



Policy Briefs Pamphlet 2025

2nd Edition



Debate, Writing, and Advocacy program

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Introduction

Afghanistan's youth continue to live with profound challenges under the Taliban regime—facing restrictions on education, limited access to employment, and exclusion from civic life. Despite these obstacles, young Afghans remain resilient, determined to raise their voices and shape the future of their country.

Building on the success of our previous publications, Afghans for Progressive Thinking (APT) proudly presents a new series of policy briefs developed through the Advocacy, Writing, and Debate Program. This initiative brought together another cohort of young women and men who enhanced their skills in policy analysis, advocacy, and writing. Through collaborative effort and dialogue, these participants drafted policy recommendations that reflect their lived experiences and hopes.

In this volume, you will hear directly from young Afghan men and women who have bravely shared their insights despite the challenges they face under the current Taliban regime. These briefs address critical issues affecting Afghan youth, including barriers to education, mental health struggles, displacement and refugee experiences, gender-based restrictions, and the role of the diaspora in supporting local movements.

Alongside these challenges, the briefs offer thoughtful recommendations that come directly from the youth themselves. The proposed solutions by the young authors represent the voices of those most impacted, aiming to raise awareness and influence policies that shape their futures.

This publication of policy briefs would not have been possible without the leadership of Ajmal Ramyar, Head Executive of APT, and Abdul Rahman Jalil, Project Manager. We also extend our heartfelt gratitude to Courtney Bailey for facilitating the writing sessions and editing the policy briefs. Her support and expertise helped the participants articulate their ideas and produce impactful briefs. Special thanks to Lindsey Jones-Renaud for facilitating the advocacy sessions and empowering participants to refine their voices and strategies. We also offer special thanks to Yazdan Ahmad Mirdadi for designing the booklet, and Mursal for creating the posters that visually amplify the voices and messages of Afghan youth.

About Us

Afghans for Progressive Thinking (APT) is a youth-led nonprofit organization in Afghanistan that actively addresses human rights crises, with a specific focus on women's rights, while simultaneously promoting girls' access to education through creative and impactful initiatives.

APT's initiatives encompass a range of key areas. It connects female university students in Afghanistan with mentors from abroad, forging valuable relationships and providing guidance. APT also facilitates networking opportunities for youth, both within and beyond Afghanistan's borders, to encourage open dialogue, collaboration, and the exchange of ideas and experiences. In addition to these endeavors, APT is preparing to equip a team of young women with expertise in the "Internal Family System (IFS)" trauma healing technique. This training will empower them to offer healing sessions to others and create safe spaces for family members in need of support.

Furthermore, APT offers a platform for young women to express themselves by writing and publishing their stories, particularly significant under Taliban rule.

Over the course of its 13-year existence, APT has successfully fostered meaningful engagement among young men and women. Through discussions and dialogues, they have influenced policies prior to the collapse. These conversations center on critical topics and propose solutions for a better Afghanistan and a better world. APT's work has played a pivotal role in shaping policies on both national and global levels, owing to the development of leadership and critical thinking skills among its participants. Since its inception in 2010, APT activities have impacted and inspired over 60,000 youth and children to build a vision for a just and inclusive society.

You may read more about APT at: www.aptyouth.org

How visa Restrictions Are Stealing the Educational Dreams of Afghan girls

Executive summary:

Afghan girls are not only banned from going to school inside Afghanistan, now many of them are blocked from leaving the country to study abroad because of strict visa rules. For thousands of girls, studying outside the country is the only way to continue their education, yet even those who win scholarships and university admissions are often rejected, delayed, or charged high fees they cannot afford. Mahsa, for example, earned a full scholarship to study in the U.S. but was denied a visa despite meeting every requirement. Her story reflects the painful reality of many others. Each year they lose makes their future smaller, and Afghanistan loses potential teachers, doctors, journalists, and leaders who could help rebuild the country. This policy brief calls on governments, universities, and NGOs to take urgent steps: speed up visa processing, reduce financial barriers, and expand scholarships for Afghan girls. If the global community acts now, it can protect the right to education and invest in a generation that still dreams of learning, even when every door at home has been shut.

