



**Press Release on Violence against Women  
The causes, Grounds, and Situation of Violence against Women in  
Afghanistan during  
10 months of the fiscal year 1396  
Jan-Oct 2017**

## **Introduction:**

In the Afghan society, violence against women is considered as a widespread, common and undeniable reality. The current report covers the various types of violence against women occurred during the 10 months of fiscal year 1396. In addition to providing statistical information, this report put forward detailed incidents of violence that states terrible facts. Women in insecure provinces of Afghanistan are more vulnerable than in other areas. The AIHRC's investigations show that armed conflict in the border and Taliban's influence in the regions are the main reasons for the increase of violence in the country. And the government cannot provide adequate health, education and judicial services in these areas.

In addition to this, unacceptable customs and tradition continue to cast a shadow over the family system in Afghanistan, in which women are considered to have an unequal and inferior position than men, and they are mainly deprived of having personal authority and wills at the decision-making level of the family, and even deprived of the affairs related to women. However, we can say that the phenomenon of violence in general and violence against women in particular is an inclusive and undeniable fact in the Afghan society

## **General Findings and Types of Violence against Women over the 10 months of fiscal year 1396;**

The present report covers information on the statistics of violence against women during the 10 months of the fiscal year 1396, which was recorded in the regional and provincial offices of the AIHRC by the complainants of violence against women or their relatives during the current year.

Out of a total number of 3,778 cases of violence against women, registered during the 10 months of fiscal year 1396, 1,351 cases accounts for physical violence. A total of 186 other cases include sexual violence and 1,093 cases involving verbal and psychological violence. There were also 589 cases of economic violence. Another 557 cases include other cases of violence against women, which are deliberately dependent on unacceptable costume and traditions in the country.

### **Physical Violence:**

In this reporting period, 1,351 incidents of violence have been registered. Among these incidents 1,003 incidents were beating and battering of women. In addition, burning (19 incidents), injuries (54 incidents), forced labor (22

incidents), murder (231 incidents), body member amputation (4), and 18 others.

**Cases of women’s murder:**

During the first 10 months of the fiscal year 1396, the AIHRC documented around 231 individual cases of female murder, most of which occurred in the northern, southern, and southwest of Afghanistan, out of a total of 231 cases of murder documented by this institution, 120 cases are honor killing committed by members of the family like father and husband, and 6 cases of the extrajudicial trial were committed by the anti-government's armed groups and irresponsible armed forces. In 105 cases, unidentified persons have been involved and suspected.

**Geography and areas covered by these cases:**

Of the 231 cases of murder, 104 cases were in the north and northeast, 50 cases in the south and southwest, 34 cases in the western zone, 28 in the east and 15 in the central zone.

**Judicial prosecution of cases of women murder based on the zone:**

AIHRC investigations show that out of the total number of women murder cases across Afghanistan, more than 50% of the perpetrators of women's murder cases have been arrested, and the relevant cases have been submitted to the Court after investigations by the Attorney Office. Of the total of 231 murder cases, the perpetrators of the 120 cases were arrested and the rest have runaway. But the geography of the local government's performance in many parts of Afghanistan describes a worrying situation, as of 44 cases in the western zone, 29% of them, and of 104 cases in the northern and northeast zone, 50% of them, of 50 cases in the south and south zones 56% of them, of 28 cases in the east zone, 30% of them, and of 15 cases of women murder in the central regions, 67% of them have been addressed.

**Sexual violence**

With all restrictions, over the past 10 months of the fiscal year 1396, 186 cases of sexual violence against women have been recorded in the offices of the AIHRC, of which 38 cases have been sexual assault. In addition to sexual assault, 23 cases of illegitimate husband's relations with others, 30 sexual harassments, 23 cases of forced prostitution, 4 forced viewing of pornographic images and pornographic films, 6 cases of forced abortion, 4 cases of forced pregnancies, 19 cases of forced sodomy, as well as 37 cases of forced marriage have been recorded as cases of sexual violence, in this year's statistics.

