



**Afghanistan Organization for Development of Human Rights (AODHR)**

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**Statement on the ICC's Arrest Warrants for Taliban Leaders  
Issued on behalf of Afghanistan Organization for Development of  
Human Right ( AODHR)**

**Date: 8 July 2025**

We, at AODHR ,commend the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the Office of the Prosecutor for taking bold and principled action by issuing arrest warrants for Haibatullah Akhundzada and Abdul Hakim Haqqani in relation to crimes against humanity in Afghanistan.

This decisive step marks a historic moment in international justice ,the first time gender-based persecution, including on the grounds of gender identity and expression, has been publicly acknowledged at this level. It affirms what Afghan women, girls, LGBTQI+ individuals, and civil society have courageously documented and resisted for years: the deliberate, systematic oppression carried out by the Taliban regime since their return to power in August 2021.

We extend our deepest respect to the survivors, Afghan human rights defenders, and grassroots organizations who have continued to speak out at great personal risk. Your voices have not gone unheard.

We also express our appreciation to the ICC' Prosecutor office for centering gender-based violence as a matter of global accountability, and for recognizing the full scope of harm endured by Afghan communities.

While justice may not be immediate, this action delivers a powerful message: Impunity for crimes of persecution—particularly against

women and gender-diverse people—cannot and will not be tolerated.

We urge ICC member states and the international community to fully cooperate with the Court, support enforcement of these warrants, and sustain their commitment to Afghan civil society and survivors.

Together, we must ensure this milestone leads to not just legal accountability, but real change for those who have suffered under tyranny and continue to resist it with courage