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EVENT BRIEF :

Launch of an initiative on accountability for Afghanistan's violations of CEDAW

Time and Place Wednesday 25 September 2024 8.20 – 9.15 AM Location: Permanent Mission of Germany (871 United Nations Plaza)	Key attendees Hosted by: H.E. Annalena BAERBOCK, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Germany H.E. Melanie JOLY, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Canada H.E. Caspar VELDKAMP, Minister of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands Senator the Hon Penny WONG, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Australia s 33(a)(iii)
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Minister's role, objective(s) s 33(a)(iii)*Objective*

Your objectives for this event are to:

1. announce Australia's legal partnership with Germany, Canada and the Netherlands in invoking Afghanistan's responsibility for violations of CEDAW, in response to calls from many Afghan women for international action to address violations of their human rights;

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3. reaffirm that the human rights of women and girls are a core element of the multilateral rules-based system and must be defended.

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Role

You (Minister Wong) are co-hosting this event with FMs Baerbock, Joly and Veldkamp. Your role is to announce that Australia is joining with Germany, Canada and the Netherlands in invoking Afghanistan's responsibility under international law for violations of the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women* (CEDAW) in relation to the Taliban's treatment of women and girls. You will deliver a three-minute intervention. A German-led joint statement ('declaration') will be issued at or simultaneously with the event.

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Handling note

This event is **open to media** and an **official group photograph** will be taken **at 8.25am**. Attendees give their consent for photos and video recordings of the event to be used on social media.

You (Minister Wong) will have a three-minute speaking opportunity. An intervention is included in this brief. Co-hosts will speak for three minutes each, others providing political support can speak for two minutes.

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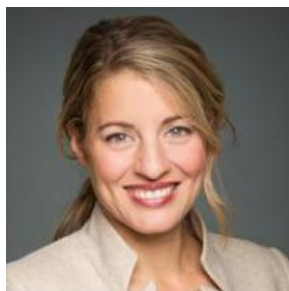
Approximately 40 persons will be seated around the table, with additional seating behind. This event will (likely) be principal +1 due to seating capacity.

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A **joint statement** 'declaration' will be released at or concurrently with the event. s 33(a)(iii)

Talking points:

- Australia is proud to join with Germany, Canada and the Netherlands, in calling on the Taliban to respect the human rights of women and girls as enshrined in the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women*.
 - The oppression of women and girls in Afghanistan is egregious and requires urgent international action.
 - The Taliban's repressive edicts deprive women and girls of their human rights and erase them from public life.
- In response to calls by Afghan women, and together with the support of partners from all regions, we call on the Taliban to respect and promote the human rights of women and girls in Afghanistan.
 - We are united on the importance of strong international action, commensurate with the gravity of the situation in Afghanistan, to respond to the Taliban's sustained and systemic discrimination against women and girls.
 - As a core element of the multilateral rules-based system, human rights must be defended.
- We must not allow the ongoing situation in Afghanistan to become a 'new normal'.
 - Human rights underpin peace and security, stability and prosperity, and are a pillar of democracy and sustainable development.
 - Afghanistan must uphold its obligations under international law.
 - including by reversing decisions and practices denying the human rights of women and girls in Afghanistan.

Event Biographies | Co-Hosts**Annalena BAERBOCK****Minister for Foreign Affairs****GERMANY****Form of Address:** Minister, Your Excellency
s 47F(1)**Twitter handle:** @ABaerbock**Mélanie JOLY****Minister of Foreign Affairs****CANADA****Form of Address:** Minister, Your Excellency
s 47F(1)**Twitter handle:** @melaniejoly**Caspar VELDKAMP****Minister of Foreign Affairs****THE NETHERLANDS****Form of Address:** Minister, Your Excellency
s 47F(1)**Twitter handle:** @CasparVeldkamp

ACCOUNTABILITY FOR AFGHANISTAN'S VIOLATIONS OF CEDAW

Australia joins with Germany, Canada and the Netherlands to invoke Afghanistan's responsibility under international law for violations of the rights of women and girls, as enshrined under CEDAW.

We are united with partners from all regions of the world on the importance of strong international action to address the Taliban's sustained and systematic discrimination against women and girls.

The alternative is the world signalling it will tolerate the comprehensive oppression of half the human population.

The Taliban continues to demonstrate its contempt for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of women and girls.

Women and girls are confined to the home, unable to access public spaces and move freely without supervision from male relatives.

Women and girls are banned from being seen and heard in public, unable to speak at volume, sing or read aloud.

And women and girls remain subject to ongoing restrictions on employment and education.

The cumulative effect of the Taliban's oppressive edicts is the systematic erasure of women and girls from public life and their subjugation in private life.

Today, we acknowledge the extraordinary courage of women and girls in Afghanistan.

We applaud those who have strongly and bravely stood up in support of Afghan women and girls.

We support the calls by the people of Afghanistan for women's and girls' full participation in public life; for women's and girls' access to quality education at schools and universities; and women's unrestricted ability to work in all sectors.

We are committed to defending the human rights of women and girls in Afghanistan and to amplifying their voices.

We cannot accept the ongoing situation in Afghanistan becoming a 'new normal'.

Human rights underpin peace and security, stability and prosperity, and must be defended.

Let me be clear: We will not stand by in the face of the Taliban's ongoing and pervasive disregard of its obligations under international law.

Afghanistan must reverse its discriminatory decisions and practices, and uphold the human rights of women and girls.

s 33(a)(iii), s 42(1) - Document 4 is exempt in full and pages 10 to 12 have been removed.

s 33(a)(iii) - Document 5 is exempt in full and pages 13 to 15 have been removed.

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