Problem Statement:

Since the Taliban's return in 2021, Afghan girls and women have been banned from secondary schools and universities (UNESCO, 2023a). For many, the only hope left is to continue their studies abroad. But even this path is now blocked by complicated and restrictive visa systems. One example is Mahsa, a young Afghan woman who earned a scholarship to study in the U.S. but was denied a visa despite fulfilling all requirements. "I worked so hard for this opportunity, and it was taken from me with one rejection letter," she told reporters (VOA News, 2024). Her story is not unique. Many Afghan girls face the same struggle: waiting for months for a response, paying high application fees, and facing rejection again and again.

These barriers are not only financial but also emotional. Families sell their belongings to pay for language tests, visa fees, and travel costs, only to see their daughters left in limbo. Every rejection takes away confidence and hope, creating what human rights groups call a "lost generation" of young women who are locked out of education (Human Rights Watch, 2023). Before 2021, international scholarships gave Afghan girls a way to bypass Taliban restrictions (UNESCO, 2023a). But now, tightened visa rules and unclear legal pathways are shutting down that last lifeline (University of Washington, 2024).

Policy Recommendations:

- **Governments: Relax visa restrictions and expand scholarships**
Governments should introduce special humanitarian visa categories for Afghan girls, overseen by immigration authorities in cooperation with international organizations such as UNHCR. They should also fast-track student applications, waive or reduce fees, and expand targeted scholarships for women excluded from education at home (UNESCO, 2023a; U.S. DHS, 2023).
- **Universities: Strengthen outreach and provide support**
Universities must actively reach out to Afghan girls through online networking and offer tuition waivers, housing support, and flexible online learning for those waiting on visas. These actions show real commitment to diversity and human rights (University of Washington, 2024; UNESCO, 2023b).
- **NGOs and Civil Society: Offer mentorship and legal aid**
NGOs should build networks that guide Afghan students through applications, provide legal aid for visa challenges, and offer counseling to ease the psychological burden of rejection (Human Rights Watch, 2023; OSF, 2023).
- **Embassies and Consulates: Train staff and simplify procedures**
Embassy staff should receive training on handling Afghan student cases fairly and transparently. Also, overnments should create clear guidelines for scholarship recipients and establish fast-track processing units so that students with confirmed admissions do not lose their opportunities (ICE, n.d.; DHS, 2023).

Urgency of Action

Over 1.4 million Afghan girls have been banned from secondary school since 2021 (UNESCO, 2023a; France 24, 2023). Without immediate action, many will lose not just years of education but also their chance to ever return as skilled professionals. But if governments and institutions act within the next six months, Afghan girls abroad could continue their studies, and one day bring back knowledge and skills that Afghanistan desperately needs. Their education is not only an investment in their individual futures but also in the rebuilding of a nation that has been stripped of its brightest minds.

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The Impact of Forced Returns on Afghan Refugees and Their Livelihoods

Executive Summary:

Since late 2023, many Afghan refugees have been sent back from Iran and Pakistan without proper planning or support. When they arrive, most have no shelter, little food, and almost no access to jobs, healthcare, or education. Families are living in tents or crowded camps in provinces like Nangarhar and Herat, and women and children suffer the most in these hard conditions. To deal with this crisis, Afghan authorities and international organizations must give quick emergency help and also plan for long-term solutions so returnees can live and work with dignity.

Introduction:

Over the past decades, conflict, insecurity, and political repression have forced Afghans to flee their country. After the Taliban's return to power in 2021, many sought refuge in neighboring countries, particularly Iran and Pakistan. Since late 2023, mass deportations from both countries have forced over 2 million Afghans to return, many of them against their will. In July 2025 alone, more than 362,000 returnees crossed through the Islam Qala Border, the majority being men and children. With limited national resources, the absence of reintegration programs, and a decline in international aid, Afghanistan is struggling to absorb this influx. The situation has led to a rapidly worsening humanitarian and economic crisis.

