

Regarding events in Afghanistan and a plea from filmmaker Sahraa Karimi

Sahraa Karimi, an Afghan filmmaker and general director of Afghan Film, has made an urgent plea for support to focus global attention on the dire situation in her country. In a letter posted via Twitter, Ms. Karimi lays out the humanitarian crisis unfolding as the Taliban gain control. In her precise, eloquent, and passionate declaration, Ms. Karimi describes past and present atrocities perpetrated by the Taliban yet largely ignored by international media, governments, and humanitarian organizations.

The implications for education, especially of girls and young women, are dark: "When the Taliban were in power, zero girls were in school. Since then there are over 9 million Afghan girls in school. This is incredible. Herat, the third largest city which just fell to the Taliban had nearly 50% women in its university. These are incredible gains that the world hardly knows about. Just in these few weeks, the Taliban have destroyed many schools and 2 million girls are forced now out of school again."

Sahraa Karimi's plea is simple: "Please, as much as you can share this fact with your media and write about us on your social media. The world should not turn its back on us. We need your voice and your support on behalf of Afghan women, children, artists, and filmmakers. This support would be the greatest help we need right now. Please, help us get this world to not abandon Afghanistan."

Every year CILECT schools have in their hands the hopes and dreams of 55,000+ students, each passionate in their own way about the screen arts. The association takes that responsibility very seriously and has a longstanding mission to "fully support creativity, diversity, cross-cultural thinking and sustainable development." With that in mind, we declare our support for Sahraa Karimi's request and encourage filmmakers around the world to help the people of Afghanistan be heard.



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