

HRC 51: Enhanced Interactive Dialogue on the human rights situation of women and girls in Afghanistan

Thank you Mr President,

Two months ago, this Council concluded that “the oppression of women and girls in Afghanistan is grave, institutionalized, widespread and systematic”. Tragically, nothing has changed.

To the human rights defenders across Afghanistan and to the Afghan women here today, let me begin by saying thank you. Thank you for continuing to shine a spotlight on the appalling situation you face. I am humbled by your courage and tireless determination.

Afghanistan is the only country in the world where girls cannot attend secondary school. Women in Afghanistan are unable to move around freely. They are confined to their homes. In many cases they are unable to work. They are severely restricted from enjoying their human rights.

With girls kept out of school, and as parents struggle to feed their families, the risk of child early and forced marriage increases.

Without education for girls, there will be fewer doctors, teachers and entrepreneurs in Afghanistan.

The UK will continue strongly championing the voices of Afghan women and girls and continue to provide life-saving support and provide space for Afghan women’s voices.

Our message to the Taliban is clear. Listen to Afghan women. Allow girls to go to school. Allow women to work. Allow women humanitarian workers to deliver life-saving aid. To put it simply, uphold their human rights.

Mr President, this Council must unite and demonstrate, once again, that we stand with Afghan women and girls.

Thank you.

HRC 51: Interactive Dialogue with the

Special Rapporteur on Afghanistan

Thank you, Madam Vice President.

Special Rapporteur,

Let me start by thanking you for your detailed and sobering update to this Council. It is a reminder to us all, on this first day of the fifty-first session of the Council, of how crucial your mandate is in providing a voice to millions of Afghans.

We share your grave concern about the, “staggering regression in women and girls’ enjoyment of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights since the Taliban took power”. Indeed, in no other country have women and girls so rapidly disappeared from all spheres of public life, particularly secondary schools. We call on the Taliban to urgently reverse these policies and practices restricting the human rights of Afghan women and girls.

Special Rapporteur, we also welcome your efforts to shed light on the broader situation of human rights in Afghanistan. Religious and ethnic minorities continue to be targeted, including by terrorist groups. There are allegations of arbitrary detention, torture and extrajudicial killings at the hands of the Taliban. Media freedoms have been restricted and there are all too frequent reports of peaceful public dissent being violently repressed.

The UK remains committed to supporting the Afghan people. We urge the Taliban urgently to take steps to protect the rights of all Afghans. This includes ensuring inclusive dialogue, which truly reflects Afghan society.

Your role, Special Rapporteur, is vital to provide an independent voice for the Afghan people, including women and girls. We will do all we can to support you in your work and we encourage our fellow members of this Council to do the same.

Thank you.

HRC 51: UK Statement for the Interactive Dialogue with the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar

Thank you Mr President,

Let me warmly thank colleagues for this morning's silence for Her late Majesty Elizabeth the second.

The UK continues to condemn the military coup in Myanmar, the violence against the people of Myanmar, and the unlawful detention and execution of figures in the deposed civilian government and civil society by the military.

Security forces continue to commit atrocities throughout the country, with credible reports of torture, burning of villages, sexual violence, violence against children, and mass killings. 600,000 Rohingya remain in Rakhine state, where they face systemic discrimination; are denied their citizenship rights and access to education and healthcare.

The UK will continue to apply pressure through international fora, targeted sanctions and other means to respond to the junta's actions. We have also announced our intention to intervene in the ICJ case brought by The Gambia for Myanmar's alleged breach of the Genocide Convention. We welcome the Mechanism's cooperation with the Court.

The international community must support the IIMM to collect and preserve incidents of human rights violations. The UK has provided 500,000 pounds sterling of core funding, and established the Myanmar Witness programme.

Mr Koumjian,

What actions can the international community take to improve evidence gathering for alleged crimes relating to gender and children?

[Channel demersal NQS FMP working group launches](#)



MMO will seek feedback and input from the group, on the species to prioritise for the first version of the FMP, its overall development and any potential management measures that could be proposed in the first version of the plan.

The group is made up of representatives from the fishing industry, local

Inshore Fishermen's Conservation Authorities (IFCA's) and the wider supply chain.

All members are expected to seek opportunities to engage the wider commercial and recreational fishing industries and other key stakeholders to ensure a wide range of views are brought forward for consideration and discussion.

MMO is committed to making it simple for fishermen to keep up to date with the work of the group and will publish the minutes of each meeting which, to begin with, will be held online on a monthly basis.

The working group is one of a number of ways MMO is engaging with stakeholders on the future management of demersal non quota species in the Channel.

The Channel demersal NQS FMP will include ICES divisions 7d and 7e and will cover a wide range of demersal species.

Development of a plan specifically for demersal non-quota species in the Channel was highlighted by the fishing industry and other key marine stakeholders as a necessary move because of concern about potential over-exploitation of some stocks and a lack of data about non-quota stocks in general.

We encourage fishermen and interested marine stakeholders to send us their views at fmp@marinemanagement.org.uk

You can find out more about the [Government's wider Fisheries Management Plan Programme](#) online

Published 20 September 2022

Last updated 20 September 2022 [+ show all updates](#)

1. 20 September 2022

Amends

2. 20 September 2022

First published.

[GCA publishes 2021-22 annual report](#)

News story

Read about the GCA's latest annual report.



The GCA has published its [ninth annual report](#).

The reporting period was one of significant change and challenge for the industry. This included rising inflation, shortages of inputs including packaging and ingredients, and labour shortages. The Competition and Markets Authority designated Amazon.com, Inc. (“Amazon”), falling under the GCA’s regulatory authority from 1 March 2022.

The annual report showcases some of the GCA’s work during this time including:

- the publication of the 7 Golden Rules for responding to cost price increase requests as inflation rose
- the 2022 groceries sector survey which showed deteriorating relationships between suppliers and Retailers for the first time
- its work with Amazon following its designation to ensure compliance with the Groceries Supply Code of Practice

The annual report also provides a summary of the GCA’s performance against statutory reporting requirements and its strategic objectives, in addition to an update on its financial position.

Further information

[Attend the GCA annual conference](#)

[Sign up to the GCA newsletter](#)

[Follow the GCA on Twitter](#)

Published 20 September 2022