

Date: 04.06.2026

To:

- **Roberta Metsola**, President of the European Parliament
- **António Costa**, President of the European Council
- **Dr. Ursula von der Leyen**, President of the European Commission
- Members of the European Commission
- Members of the European Parliament
- EU Ministers of Foreign Affairs
- EU officials responsible for migration, asylum and refugee protection

**Subject: Urgent Appeal to Stop the Planned Meeting with Taliban Representatives in Brussels**

Dear President of the European Parliament, **Roberta Metsola**,  
Dear President of the European Council, **António Costa**,  
Dear President of the European Commission, **Dr. Ursula von der Leyen**,  
Dear EU Commissioners,  
Dear EU Ministers of Foreign Affairs,  
Dear EU officials responsible for migration, asylum and refugee protection,

We are writing to you at a critical and urgent moment.

According to information received by Afghan civil society networks, representatives of the Taliban are expected to be invited to Brussels in June for talks related to deportations and returns to Afghanistan. We urge you in the strongest possible terms to stop this planned meeting and to prevent any engagement that could give the Taliban political visibility, legitimacy or recognition in Europe.

**Afghanistan is not safe.**

Under Taliban rule, women and girls are systematically excluded from education, employment and public life. Human rights defenders, journalists, former officials, former local staff, minorities, activists, artists, lawyers and people associated with international organisations continue to face persecution, arbitrary detention, torture, intimidation and serious threats. The Taliban regime has institutionalised gender apartheid and continues to violate the most basic principles of human dignity, equality and international law.

Any discussion with the Taliban on deportations or returns would send a devastating message: that Europe is prepared to negotiate with the very regime from which many Afghans are fleeing.

Even if such talks are described as “technical”, they would carry serious political consequences. A meeting with Taliban representatives in Brussels would risk normalising a regime that persecutes its own people, erases women from public life and rules through fear. Deportation talks must not become a backdoor to the political normalisation of the Taliban.

Forced returns to Afghanistan may violate the principle of non-refoulement under international law, which prohibits returning people to a country where they may face persecution, torture or serious harm. The

European Union and its Member States have a legal and moral duty to uphold human rights, refugee protection and international law.

**We therefore call on you to:**

1. Cancel and prevent any planned meeting with Taliban representatives in Brussels concerning deportations, returns or migration cooperation.
2. Publicly reaffirm that Afghanistan is not a safe country for forced returns.
3. Stop all involuntary returns and deportations to Afghanistan.
4. Refuse any political normalisation or legitimisation of the Taliban regime in Europe.
5. Consult Afghan women, human rights defenders, refugee organisations, diaspora communities and civil society before taking any decision that affects Afghan lives.
6. Ensure that EU migration policy does not undermine Europe’s commitments to human rights, women’s rights, international protection and the rule of law.

This is not only about one meeting. It is about the line Europe must not cross.

If Taliban representatives are welcomed in Brussels for deportation talks, it will deeply damage Europe’s credibility and betray Afghan women, refugees, activists and victims of Taliban persecution. It would also strengthen the Taliban politically at a time when they should be held accountable for gender apartheid, systematic repression and grave human rights violations.

**Europe must not reward oppression with legitimacy.**

We urge you to act now, clearly and decisively: stop the planned meeting with the Taliban in Brussels and stand with the people of Afghanistan, especially women, girls, refugees and all those at risk.

**No forced returns to Afghanistan.**

**No normalisation of the Taliban in Europe.**

**No compromise on human rights and international law.**

Yours sincerely,

European Organisation for Integration e.V. (EOI)  
Mission Lifeline International e.V.

Together with **32 European organisations** and **40 organisations from inside Afghanistan and around the world** — Afghan women's rights groups, civil society organisations, refugee protection groups, journalists, diaspora organisations and supporting networks from Europe, Afghanistan and beyond:





Psychosoziale Hilfen für politisch Verfolgte e.V.





جنبش زنان فعال کندهار



جنبش زنان فعال هرات



AFGHAN WOMEN FOR JUSTICE



UNITED WOMEN OF AFGHANISTAN



جنبش اعتراضی زنان ولایت جوزجان



اتحاد زنان مشرقی EASTERN WOMEN'S ALLIANCE



جنبش زنان فعال بامیان



جنبش زنان مبارز بدخشان THE BADAKHSHAN WOMEN MOVEMENT



جنبش زنان فعال کابل THE KABUL WOMEN ACTIVISTS MOVEMENT



WOMEN ACTIVISTS OF GHAZNI زنان فعال غزنی



فعالین حقوقی زن در بغلان WOMEN'S RIGHTS ACTIVISTS IN BAGHLAN



انجمن زنان فعال پنجشیر



ACTIVE WOMEN OF PAKITIA فعاله شیخی د پکتیا



زنان فعال کاپیسا



AFGHAN WOMEN ACTIVISTS IN IRAN



Afghan Women Activists in Pakistan



د هلمند د ښځو اتحادیه



AFGHAN WOMEN ACTIVISTS IN LOGAR



وردگو د ښځو اتحادیه



فعالہ ښځې د لغمان



فعالہ ښځې د خوست  
Active women of Khost



Afghan Women Activists in Kazakhstan



AFGHAN WOMEN  
ACTIVISTS IN BAGHLAN



AFGHAN WOMEN  
ACTIVISTS IN TAJIKISTAN



AFGHAN WOMEN ACTIVISTS IN  
TURKEY



LIGHT  
IN THE  
DARKNESS  
HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION



AFGHAN WOMEN  
ACTIVISTS IN SAMANGAN



جنبش زنان تَخار  
Takhar Women's Movement



Afghan Women Activists in  
North America



AFGHAN WOMEN  
ACTIVISTS IN ANDKHOI



جنبش زنان بدکشان  
Badakhshan Women's Movement



AFGHAN WOMEN ACTIVISTS  
IN KYRGYZSTAN



AFGHAN WOMEN ACTIVISTS IN  
UZBEKISTAN



AFGHAN WOMEN  
ACTIVISTS IN BADGHIS



جنبش اعتراضی زنان ولایت فراه  
FARAH



جنبش زنان کندز  
د کندز د ښځو غورځنگ  
Kundoz Women's Movement



Civil Society & Human Rights Network (CSHRN)