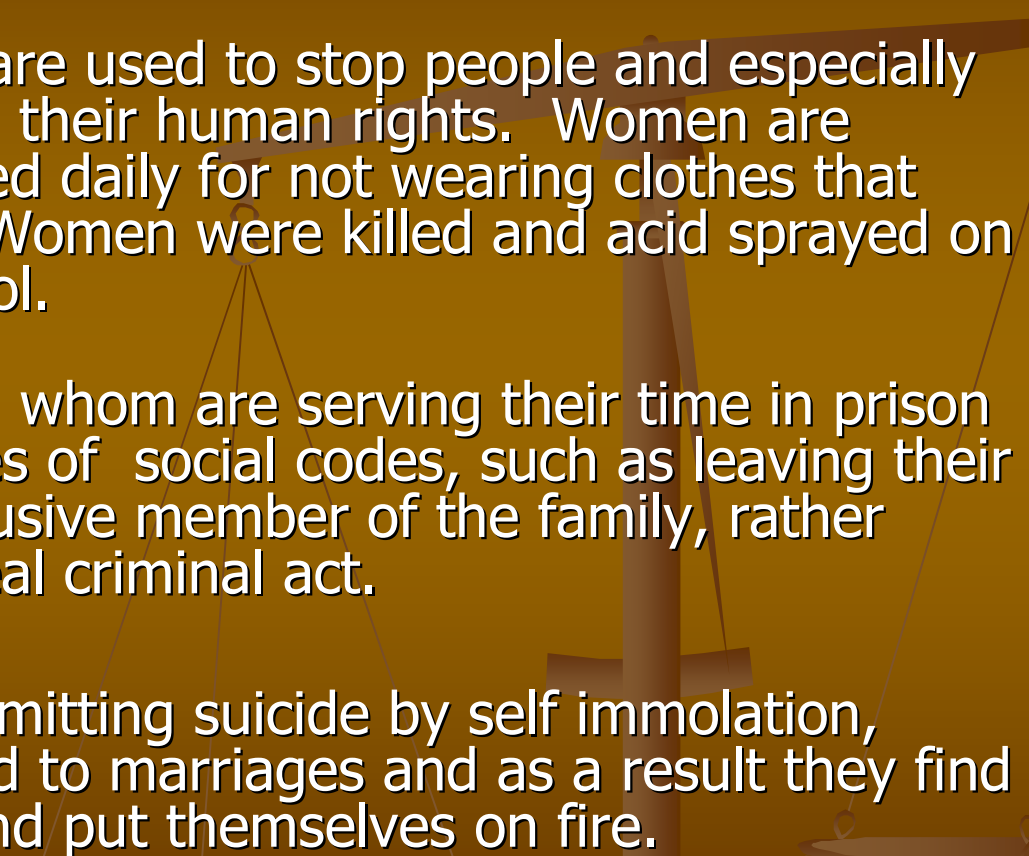
Women's Rights Situation in the Past:

- Afghanistan has always been a patriarchal society, but three decades of war has destroyed the progress that women had begun to make in the '60s and '70s.
- Fundamentalism was encouraged and supported by outsiders as the strategy to fight the Soviet Invasion and communism. This strategy had horrible consequences for women.
- During the civil war which followed by Soviet withdrawal, violence against women has increased to the high level.

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- None of the warring sides respected the human rights of women, perhaps the actions of the Taliban were the most extreme. When the Taliban took over, from 1996 to 2001, the extreme way of violence was imposed by them on women.
 - Women could not leave their homes, they were beaten in the street, and were not allowed to work. Practically 50% of the population were under house arrest.

Women Rights Situation at the present:

- The situation of women's rights is much better now than it was in the past. Women are able to work and go outside of their homes, and girls can attend school.
- The elections were a positive step toward democracy and women's participation was a good and encouraging sign during the first elections. Women have the right to vote, but in most of conservative part of the country, the male member of the family vote on their behalf.
- The exercise of women's rights and human rights, reconstruction, sustainable peace, and democracy are in great danger, due to the lack of security and absence of the rule of law and the lack of real political will to support them in the country.
- Progress of women's rights has been guaranteed in the constitution, equal rights for women and men has been assured in the constitution, but this has to become a reality in the ground in the country.

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- Media portrays thousands of girls are going to school, but it fails to show how many of them don't have access to education facilities.
 - Tactics of intimidation are used to stop people and especially women from exercising their human rights. Women are threatened and harassed daily for not wearing clothes that some of the men like. Women were killed and acid sprayed on them for going to school.
 - The majority of women whom are serving their time in prison are because of breaches of social codes, such as leaving their abusive husband or abusive member of the family, rather than committing any real criminal act.
 - Young women are committing suicide by self immolation, because they are forced to marriages and as a result they find themselves hopeless and put themselves on fire.

The violence we see today in Afghanistan with active participation of international community and the UN is the direct result of following factors:

- The failure to fulfill promises made to improve security situation in Afghanistan,
- Impunity enjoyed by the human rights violators, especially those sexual predators who are committing sexual violence.
- Lack of rule of law and law enforcement, and absence of laws that could protect and secure rights of the people, especially women and girls,
- The war economy and mafia system,
- Less attention has paid to empower women, using excuses such as respect the religion and culture of the country,

- Within the next period of time, our country either could take positive steps toward sustainable peace, or deteriorate even further into difficulties, unless lessons learnt from the past are not applied.
- Peace is desire of every human being but particularly of Afghan women who are suffered so long, but not at any price!
- The Afghan government hold a peace Jirga and started talks about reconciliation and reintegration with the Taliban and armed opposition, But the commission which was preparing for the Peace Jirga, had no women as its member.
- After a lot of lobby and advocacy by the Afghan women and international partners and friends, they accepted that 20% of the Jirga participant be women. But their recommendations were ignored and not included in the final resolution.
- The Government has recently established a commission to look at the cases of Taliban who are detained. But again there is no women in this commission as well.
- There are talks about establishing a High Council for peace. The official are admitted to have women at its member and looking for a good women of their definition. A women that could be obedient and surrender to their decision.