Problem statement:

Afghan returnees are facing many serious problems after being deported from Iran and Pakistan. Thousands of families have become homeless, living in tents or overcrowded camps without electricity, clean water, or sanitation, while in places like Nangarhar there is no long-term housing plan. At the same time, unemployment is a huge challenge because the weak Afghan economy cannot create enough jobs, and most returnees have little education or training, which forces them to compete with local people and increases social tension. Education and healthcare are also very limited, especially for women and girls who are banned from secondary and higher education and who cannot access proper medical care due to a lack of clinics, medicine, and female health workers. On top of this, many returnees come back without identification documents, making it difficult for them to get services, find work, or move

freely, and leaving them more vulnerable to discrimination, harassment, and even violence.

Policy recommendations:

1. Shelter & Housing: Establish temporary shelters or container housing in high-return areas; allocate public land and provide small grants or materials for home rebuilding. <https://www.unhcr.org>

2. Livelihoods & Jobs: Launch short-term skills training in trades (carpentry, tailoring, mobile repair) linked to job centers; expand public works programs where returnees earn wages by rebuilding local infrastructure. <https://www.iom.int>

3. Education & Healthcare: Expand community-based education, including mobile schools and female-led classes, to ensure access for girls; invest in clinics, medicine, and female medical staff with a focus on maternal and mental health.

4. Legal Identity & Protection: Issue ID cards to undocumented returnees to enable access to services and jobs; create safe reporting channels for abuse and empower UN and human rights groups to monitor protection concerns. <https://www.unhcr.org/livelihoods.html>

5. Community Reintegration: Promote dialogue between returnees and host communities through local leaders; run awareness campaigns to reduce stigma and encourage peaceful coexistence. <https://www.tent.org>

Conclusion:

Afghanistan is facing one of its biggest challenges with the return of thousands of people from Iran and Pakistan. Many arrive to poverty, insecurity, and no basic services, which makes the crisis even worse. To respond, both the Afghan government and international partners must act quickly. Emergency aid like food, shelter, and healthcare is urgent, but long-term support with jobs, education, and legal documents is also needed. Helping returnees reintegrate with dignity is not only the right thing to do but also important for peace and stability in Afghanistan.

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What Daily Life Looks Like for Afghan Women Under Taliban Restrictions

Executive Summary:

Since the change in government in 2021, 4 million Afghan women have faced severe restrictions, including restrictions on education, employment, and dress code (UNESCO, 2024). These restrictions not only undermine nationally and internationally recognized rights and values of women but also have caused significant challenges for them both mentally and financially. This policy brief urges the global community to have a unified stance in their interactions with the current government of Afghanistan, and calls on global organizations and decision makers to support Afghan women by supporting women-led businesses, scholarships, and mental health programs.

Problem Statement:

For millions of Afghan women, a normal day has become extremely limited. Everyday activities such as going to school, working, or leaving the house face severe restrictions, which leave women with little control over their own lives. This is the daily reality for over 2.5 million school-age girls and 1.5 million working women (UNESCO, 2024). These restrictions, imposed by the Taliban government, violate women's basic rights. By excluding women from education and employment, the country loses future doctors, teachers, leaders, and entrepreneurs, which severely weakens the workforce and slows national growth. Here's what their everyday life looks like:

Daily Restrictions and Loss of Freedoms

Education Ban: The Taliban's education ban has left over 1.5 million girls out of school and barred from universities and entrance exams (UNESCO, 2024). Reports show a sharp rise in child and forced marriages, with 66% of those affected being schoolgirls, about half married to Taliban fighters (AHRC, 2025). Zainab, a high school student, could not finish school and was forced to marry at 16, showing how these restrictions disrupt the lives of young girls.

Work Prohibition: Women are banned from most jobs, including NGOs and even jobs in beauty salons (European Union Agency for Asylum, 2024). Exceptions in health and education exist but are tightly controlled.

Dress Code Enforcement: Full-body coverings like the burqa or chador are mandatory. Women must conceal their faces and voices in public (European Union Agency for Asylum, 2024).

