

Call for Submitting Your Story

Introduction:

To commemorate Women's History Month, the Afghanistan Policy Lab (APL) at the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA) invites story submissions that highlight the situation and living conditions of women in Afghanistan.

Under the Taliban's repressive policies, Afghan women continue to face systematic exclusion from education, employment, and public life. Despite these conditions, their resilience, courage, and determination to survive and continue striving for their rights are extraordinary. This call seeks to collect those voices and experiences and create spotlight for those stories of resilience, hardships, struggles and devotion.

Theme:

There is no specific theme for those stories. Stories should reflect any aspect of life impacted by the Taliban's restrictive policies, including but not limited to education, employment, health condition, freedom of speech and movement, mental well-being, and community engagement.

What should your story include

We accept submissions in Dari, Pashto, and English languages. Your submission should:

- Be authentic, original, and meaningful.
- Be approximately 400-800 words.
- Reflect the lived experiences of Afghan women through their own voices.

Suggested guiding questions include:

- Please share basic background information (education, work, or daily life).
- How have the Taliban's ban and restrictions affected your life socially, economically and psychologically?
- Which specific policies or restrictions have had the greatest impact on you?
- What alternative pathways do you think could help you continue your education or employment?
- What is your message to the Taliban, the Islamic world, and the international community?
- Is there any other aspect of your story that you believe the world should know?
- You may review APL's earlier storytelling initiatives, read links to our previous publications:

a) Resilience Amidst Oppression: Honoring Afghan Women's Strength During Women's History Month <https://spia.princeton.edu/news/resilience-amidst-oppression-honoring-afghan-womens-strength-during-womens-history-month>

b) Women's History Month: Afghan Girls' Struggle for Education <https://spia.princeton.edu/news/womens-history-month-afghan-girls-struggle-education>

Selection:

Submission will be selected based on:

- Originality and authenticity.
- Clarity and narrative strength
- Relevance to Afghan women's lived realities and rights
- The extent to which the story reflects resilience and community impact
- Selected submissions will be published in March.
- Anonymity will be strictly maintained, including names and identifying details.
- You may be contacted if additional clarification is required.

Eligibility:

- You must be a woman and be 18 years old and over.
- You must be currently living in Afghanistan or belong to the Afghan diaspora.
- Your education, employment, or daily life must have been directly impacted by the Taliban's policies.
- Your story should convey a strong message of resilience and hope for other Afghan girls and women.

Submission Guidelines: Please submit your stories (Dari, Pashto and English) by January 16, 2026, using the following [form](#).