

Abstract

On August 15, 2021, the Taliban returned to power. Since then, over 1.5 million girls have been banned from attending school after the sixth grade. This obvious exclusion not only violates their right to education but also leads to a deterioration in mental health.

The project *Unbreakable Girls: Safety & Education for All* responds to this war against women and girls, advocating for the recognition of gender apartheid under international human rights law to ensure education and safety again. Afghan women human rights defenders and feminist allies first articulated the concept of apartheid on the grounds of gender in response to the subjugation of women and girls and systematic attacks on their rights under the Taliban in the 1990s. Since the Taliban reclaimed control, the term is more widely used to describe institutionalized discrimination. This project aims to strengthen alliances, amplify Afghan voices, and mobilize support for the Afghan people. As an Afghan activist, I have witnessed firsthand the devastating impact of denying girls access to learning. It limits their potential, silences their voices, and perpetuates cycles of oppression. I refuse to accept a world where Afghan girls are deprived of opportunities simply because of their gender. Through this project, I strive to amplify their voices, challenge systemic discrimination, and create real pathways for change. Education is more than just knowledge; it is empowerment, freedom, and the key to a brighter future. By advocating for Afghan girls' education, I hope to inspire action, mobilize support, and contribute to a movement that ensures every girl has the chance to learn, grow, and lead.