Political, Social, and Legal Erasure:

Lack of Leadership Representation: No woman holds a leadership role. Their influence in communities and even within their own homes has plummeted (UNAMA, 2024).

Restriction on Legal Autonomy: Women in Afghanistan are not allowed to sign any contracts without a male guardian. They also can't leave the country or travel long distances without a male guardian, regardless of their age, which extremely limits their freedom (Hamrah, 2025).

Mental Toll:

Mental Health Crisis: Many Afghan women feel alone and hopeless. Suicide attempts are rising, especially among young women. About 80% of suicide cases in Afghanistan involve women, according to the Wilson Center 2023.

Policy Recommendation:

Unified Global Stance on Afghanistan: The global community must have a unified policy in their

interactions with the current government of Afghanistan, which will allow them to put maximum economic and political pressure on the ruling party of Afghanistan. to make them align their policies with globally accepted values and rights of women. This can be achieved through joint UN resolutions.

Innovative Means to Ensure Educational Continuity for Afghan Women: A professional and globally accepted curriculum should be designed for secondary and high school students and delivered through low-bandwidth platforms and offline-compatible apps to reach rural areas, which would result in acquiring a globally recognized high school certificate digitally that would make Afghan girls eligible to get admission at universities around the world or apply to global scholarships.

Establishment of a Mental Health Support System: To address the mental challenges that are unique to Afghanistan females' circumstances, a nationwide mental support system should be established that should focus on stress management, anxiety and depression treatment, and resilience training in order to provide mental support for Afghan women. This can be delivered effectively through training local health workers and providing tele-counseling services.

Supporting and Funding Women-Led Local Businesses: Although the job market for females is restricted, they are still able to have online businesses,

own restaurants, and run sewing workshops. These businesses should get supported through grants and loans from international NGOs, as they allow thousands of women to make a living.

Conclusion: Girls are imprisoned in their houses, and they have their dreams vanish. Despite social isolation, Afghan women have remained strong and resilient to effectively cope with challenges. Undoubtedly, with the right support, they are ready to welcome every opportunity for building a more prosperous future for Afghanistan. This policy brief aims to recommend practical solutions to international organizations to mitigate the impact of the Taliban's limitations on women.

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Bridging Borders: How the Afghan Diaspora Can Strengthen Local Youth Activism

Executive Summary:

Over 63% of Afghans are under the age of 25 (UNFPA, 2024), yet their futures are being stifled by conflict, poverty, and exclusion from civic participation. The Afghan diaspora, a global network formed largely through forced migration since the 1950s, has long played a crucial role in supporting Afghans through aid and financial assistance. After more than 40 years of imposed war and turmoil, Afghanistan remains in crisis. In 2025, 23 million Afghans require aid, 14.8 million are at risk of hunger, 8.9 million need education support (OCHA, 2023), unemployment is escalating, and 65% of the population lives in poverty. Mass displacement, gender-based bans, climate change, and drought further threaten livelihoods. The Afghan diaspora holds the resources, skills, networks, and political leverage to support Afghan youth, who still have the capacity to shape change and explore solutions to current crises. Yet barriers persist: the lack of organized diaspora engagement policies, threats to local actors, and weak funding strategies. An urgent call to action is necessary; leveraging the diaspora's influence alongside the resilience of Afghan youth could drive the change Afghanistan desperately needs.

Problem Statement:

The impact of diaspora-youth led collaborations is hampered by intergenerational gaps and political polarization, which causes divisions, with each group supporting conflicting visions for Afghanistan's future. This divide isolates youth and stalls collaborations. Afghanistan's civic spaces are rated as 'closed', the worst possible classification (CIVICUS, 2023). Youth are discouraged from participating due to fear of state repression or association with dissent, and collaborations with diaspora on topics like civic education, rights, or reform are especially dangerous in rural regions. These issues lead to self-censorship, reduced impact, and limited community organizing.

