

## Peacekeeping for Protection of Afghan Women

---

On Friday August 6<sup>th</sup>, the international community finally responded to the tragedy unfolding in Afghanistan, when the United Nations Security Council met to address the issue. Members of international civil society who have been endeavoring since May, to persuade international actors with the power to act to hold back the violence against women and other vulnerable groups unleashed by the withdrawal of NATO and US troops, welcomed the session. These activists assert that the human rights and security of women and girls must be integral to whatever course of action the world body determines to take, and call for the following:

- A ceasefire to establish civil order and make possible an inclusively negotiated peace;
- The invocation of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security to deploy peacekeepers to protect women;
- Enlisting, training of peacekeeping forces according to the principles of 1325, and regular monitoring to prevent violence against women.

These calls were put forth in a letter to the Ambassador Ireland of the United Nations who had announced that during Ireland's presidency of the Security Council, Afghanistan would be on the agenda. That letter, already signed by many from throughout the world, was scheduled to be sent with many more signatures, before the convening of the Council in September. In light of the session of August 6<sup>th</sup>, the letter was sent to Ambassador Nason on August 5<sup>th</sup> with only those signatures obtained by that date. Copies of the letter were sent to other Security Council members.

Participatory Human Rights Advancement Society has signed this call to protect Afghan women, to establish UNSCR 1325 as a practically applicable international norm, and to assure that peacekeepers are prepared to honor its principles.