

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY WASHINGTON COLLEGE OF LAW CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN LAW

Resources on Human Rights in Afghanistan¹

Afghanistan is a landlocked country of 20 million people living on approximately 250,000 square miles (around the size of Texas). The population is diverse, with most people belonging to one of 20 key ethnic groups. Afghanistan is currently recovering from over 23 years of war and civil unrest. In addition, drought and famine have exacerbated the dire humanitarian situation. Since the ouster of the Taliban regime, Afghanistan has started to deal with long-standing needs for reform including human rights, economic development, rule of law and basic infrastructure and State-building. The following is a list of websites that provide more information about the current human rights situation in Afghanistan.

Women's Alliance for Peace and Human Rights in Afghanistan – www.wapha.org

- WAPHA is an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the restoration of women's and children's human rights and the full participation of women in reconstructing Afghanistan.

Physicians for Human Rights – www.phrusa.org

- PHR promotes health around the world by promoting human rights. PHR's website includes a discussion of Afghan women's health issues, a preliminary assessment of mass graves in Afghanistan, and an examination of reported abuses of Afghan prisoners.

International Human Rights Law Group – www.hrlawgroup.org

- The International Human Rights Law Group is a non-profit organization of human rights and legal professionals from over 20 countries. Two comprehensive reports on Afghanistan can be found on IHRLG's website: "Reality Gap in Afghanistan: Despite rosy reports, women's rights remain wishful thinking" and "Filling the vacuum: Prerequisites to Security in Afghanistan."

Eurasianet.org – <http://www.eurasianet.org/resource/afghanistan/links/rights.shtml>

- EurasiaNet provides information about political, economic, environmental and social developments in the countries of Central Asia. Its website includes a comprehensive resource page on Afghanistan as well as links to numerous reports on various human rights issues/developments in Afghanistan.

Medicins Sans Frontieres (Doctors Without Borders) – www.msf.org

- Doctors Without Borders has been providing assistance to refugees in Afghanistan since October 2001. MSF has advocated for the right of refugees from Afghanistan to be transferred to official refugee camps in Pakistan and for humanitarian assistance to those who choose to stay.

The Asia Foundation – www.asiafoundation.org

- The Asia Foundation's approach to development and reconstruction is cross-sectoral and emphasizes effective governance, public-private dialogue and cooperation, leadership and local capacity building, and long-term commitment. The Foundation's activities in Afghanistan date back to 1954.

Afghanistan Online – www.afghan-web.com

- This website contains general information on geography, people, history of Afghanistan as well as numerous links to websites on Afghan culture, politics, law, media, and human rights.

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