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Statement at the 63rd Session of the Human Rights Council

Agenda item 2: Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Afghanistan

7 September 2026

H.E. Ambassador Frank Büchel

Permanent Representative of the Principality of Liechtenstein

Thank you, Mister President.

Liechtenstein thanks the Special Rapporteur for the presentation of his report.

More than five years after the Taliban's return to power, the human rights situation in Afghanistan continues to deteriorate. The repression of women and girls has become even more severe, while restrictions on fundamental freedoms affect all expressions of diversity or opposition and disproportionately impact religious and ethnic minorities.

Women and girls face an institutionalized system of gender-based discrimination and oppression. They have been deprived of access to secondary and higher education, excluded from public life, and increasingly confined to their homes, exposing them to a heightened risk of gender-based violence. Harmful practices, including child and early marriage, also remain a grave concern as the most recent decree on separation of spouses does not set out a legal age of marriage. The systematic denial of the rights of women and girls cannot be justified and must end immediately.

Mr. President,

The international community cannot allow the normalization of a system that institutionalizes discrimination and denies human rights and fundamental freedoms.

We reaffirm our solidarity with the people of Afghanistan, particularly women and girls, and call for continued support for accountability efforts, including the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Afghanistan and the International Criminal Court. The meaningful, equal and safe participation of Afghan women, children and survivors in all processes concerning Afghanistan's future remains indispensable.

I thank you.