Insufficient resources limit diaspora engagement and force youth campaigns to downscale, reducing their capacity to train youth in digital skills, cybersecurity, and fundraising (UNESCO, 2024). Without consistent sources of financial support, replenishing resources and maintaining stability become a challenge, as international banks often delay or refuse Afghan transfers, pushing donors to rely on Hawala systems, which are now facing liquidity issues (NRC, 2022). While training can be conducted digitally, only 18.4% of the population has internet access, and uneven infrastructure alongside limited access to technology reduces consistency in these programs. Training in digital skills is a must as insecure platforms put youth at risk, yet women and girls are often

excluded due to restricted access to devices and digital skills shaped by social and financial barriers.

Recommendations:

- Encourage the use and training of encrypted communications platforms (e.g., Signal, ProtonMail) and diaspora-funded VPNs. This will allow youth activists to remain anonymous while coordinating. To ensure uptake, diaspora organizations, in collaboration with trusted local civil society groups, could oversee phased training workshops and provide simple guidelines on secure usage. It is important that all tools and materials are low-bandwidth and localized in regional languages. Measures may include preloaded USB drives, mobile apps, and SMS-based communication, with clear protocols for safe distribution and maintenance.
- Additionally, to increase digital connectivity, diaspora can fund digital access initiatives like tech hubs, solar devices, and device-sharing programs, with a particular emphasis on women and girls. Oversight can be provided through diaspora-youth committees that track usage, troubleshoot technical issues, and mitigate security risks such as surveillance or device confiscation
- Support the creation of high-quality, localized content in regional languages and simplify diaspora engagement policies to encourage broader support. Implementation could begin with small-scale pilot projects, using diaspora knowledge networks to refine materials, test adoption, and adjust strategies before scaling up. Create safe, moderated, multilingual platforms to promote cross-generational and cross-regional understanding. Oversight could be maintained by diaspora-youth steering groups to ensure inclusivity, monitor harmful content, and balance generational dynamics.
- Create a secure, hybrid financing model integrating trusted hawala networks with fintech solutions for low-cost, traceable transfers. The diaspora-ADO platform should vet agents, use encrypted reporting, provide liquidity support to stabilize operations, and implement accountability measures to protect youth and diaspora actors. To manage security risks, a rotating set of vetted financial intermediaries could be used alongside third-party audits to ensure compliance and reduce misuse.

Conclusion:

Afghan youth are full of potential and fresh ideas; they can bridge divides, protect, and even expand the roles of youth in Afghanistan. They should not be viewed as short-term investments by diaspora actors and policy-makers. Youth-led campaigns face several barriers, including socio-cultural disconnects, insufficient resources, and gender exclusion. If these issues are not addressed, the energy and talents of Afghan youth may be wasted.

However, with diaspora support, these movements can circumnavigate these issues. Measures have to be taken immediately to nurture resilient and locally grounded youth-led movements. To build a better future, changes have to be enabled through the creation of safer environments, improving digital access, hybridizing finance models, providing learning opportunities, and including underrepresented voices. Afghan youth are the future of Afghanistan, and with support from the diaspora, they can become the independent, digitally literate leaders that will make Afghanistan's future brighter.

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Social isolation and impact mental health of Afghan women

Executive Summary:

More than 70% of Afghan women have reported a significant decline in their mental health in recent years. Social isolation among Afghan women, exacerbated by cultural restrictions, conflict, and limited access to public spaces, has become a silent crisis with severe mental health consequences. Isolation increases the risk of depression, anxiety, and even suicide—especially when paired with stigma, lack of emotional support, and restricted access to mental health services. This policy brief calls for urgent attention to Afghan women’s mental well-being through community-based interventions, improved access to safe spaces, and mental health education. Tackling social isolation is essential not only for individual health but for the resilience and future development of Afghan society as a whole.

