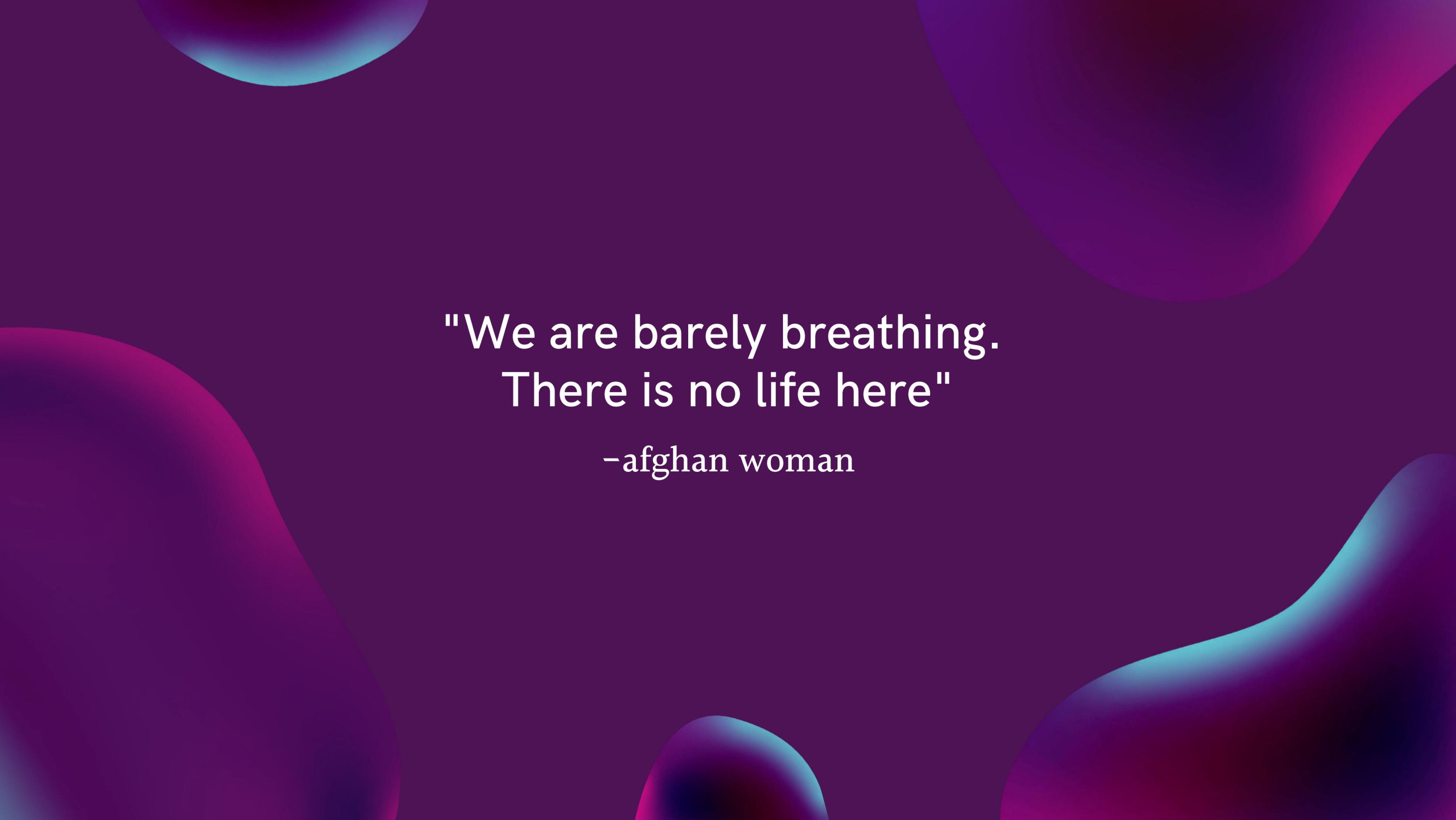


# What is happening to women and girls in Afghanistan under the Taliban?

Gemma Wood

Deputy Country Representative a.i., UN Women Afghanistan



The background features several large, overlapping, organic shapes in shades of purple, magenta, and blue. These shapes are soft-edged and create a layered, abstract composition. The text is centered in the middle of the frame.

"We are barely breathing.  
There is no life here"

-afghan woman

- 
- Afghanistan remains the only country in the world where girls are banned from going to high school.
  - Women are restricted from working outside the home, except for a few sectors and particular roles.
  - There are no women in cabinet and there is no Ministry of Women's Affairs, effectively removing women's right to political participation.
  - Women are required to have a male chaperone when they are travelling more than 78 kilometres.
  - Women also required to cover their faces in public.

**Combined, these rules limit women's ability to earn a living, access health care and education, escape situations of violence, and exercise their rights—and they further limit Afghanistan's ability to chart a way forward through crisis.**

# Gender Gap

**Afghanistan is ranked 146th out of 146 countries by the Global Gender Gap Index 2022.**

\*World Economic Forum

# Humanitarian

**18.1 million out of the 24.4 million people needing humanitarian assistance in Afghanistan are women and girls.**

\*OCHA, Humanitarian Needs Overview

# Women-led civil society organizations

- **87% stopped because of lack of funds.**
- **77% do not have projects in 2022.**
- **51% closed their offices as of 15th August 2021.**

\*Based on a survey commissioned by the Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Group assessing the status of 279 Afghan women civil society organizations in Afghanistan, March 2022



Education:

**80% of secondary school girls were prevented from attending classes.**

\*Afghanistan Education Cluster, April 2022



**Employment:**

**\$1 billion - immediate cost for the Afghan economy cause by restrictions on women's right to work.**

\*UNDP Report on the Status of the Economy in Afghanistan, 2021

**Media:**

**84% of women journalists and media workers had stopped working amidst an environment of harassment, violence, and censorship.**

\*Reporters Without Borders, 2021

**How is UN Women  
making a difference?**





# On the ground

UN Women is on the ground in Afghanistan, working every day to improve the lives of Afghan women and girls.

We are scaling up provision of services for women, by women to meet overwhelming needs.



# Right to work

We are supporting women-led businesses and employment opportunities for women across all sectors. The full return of women to work is key to transforming Afghanistan's economy and lifting the country out of poverty.



# Civil society

We are investing in women-led civil society organizations, to support the rebuilding of the women's movement. The women's movement is the key engine driving progress and accountability on women's rights and gender equality—not just in Afghanistan, but everywhere in world.



# Coordination

We are the lead provider of technical expertise on gender-responsiveness of the international community and UN System in Afghanistan.



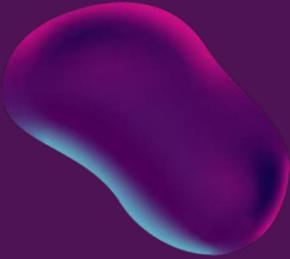
# Women's rights

Every day, we are advocating for restoring, protecting, and promoting the full spectrum of women's and girls' rights and creating spaces for Afghan women themselves to advocate for their right to live free and equal lives.

[afteraugust.org](https://afteraugust.org)

**How can you make  
a difference?**





**Invest in women—invest in services for women, jobs for women and women-led businesses, invest in women leaders and women’s organisations.**



- Targeted, substantial, and systematic funding to programmes that address women’s rights and empowerment.
- Prioritise hearing from Afghan women directly on their needs and strengthening advocacy for the full spectrum of their rights, including women’s right to work and engage in public and political life.
- Facilitate women’s meaningful participation in all stakeholder engagement on Afghanistan.

# Follow our work

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