

# U.S. - AFGHAN Women's Council



GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

April 14, 2021

In light of President Biden's announcement on April 14 that the United States will withdraw all of its forces from Afghanistan by September 11, the U.S.-Afghan Women's Council remains deeply concerned about the status of women and girls in Afghanistan, particularly as attacks against female leaders of civil society groups, women in the security forces, health workers, and journalists continue to escalate. We stand in solidarity with Afghan women, and remain steadfast in our determination to preserve and advance the gains they have made in the previous 20 years.

While U.S. military forces might be leaving Afghanistan, our members vow to remain. As the USAWC approaches our 20th anniversary, USAWC members are united by a common commitment to support and carry out programming to further Afghan women and girls' education, healthcare, economic opportunities, and leadership. USAWC members will continue to amplify the voices, experiences, needs, and achievement of Afghan women and girls.

For Afghanistan to rebuild and for any peace to be sustainable, the country will require a diversity of ideas, experiences, leadership, and action – from all of its people – to move forward. Such progress is impossible without the dedicated, long-term involvement of women, which allows for shifts in both long held beliefs and practices and for systematic approaches. We must continue to work, together, to create a shared vision of Afghanistan's future that puts Afghan women, and all of Afghanistan's people, at the center.