



## **A.D.M.I.**

### **Associazione Donne Magistrati Italiani**

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IAWJ, *International Association of Woman Judges*, ha chiesto in data 23 agosto 2021 supporto in relazione alle gravi violazioni dei diritti umani perpetrate in danno delle magistrato afgane la cui incolumità e quella delle loro famiglie è in pericolo a causa della scarcerazione dei detenuti che le stesse avevano condannato.

A.D.M.I. Associazione Donne Magistrati Italiani, ribadisce- facendo seguito al documento già diramato in data 16 agosto 2021 - il sostegno al libero ed indipendente esercizio della giurisdizione in Afghanistan, necessario a garantire il pieno rispetto dei diritti umani e la sicurezza del vivere civile. Il pericolo in cui versano le magistrato afgane è aggravato dalla loro appartenenza al genere femminile, alla luce del carattere fondamentalista del nascente regime talebano.

A.D.M.I. Associazione Donne Magistrati Italiani, pertanto, chiede all' ONU, alle organizzazioni internazionali e alle forze governative di intervenire celermente ed efficacemente al fine di garantire condizioni di sicurezza per le magistrato che intendono continuare ad esercitare in piena indipendenza il proprio ruolo; chiede, altresì, che le speciali misure di protezione già adottate per altre categorie professionali (giornalisti, ecc) siano estese alle magistrato e delle loro famiglie.

Roma 24 agosto 2021

La Presidente  
Isabella Ginefra

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## International Association of Women Judges Advancing Human Rights and Equal Justice for All

Dear IAWJ members,

We have heard you! The situation in Afghanistan is dire and many of you have reached out to the IAWJ International Board, Board of Managerial Trustees, and the Executive Office on ways you can support the women and girls of Afghanistan in general and our members and their families in specific.

How can you help?

### Financial Support

We are creating a fundraising campaign in support of our efforts. We will use the funds to provide direct aid to our Afghan members in desperate need and will be working on safe and fair ways to apply the funds. We will also use the funds to support the work of the IAWJ Afghan Women Judges' Aid Committee, chaired by the IAWJ President, Justice Susan Glazebrook. For the Committee's work, we need financial support for the translation, interpretation, logistical and administrative support needed to provide direct aid to our members and their families in Afghanistan. Our interpreters and our IAWJ staff have offered their time and expertise to meet this urgent need and we would like to compensate them through unrestricted funds. If we collect excess funds we will use these to support women judges globally who find themselves in need.

Donations can be made through check (the IAWJ mailing address is below); through wire transfer; or through the 'Donate' page on the IAWJ website. When donating, please be sure to indicate Afghan Women Judges' Aid Committee in the memo of your donation. If you have questions about donating or for the wire transfer information, please contact Executive Director, Christie Jones, at [executivedirector@iawj.org](mailto:executivedirector@iawj.org).

International Association of Women Judges

2000 M Street, NW

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Washington, DC 20036

### Letters of Support

Earlier this week, each of our member associations received an email calling for them to write letters condemning the situation in Afghanistan and in support of our members. We encourage each association to write these letters and share with the appropriate government officials and media outlets in your country. Please also be sure to share these letters with the IAWJ directly at [office@iawj.org](mailto:office@iawj.org) as we are collecting them.



## **International Association of Women Judges**

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13 August 2021

### **IAWJ Statement on Afghanistan**

The International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ), has grave fears for the basic human rights of women and girls in Afghanistan as the Taliban advance and take control of large parts of the country. This includes the right of women to live and work in safety and security.

As an organization comprised of over 6500 women judges from more than 100 countries and territories worldwide, we want to draw particular attention to the situation of Afghan women judges, given the special role they have played and are still playing, in upholding the rule of law and human rights for all, and the particular dangers they face as a result. We honour their commitment and their courage.

Since 2003, the IAWJ has been supporting the women judges of Afghanistan in their work. Today, some 270 women serve as judges there. Over 100 of these judges are members of the Afghan Women Judges Association (AWJA), which has is affiliated with the IAWJ. Some board members of the IAWJ spoke with a number of Afghan women judges in July at a virtual meeting of the AWJA.

The women judges present at the meeting gave an urgent and critical message to their international colleagues. One by one they spoke about the dangerous and difficult conditions in which they live and work. Some judges have lost their lives in terrorist attacks and several of the judges present had received threats. The judges stated that they love their country and do not wish to leave. They just ask that they be allowed to continue their vital work in their country's courts in safety and security. We have since had numerous follow up messages from our members outlining the deteriorating situation. Some have already been forced to flee their posts in the provinces with their families because it was too dangerous to remain. The IAWJ urges those involved in any peace negotiations to ensure that the rights of women and girls are safeguarded. The IAWJ, however, remains very concerned that, due to the nature of their work and the past rulings they have made in criminal, anti corruption and family courts, many of the women judges and their families will be in particular danger if the Taliban reach Kabul. These dangers are exacerbated by their gender and the likelihood that persons they have sentenced will be released from prison.

The IAWJ urges governments to include the Afghan women judges and their families, who are in such a desperate and precarious position, in the special measures extended to interpreters, journalists and other personnel who provided essential service to the foreign military forces in Afghanistan. By serving as judges and helping develop the Afghan judicial branch, women judges have helped establish the rule of law in their country, an essential pillar of a democratic state. Allowing them to be at the mercy of the Taliban and insurgent groups, given what they have sacrificed, would be tragic indeed.

Justice Susan Glazebrook



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La caduta di Kabul e di tutto l'Afghanistan in mano talebana rischia fortemente di riportare le donne, le ragazze e le bambine afgane alla situazione antecedente alla caduta del regime talebano ed alle riforme della costituzione del 2004 ed alla legge elettorale del 2005 che hanno riconosciuto loro il diritto all'istruzione ed alla partecipazione alla vita politica, sociale e culturale del Paese, sottraendole all'oscurità in cui erano state sepolte.

Una realtà già annunciata dal brutale omicidio di due donne magistrato della Corte Suprema afgana o dall'assalto ad una scuola femminile di Kabul ( già stigmatizzate dall'Associazione Internazionale Donne Magistrato in una petizione al Segretario Generale dell'ONU nel maggio 2021) o dalla sistematica eliminazione di giornaliste ed attiviste per i diritti umani.

Tali fatti, che segnalavano un progetto di cruenta repressione dei diritti delle donne, sono resi oggi attuali dalle notizie di giovani donne anche minorenni promesse ai miliziani come bottino di guerra e che rendono ancora più evidente che la violenza che sta per abbattersi su tutto l'Afghanistan colpirà soprattutto le donne, le ragazze e le bambine.

Non può esserci pace senza il rispetto dei diritti delle donne e dei minori. I gravi fatti che si stanno verificando in Afghanistan non lascia indifferente A.D.M.I. che esprime indignazione per quanto sta accadendo e forte preoccupazione per il futuro.

A.D.M.I. Associazione Donne Magistrato Italiane, unendosi alle voci di altre Associazioni nazionali e internazionali auspica che l'Europa, i Governi e le Organizzazioni Internazionali possano intervenire e fare tutto quanto possibile per arginare la grave crisi umanitaria in atto e assicurare la tutela dei diritti delle donne e dei minori afgani.

Roma 16 agosto 2021

La Presidente  
Isabella Ginefra