Afghanistan's conflict is the most complex conflict of this century ,

- The conflict in Afghanistan almost affects every country and every person in this planet . Therefore there is an urgent need of solution for it and there can also be practical implementation of recommendation of resolution 1325.
- The full and active participation of women could be an example of international community, UN and Afghan government's political commitment toward the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1325.
- The Afghanistan case will build confidence and boost people's trust on the role of UN and international community on their responsibility to protect.

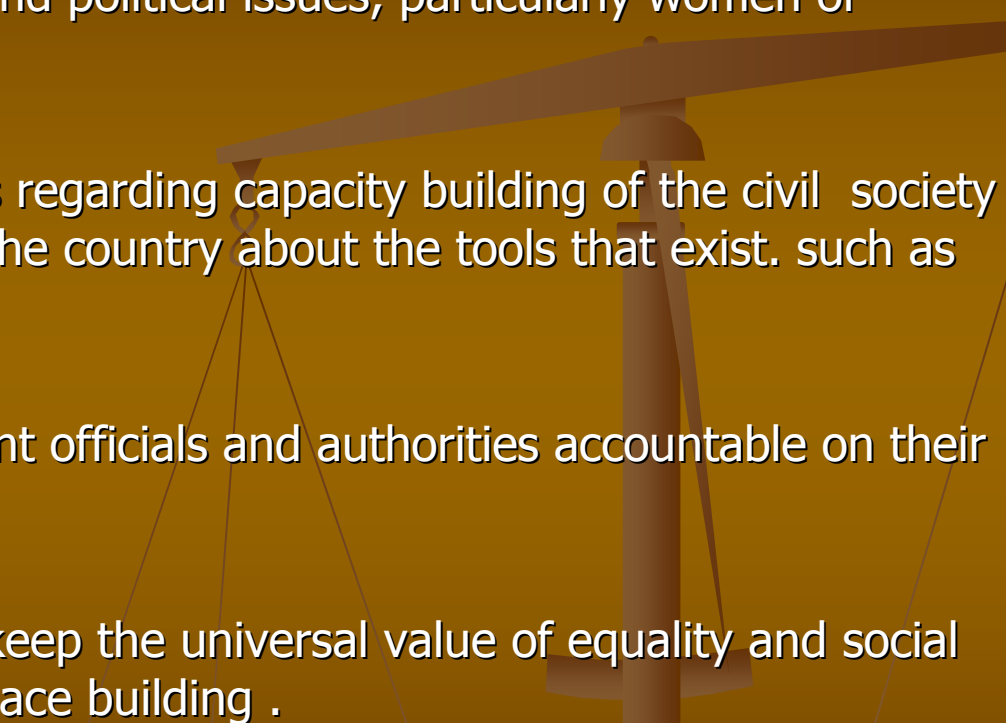
Recommendation;

A) To the UN and international community;

- ❑ Firstly, the United Nation and International community should not ignore women's participation as a universally accepted value in peace building in Afghanistan. The UN resolution 1325's recommendation should turn to reality for the women of Afghanistan.
- ❑ Secondly, excuses such as respecting the religion and culture in Afghanistan should NOT be used as a tool to ignore women's human rights and participation.
- ❑ Third, The Government of Afghanistan should be held accountable for its obligation toward the international conventions and resolutions, such as UN sec res. 1325.
- ❑ Fourth, raising awareness regarding the UN resolutions and other international treaties and conventions should be a priority. Even most of the officials in the governments don't know about res. 1325. this is particularly important for women in the conflict zones to know these tools for protecting their rights.
- ❑ Fifth, the UN and International community should not support a peace process in Afghanistan, if there is no place for justice and respect for human rights. The people of Afghanistan don't want to be victims of short term political gain, again and again.

B) To Afghan Government,

- ❑ First, the government of Afghanistan as a member of the UN and international community has to be bind and respect to the resolution 1325 and implement its recommendations,
- ❑ Second, the government of Afghanistan should recognize existence of half of the population's role in peace building. In the past 32 years of conflict most of the so called peace deals were made by men, which did not reach to sustainable peace in Afghanistan.
- ❑ Third, the government of Afghanistan has to put an end to the culture of impunity, specially on those who are committing sexual violence.
- ❑ Fourth, in order to have support and backing of the people of Afghanistan, specially women of Afghanistan, peace deals should be clear and transparent.
- ❑ Fifth, human rights, accountability and justice should not be ignored for short term political gain.

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- c) To the Civil society and women's organizations,
- First, to do more and try hard regarding raising awareness of the people of Afghanistan on social and political issues, particularly women of Afghanistan.
 - Second , maximize efforts regarding capacity building of the civil society members and women in the country about the tools that exist. such as the resolution 1325
 - Third, held the government officials and authorities accountable on their obligation.
 - And fourth, Be united to keep the universal value of equality and social justice in place during peace building .

D) To the Women around the world,

- ❑ Women have to be united to make an impact and space for themselves. Rights are not given as a gift, it should be taken.
- ❑ The Afghan women is part of global female body, if we get hurt, it might disturb the global female body in every corner of this planet.
- ❑ And finally, I will argue that peace building is a process and people in the country should participate in this process, peace cannot be sustainable without accountability, justice and women's participation. Afghanistan is clear example.