

# Joint Statement: Action Canada for Population and Development (6)



# IPPF

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Planned Parenthood  
Federation *AND*

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International Planned Parenthood

Federation

Human Rights Council, 26th Session

Item 6: Consideration of Afghanistan's UPR Outcome

Statement by the International Planned Parenthood Federation

Speaker: Seema Ghani

June 2014

Thank you Mr. President

I make this statement on behalf of the Afghan Family Guidance Association, the Sexual Rights Initiative and the International Planned Parenthood Federation.

We welcome the willingness and commitment of the Government of Afghanistan to improve health care and health care systems in order to facilitate the provision of and access to health care, particularly for women and children. We also welcome the commitment to take all possible actions to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, including through training and capacity building of law enforcement officials, recording and tracking cases of violence, and prosecuting and holding perpetrators to account. We urge the Government of Afghanistan to review the impact of existing legislation on gender equality, and the Shiite Personal Status Law, on women. These actions, coupled with steps to eliminate discrimination against women and girls, and to promote their participation in education, which the State also supports, will have a strong impact on women's and girls' access their essential human rights, including their sexual and reproductive health and rights.

However, we are disappointed that state recommendations to Afghanistan do not specifically recognise the pressing need to deliver rights-based and stigma-free health services for people living with HIV and those who inject drugs. We encourage the Government of Afghanistan to ensure that the needs of people living with HIV are reflected in their commitment to strengthen health services and health systems for all.

Further, we are also disappointed that the Government of Afghanistan has chosen not to accept recommendations on ensuring non-discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, and on abolishing the practice of prosecuting women for "moral crimes". We hope that the Government of Afghanistan will review these recommendations.

Thank you

From choice, a world of possibilities

Director-General Dr Gill Greer  
President Dr Jacqueline Sharpe (Trinidad & Tobago)  
Treasurer Dr Naomi Seboni (Botswana)

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