

“Written evidence in addition to oral evidence given to the IDC on 7 July by Shaharзад Akbar”

Many Afghan media, human rights and education organizations based outside Afghanistan use a hybrid model, allowing them to work with individuals and groups inside the country or deliver services such as education, training, psychosocial support to particularly women and girls inside Afghanistan. All UK funding for Afghan human rights and civil society work should ensure that a portion of the funds supports services or activities inside Afghanistan, in a safe and discreet manner. Additionally, some local media outlets and local collectives of women and girls are working on a range of issues inside Afghanistan, such as education, targeted awareness raising and discreet legal advice. The UK government funding should actively seek out such groups and provide long-term and flexible support. To improve the human rights and women's rights situation in Afghanistan, we must sustain and expand civic activism and resistance inside the country, coupled with regional and international pressure on the Taliban. These collectives of hope and action for rights and dignity inside the country can't be sustained without financial and political support. The UK government must also continue seeking consultation and engagement with diverse group of Afghans, beyond the Taliban, both inside and outside Afghanistan.