



PRESS INFORMATION

THE EUROPEAN UNION DELEGATION TO AFGHANISTAN
THE EUROPEAN UNION POLICE MISSION IN AFGHANISTAN (EUPOL)



Kabul, 8 March 2014

The EU emphasises the need to promote Women's Rights in Afghanistan and ensure their full participation in political, economic and social life

The EU celebrated on 8 March in Kabul International Women's Day and the contribution of Afghan women to arts, sports and society. At the same time, the EU emphasised that many injustices against women still remain in society. This is why supporting Gender and Human Rights within the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Justice is one of the priorities of the European Union Police Mission in Afghanistan (EUPOL).

Violence and abuse against women is one of the most prominent challenges of our century. This is particularly true for Afghanistan, which despite impressive improvements in access to education, healthcare and work during the last decade is still one of the most dangerous places on earth for women.

“Afghanistan's future stability will ultimately rest on its accountability to all its citizens, and its respect for constitutional, legal and international commitments, including those related to human and women's rights. It is important that Women's Rights do not fall off the table while Afghanistan works comprehensively toward development and peace” stated Ms Emily Winterbotham, the Reconciliation and Reintegration Advisor of the EU Delegation to Afghanistan, in her speech at the Women's Day Celebration at EUPOL Headquarters in Kabul.

On behalf of the EUMs Winterbotham reiterated the EU's enduring commitment to women and girls in Afghanistan. The EU also encourages every Afghan woman to use her right to choose her future by voting in the presidential elections.

“Empowering women and girls is not just our moral duty; it is a solution to many of the greatest challenges to development and peace: from economic growth to reducing conflict and terrorism, everyone stands to benefit from empowering women,” she said.

The European Union Police Mission in Afghanistan (EUPOL) supports in many ways the efforts of the Afghan government to recruit women into the Afghan National Police and, in particular, – in order to make recruitment responsible and sustainable – to improve the working conditions of female staff serving in the police force. In addition, EUPOL offers support to the Attorney General's Office to empower female prosecutors and other female legal professionals.



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“Effective rule of law can only be established through inclusion of female legal professionals at all levels of government”, said Ms Daphne Lodder, the EUPOL Head of Rule and Law component.

“International Women’s Day is a day of celebration of women worldwide. In Afghanistan many women have distinguished themselves in the quest for women’s rights. Their braveness and efforts is an inspiration to our celebration today at EUPOL Headquarters,” Ms Lodder said.

The international and national guests celebrating International Women’s Day at the EUPOL HQ could also listen music performed by the Afghanistan National Institute of Music. Art and handicrafts made by Afghan women were also on display.

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