**Verbal and psychological violence:**

Linguistic and psychological violence is also a common occurrence of violence against women, which is rarely considered as violence. The AIHRC's data bank represents 1093 linguistic and psychological violence against women in the 10 months of fiscal year 1396. Out of 1,093 linguistic and psychological violence, 579 of them were mockery, racism, or humiliating remarks, such as insulting women. About 139 other cases have attributed charges or accusations to the personality and behavior of women. But 161 of these cases were threatening women to killing.

About 102 cases are threatening to divorce and taking away the child, threatening to expulsion form home, threatening to loss of fate, and threatening to take a new wife. There were 26 cases of insult because of lack of having a child or lack of having a boy child, 69 cases of forced isolation and 17 cases of violence due to unknown reasons.

### **Economic Violence:**

One of the factors of violence against women is the lack of economic independence of women in the family environment and their economic dependence on their husbands, which has made women in the family environment and at the community level inferior to men. AIHRC statistics show that over the past 10 months of fiscal 1396, 589 cases of economic violence have been registered at AIHRC's offices.

Out of all of the above cases registered in AIHRC's database, 450 of them are deprivation of women from alimony. 39 cases are prohibition of personal property, 38 cases of lack of access to inheritance rights, 21 non-payments of Mahria, and 28 cases of denial of right to work, 13 cases are others.

### **Other cases of violence against women:**

In addition to the above mentioned types of violence against women, the AIHRC database for the fiscal year 1396 includes 557 other cases, including violations such as expulsion, forced marriage, early marriage, preventing the right to choose a spouse, Bad and exchange, prohibiting of the right to education, etc.

Of the 557 above mentioned cases, 99 were forced engagement, 61 cases of polygamy, 62 cases of prohibition from visiting relatives, 10 cases of neglecting affiliation, 31 cases of buying and selling women on the pretext of marriage, 26 access restriction to health services, 5 cases of giving to Bad, 74 cases of denial to choose spouse, 58 cases of denial of right to education, 12 cases of denial of political activities, 6 cases of trafficking, 3 cases of forced drug use and 110 cases others.

### **Causes and factors of violence against women**

Violence against women is due to several factors. The most important factors of violence against women are the existence of unpleasant customs and

tradition, the lack of security and weakness in the rule of the government in the districts and provinces, the lack of serious deal with perpetrators, and the continued culture of impunity; administrative corruption and misuse of duty; interference of influential individuals in the handling of cases; limited women's access to justice (courts, prosecutors' offices, women's detainees and attorneys); the presence of illegal weapons with irresponsible individuals and groups; the lack of adequate support for victims of violence against women; illiteracy; Lack of public awareness; Poverty and unemployment; increase in drug addiction.

### **AIHRC's performance regarding Violence Against Women:**

In this report, the AIHRC's activities are evaluated on the basis of cases and number of complainants of violence, not on the basis of statistics of violence. Of the 1,788 cases involving 3,778 incidents of violence against women, 310 cases have been settled through mediation, 86 cases have been introduced to the safe shelter. In 60 cases, the complainant has canceled, 171 cases have been referred to the police, 134 cases have been referred to the Attorney General, 198 cases have been referred to the courts, 800 cases have been provided with necessary legal advice, 29 cases have been submitted to health centers.

### **Recommendation:**

- Enhance the level of knowledge and public awareness of the social and individual rights and privileges of citizens, especially women's legal status in the family and society relationships.
- Create job opportunities and income-generating programs for women aiming at securing financial independence of women, and the eliminating extreme financial and economic dependency of women on men in the family.
- Create opportunities for women in high-level administrative departments and public and private institutions, and their involvement in decision-making and national macroeconomic policies.
- Build effective strategies to combat the rule of superstitious traditions and customs that affect women's human rights and contribute to patriarchal culture in the society.
- Support special attorney's office fighting violence against women, and increase personnel of such offices in all distant provinces.
- Strengthen the court fighting violence against women and spread such units or entities in the remote provinces of the country.

- Strengthen the presence of women in the ranks of the country's security forces and raising the level of police awareness and professional knowledge in the field of human rights education, in order to strengthen the accountability and respect for human rights;
- Facilitate women's access to justice and judicial authorities at national and provincial levels in order to help women victims of violence benefit from legal protection;
- make registration of marriage and the use of the marriage contract compulsory;