

Dear Rt Hon Dominic Raab,

On Saturday 7th August 2021, the British Afghan diaspora held a special meeting at the Afghanistan and Central Asian Association, a charity based in Feltham to discuss solutions to the territorial gains made by the Taliban and escalating violence in Afghanistan. Afghan civil society have collectively called for an urgent global response to the attack on their rights, and we must listen.

We would like to raise the following suggestions directly to the UK Government.

The UK must stand up for international law and make it clear that the Taliban will be held accountable for their military offensives and human rights abuses through meaningful measures. The Afghan government has been rooted in corruption and widespread human rights abuses; we believe they do not have the capability or leadership to support the country out of this devastating situation.

Please help secure a just and lasting peace by implementing meaningful actions to hold the Taliban accountable for its violations of international law.

Please call on the government to:

- Introduce sanctions similar to the UN Sanctions imposed in 1999 in response to the actions of the Taliban, *including providing sanctuary and training for international terrorist groups*.
- Stop supporting the Afghan Government, as the current leadership has failed to carry out their obligations and have continued to make decisions that has had detrimental impact on the life of Afghan people.

Only international pressure can force the Taliban and the Afghan government to uphold international law, and the UK must lead the way in safeguarding human rights for everyone.

Executive Summary

After 20 years from the Bonn Conference, the British Afghan Diaspora would like to ask the UK to:

- Support the people of Afghanistan by giving them another chance to have a more inclusive government consisting of all provinces and districts.
- Support a new transition and review the Afghan constitution introduced in 2001.
- An election to be held in 2022 allowing all political parties and different factions and those who have not committed war crimes to stand.
- Support a decentralised government to give provinces and districts their own authority.

As the NATO's 20th anniversary in Afghanistan approaches, the fundamental challenge is whether Afghanistan can sustain or continue to exist as one country or should it be split into four or five semi-autonomous zones.

More importantly, while the situation has deteriorated rapidly there is a need for immediate delivery of humanitarian Aid to prevent a human disaster.

- The UK must demonstrate long-term commitment to Afghanistan in the form of a formal strategic partnership announced at Bonn.
- The UK should announce its intention to maintain a military force in Afghanistan well beyond 2021.
- The UK should fund the Afghanistan National Security Forces (ANSF)

Dr Nooralhaq Nasimi, the Director of the Afghanistan & Central Asian Association, stated that without UK commitment and support, Afghanistan will likely fall back into the civil war it experienced in the early 1990s. As fighting spreads, India and Pakistan will back their Afghan proxies and the conflict will intensify. The countries who do not share our values - Russia, Iran and China – are also in contact with the Taliban which means the situation would not only create opportunities for a safe haven for extremists and will invite a confrontation between adversarial and nuclear-armed states. The growing strength of Pakistan's own insurgency and the existential threat it could pose in the future intensifies this risk. The potential for such an outcome runs counter to U.S. and coalition interests. Bonn 2001 began a journey towards Afghanistan's stability and the creation of a representative government that has endured great sacrifices by Afghans, UK and other members of the coalition. That journey has come far from its humble beginning and requires UK and American leadership and energy to remain on course.

Furthermore, here in UK, Dr Nooralhaq Nasimi worked very hard to promote integration and shared values to make sure the people of Afghanistan have a voice and representation in UK society. Dr Nasimi believes that the charity now is in a position to be the main contact point for the UK government on matters relating to Afghanistan at this crucial and a very serious time for Afghanistan, particularly to provide first-hand knowledge on the human-rights abuses and what could be done to stop the war. Dr Nasimi's own hometown Ghorband, which is part of Parwan province in north of Afghanistan has been already seized by the Taliban and he is in regular contact with people back home asking for humanitarian assistance in the northern provinces.

The Afghanistan diaspora in UK is very concerned about the escalation of war and human rights abuses by Taliban and urge the UK to put pressure on neighbouring countries to stop supporting the Taliban and support peace in Afghanistan.

Yours sincerely
Dr. Nooralhaq Nasimi

On behalf of the Afghanistani diaspora in UK