**Access to education for Afghan female students**

The Taliban's return to power in Afghanistan in August 2021 brought a swift rollback of women's rights, particularly their access to education. Early signs of a more relaxed approach compared to their past rule vanished quickly. They particularly targeted female education. In March 2022, after a long spring break, high school female students in Afghanistan were denied entry on the first day of school. By December 2022, the same fate had befallen Afghan women in universities when the Taliban shut the doors of higher education, making Afghanistan the only country in the world, to ban women from education. This ban on education, limits their chances to grow, build careers and contribute to their local communities. It also hurts Afghanistan's overall development.

As of today, over 100 thousand female students are prohibited from attending universities, and more than 2,000 female professors and lecturers are denied teaching and other academic positions. The international community and many organizations have condemned the prohibition of access to education and highlighted it as a violation of fundamental human rights. Despite urging the current regime in Afghanistan to reverse the decision there are no signs of this changing in the future. In this situation, the only way for women in Afghanistan to be able to pursue their education is to leave the country or attend educational programs online.

**SAIH believes:**

The apartheid against women in Afghanistan should be constantly on the agenda of political leaders and international bodies working on access to education and human rights, particularly for women. Extensive work is needed to enable access to education for Afghan women in the region and internationally.

**SAIH will:**

* Raise awareness among students and citizens in Norway about the educational apartheid experienced by Afghan women today.
* Support governmental bodies and other organizations in their efforts to put pressure on the current regime for restricting access to education for women.
* Establish partnerships for enabling access to higher education for women in Afghanistan digitally or on campus.