Problem statement:

Over 70% of Afghan women have reported a serious decline in their mental health in recent years. Since the takeover of the new regime in Afghanistan in August 2021, the lives of millions of Afghan women and girls have drastically changed. They have been stripped of their most basic rights—including access to education, employment, freedom of movement, and public services. These restrictions have created a deep social and psychological crisis that threatens their mental well-being. Today, women face forced isolation. Many are not allowed to attend school, go to work, or even leave their homes without a male escort. This extreme disconnection from society, family, and economic life has led to a rise in depression, anxiety, identity loss, and feelings of worthlessness and powerlessness. According to the Afghan Ministry of Public Health, 46% of the population suffers from mental health issues—72% of them are women. Yet, mental health services are either unavailable, culturally unsuitable, or unreachable, especially in rural or high-restriction areas. The lack of national policies, emergency strategies, or support systems has left women isolated, vulnerable, and without care. This mental health crisis is not only a women’s issue—it threatens family stability, community strength, and the long-term peace and development of Afghan society.

Policy Recommendation:

- Establish Community-Based Safe Spaces and Networks, Create and fund women-led community centers and peer support groups in homes, mosques, or existing clinics.

- The international community must base its engagement with the Taliban on principles that underscore respect for the full spectrum of women’s rights, Taliban compliance with Afghanistan’s international human rights obligations and the restoration of legal protections, especially those focused on ending violence against women and girl.
- **Scale Up Telehealth and Mental Health Helplines.** Partner with the Afghan Ministry of Public Health to launch a nationwide, toll-free mental health helpline staffed by trained female counselors.
- Support in-country healthcare professionals through the development of telephone-based mechanisms and digital systems to provide case support, consultation advice and mental health first aid training run by local civil society organizations, INGOs and regional specialists in local languages and context.
- Appoint a committee of experts in women’s health and mental health including Afghan and international specialists to advise donor governments, regional bodies and INGOs on the appropriate interventions to assist women and girls suffering from mental health issues, and to act as an international monitoring body.

For International Donors (USAID, EU, World Bank): Prioritize and directly fund programs that address social isolation as a core component of humanitarian aid, ensuring resources reach local Afghan NGOs

- Provide training to local clerics on mental health issues so that they can better convey messages around mental health in their speeches in mosques Maximize online, television and radio support and advice resources promoting mental health targeted at women, families and communities.
- Use social media platforms like Facebook to raise awareness on mental health issues

Conclusion:

Social among Afghan women caused by the Taliban regime’s new restriction, has led to serious challenges such as psychological trauma, depression and stress. According to a (2023) UN report, over 60 % of women have been deprived of education and social opportunities, and around 45% are experiencing symptoms of depression and anxiety in their situation not only harms their personal future but also disrupts national to create safe spaces led by women with the communities confidential phone counseling and access to online education can also bring renewed motivation and hope . Implementing such programs requires urgent cooperation at both national and international levels to preserve the mental and social wellbeing of Afghan women.

If such opportunities are provided, Afghan women can become strong and resilient leaders who help guide their families and communities through crises, this vision demonstrates that supporting women not only addresses today's urgent needs but also inspires a brighter and more sustainable future for Afghanistan.

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Policy Options for Supporting Afghan Girls through International Learning Opportunities

Executive Summary:

More than 2.2 million Afghan girls are currently deprived of education, a crisis that threatens both individual futures and national development. This policy brief explores practical and culturally sensitive strategies to respond, highlighting five key options—regional scholarships, globally accredited online learning, stronger coordination among international organizations, global advocacy campaigns, and cooperation with Islamic countries—each assessed for feasibility, impact, and cost to give policymakers clear and actionable choices.

Educating Afghan girls is not only a social necessity but also an economic imperative. Access to education fuels GDP growth, reduces child mortality, improves public health, and strengthens human capital. Ensuring girls' learning today is essential to securing Afghanistan's stability, prosperity, and future.

