

October 2, 2021

**Statement of the International Women’s Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation Regarding the Current Situation in Afghanistan for Members of the Judiciary**

The International Women’s Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation (“IWIRC”) joins with the many other national, state, and local judges and bar associations who have issued statements, to call attention to the current circumstances faced by the Afghan judiciary, in particular, female judges. The Taliban has determined that Sharia law prohibits a female from casting judgment on the actions of a male. The penalty is death.

Based on confirmed, validated reports, Afghan judges, particularly women judges, have been targeted by the Taliban simply for doing their jobs as members of the judiciary and protecting the rule of law. With the recent fall of Kabul, the situation has become perilous and untenable for these dedicated judges and their families. While we highlight the plight of women judges, we understand male judges are also being targeted for their collaboration with, and protection of, female judges.

As an Association dedicated to providing support to women in the legal profession worldwide, we wish to add our voices to the many legal organizations calling for all governments to do all that is necessary to protect the Afghan judges and their families from execution. Specifically, we believe it is of the utmost urgency that the United States prioritize the immediate evacuation of at the very least all female Afghan judges and their immediate families out of Afghanistan.



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