Since March 2022, the Taliban has prevented girls from continuing their education beyond grade six and barred women from attending universities. This restriction has left millions of Afghan girls without access to secondary or higher education. Enrollment in primary schools has also dropped significantly, reflecting a broader decline in school attendance. Several factors make the situation worse, including the shortage of female teachers, conservative social attitudes, insecurity, long distances to schools, and poor school facilities. (UNESCO, 2024)

By March 2024, over 2.2 million girls were out of school or university, with more than 400,000 newly affected in 2023. The ban has serious consequences for the country's future: it reduces potential economic growth, increases child marriage, worsens maternal and infant health, heightens gender-based violence, and reduces the number of female healthcare workers. These combined challenges show that stopping girls' education is not just a social or cultural issue, but a serious threat to Afghanistan's development. (UNICEF, 2024)

Problem Statement:

1st: Regional Scholarships: Scholarships in neighboring countries ensure the continuation of girls' education and help build a future workforce of female doctors, teachers, and professionals, strengthening Afghanistan's human capital and economy.

2nd: Globally Accredited Online Learning: Online courses provide safe, affordable, and internationally recognized education opportunities, equipping girls with skills that foster digital economic growth and expand access to global job markets.

3rd: Coordination Among International Organizations: Joint efforts by UNESCO, UNICEF, and others ensure efficient use of resources and raise the quality of human capital, ultimately boosting national productivity, healthcare services, and social stability.

4th: Global Advocacy Campaigns: Campaigns led by international media and the Afghan diaspora are not only about rights but also a way to mobilize funding, attract development projects, and secure global support for reopening education pathways.

5th: Cooperation with Islamic Countries: Scholarships and religious endorsement from Islamic nations make girls' education more culturally acceptable while training female professionals who can improve maternal and child health, social services, and the national economy.

| Policy Option | Feasibility | Impact | Cost | Priority |
|---|--|--|----------|--|
| Regional Scholarships through Governments and International Institutions | Moderate – Requires governmental cooperation and funding | High – Financial support increases long-term effectiveness | High | Phased – Can begin with small-scale scholarships in the short term and expand as funding and agreements grow |
| Strengthening Online Education with International Certification | High – Easier access via internet and technology | High – Flexible and scalable across various education levels | Moderate | Short-term – Can be implemented immediately with existing platforms and expanded over time |
| Coordination Among International Educational Institutions | Moderate – Depends on political will and institutional collaboration | Moderate – Impact becomes visible in the long term | Low | Long-term – Requires sustained agreements and structured cooperation |
| Launching an International Campaign for the Right to Education | High – Quick mobilization and human-centered messaging | Moderate – Raises awareness and puts pressure on decision-makers | Low | Short-term – Can quickly raise global attention while supporting other strategies |
| Expanding Cooperation with Islamic Countries | Moderate – Requires political agreements | Moderate – Cultural alignment could enhance acceptance | Moderate | Long-term – Needs trust-building, formal agreements, and sustained religious endorsement |

Note: The above comparative analysis is based on the authors' own perspective and evaluation.

Recommendation:

1. Create independent scholarship committees composed of universities, NGOs, and UN agencies to ensure fairness and prevent corruption. Scholarships should include relocation, housing, and psychological support for students and their families.
2. Partner with technology companies and donors to provide subsidized

internet packages, satellite connections for rural areas, and affordable laptops or tablets. Ensure online programs are accredited and culturally sensitive.

3. Mobilize the Afghan diaspora, international NGOs, and media outlets to highlight the economic, health, and social costs of denying girls' education. Campaigns should use personal stories and emphasize that educating girls benefits the whole nation.

4. Engage with organizations such as the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and respected Islamic scholars (e.g., Al-Azhar) to issue supportive statements and fatwas, legitimizing girls' education within an Islamic framework.

5. Facilitate access to secure online payment platforms (e.g., PayPal, Payoneer) to help Afghan students enroll in global courses. International partners can create safe channels to bypass current financial restrictions.

Conclusion:

The deprivation of Afghan girls from education not only darkens their individual futures but also blocks the path of national development. Examining various options shows that online education and international support, alongside regional and Islamic cooperation, can bring renewed hope. If these solutions are implemented, Afghanistan will not only restore the right to education but also nurture a new generation of female doctors, teachers, and leaders who will directly contribute to the country's recovery and progress. Now is the time for the global community to take practical actions, open the closed paths, and give Afghan girls the opportunity to illuminate Afghanistan's future with their knowledge.

References:

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