

Fereshta Abbasi

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Human Rights Watch
Researcher**

London, United Kingdom
August 2021- Ongoing

- Research and document human rights abuses by collecting and analyzing information from a wide variety of sources including through interviews with victims and witnesses; communication with journalists, diplomats, security forces, healthcare workers, government officials, UN officials, and other sources; and analysis of physical evidence, photographs and videos.
- Review and analyze open source information and data, reports, and other documentation from governments, humanitarian groups, media, and NGOs;
- Write and publicize reports, dispatches; briefing papers, letters, news releases, op-eds, and submissions to international bodies based on the findings; collect supporting documents and materials such as photographs and videos;
- Edit, vet, or other provide reviews of documents, videos, or other materials produced by other divisions and offices at HRW, as needed or requested by the Associate Director and Advocacy Director.
- Respond promptly to queries from the media, public, and colleagues in the human rights community and take initiative to project concerns in public debate; maintain an active social media presence to publicize our work and amplify our message;
- Represent HRW at advocacy meetings and carry out advocacy with senior government officials, UN representatives, and other advocacy targets to convey our messages and brief them on our findings;

**Global Witness
Consultant**

London, United Kingdom
March 2022- September

- Systematically research the options and resources still available for Afghans to leave the country legally.
- Produce a comprehensive document of the various options including eligibility criteria and application routes.
- Contact other bodies still involved in evacuations both as part of the research above and to build network of potential allies.
- Manage the database of people who have requested assistance
- Assist with individual cases, providing more detailed advice, assisting with or reviewing applications, helping with contacts with embassies etc.
- Work in a secure way with sensitivity towards the risks for people in Afghanistan.

Voice Organization
Member of the Partnership Advisory Groups

London, United Kingdom
July 2021- July 2022

- Assist in the draft of an Advisory Guide for Donors, Organizations and Agencies on Partnering and Resourcing Women- and Girl-Led Organizations
- Actively take part in a consultation with the Advisory Group to design and shape the Advisory Guide.
- Provide ideas, content, reviews, and input into the Advisory guide.
- Test the advisory guide with the donors and provide feedback.

British and Irish Agencies Afghanistan Group (BAAG)
Program Advisor

London, United Kingdom
September 2020- January 2021

- Assisted with data collection, analysis and write a report for the provincial consultations on the donor assistance framework following the Afghan peace process.
- Drafted a civil society position paper on the peace talks.
- Drafted the BAAG newsletter, "Afghanistan This Month" which focuses on key humanitarian and human rights issues for donor agencies and civil society organizations in Afghanistan.

All Survivors Project(<https://allsurvivorsproject.org/>)
Consultant-Researcher for a report on the sexual abuse of men and boys in Afghanistan

Kabul, Afghanistan
February 2019- January 2020

- Carried out interviews with men and boys who have experienced conflict-related sexual violence, using agreed IRB approved procedures.
- Provided analysis on security and/or political developments that could impact research and the security or wellbeing of research participants.
- Provided legal analysis and feedback on key findings for ASP report.
- Established and built contact with organizations, institutions and key informants to introduce ASP's work and identify participants for the study.
- In written products, identified key issues and made recommendations on best practices and policies to be implemented

Human Rights Watch
Consultant-Researcher for report on women with disabilities in Afghanistan
<https://www.hrw.org/report/2020/04/28/disability-not-weakness/discrimination-and-barriers-facing-women-and-girls>)

Kabul, Afghanistan
Feb 2017-August 2019

- Identified sources, contacts and persons for interviews focusing on the rights issues affecting women with disabilities in Afghanistan; extent and accessibility of government services such as education and livelihood; and extent of donor support to meet physical and mental health needs.
- Conducted interviews with 30 women, healthcare providers, and officials.
- Provided analysis of findings based on research and interviews.

Human Rights Watch

Consultant-Researcher (Report on the Implementation of Elimination of Violence Against Women Law

Kabul, Afghanistan

May 2017-January 2018

<https://www.hrw.org/report/2021/08/05/i-thought-our-life-might-get-better/implementing-afghanistans-elimination>)

- Conducted interviews focusing on the effectiveness of prosecutions under the Elimination of Violence Against Women Laws with:
 - trial, investigative and appellate prosecutors
 - defense attorneys, lawyers, and advocates with the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission and NGOs involved in providing protections to the survivors
 - Various officials with the Ministry of Women's Affairs (Shelter Department), Ministry of Justice (Legal Aid Department) and Ministry of Interior
- Conducted interviews with survivors of violence contacted through shelters, AG offices, courts, the Ministry of Women Affairs
- Report writing based on findings of research and interviews

IDLO (International Development Law Organization)

Kabul, Afghanistan

April 2017 – September

Legal Advisor & Head of Translation Department -Attorney General Office

2019

- Undertook Attorney General Office (AGO) training project monitoring to provide feedback to IDLO;
- Liaised with AGO partners and other stakeholders to assess capacity-building training program.

IDLO

National Legal Research and Curriculum Advisor

Kabul, Afghanistan

April 2016- April 2017

- Drafted criminal justice curriculum, training presentation and testing tools in English and Dari in line with Afghan law, and practical performance management needs for justice professionals;
- Conducted expert research on law and best legal practices from national and international sources;
- Collaborated with senior members of the justice institutions to design and develop responsive legal reference tools based on Afghan law and best legal practices;
- Drafted timely high-quality weekly, monthly, and quarterly reports (in English).

IDLO
Institutional Development Advisor

Kabul, Afghanistan
March 2015-April 2016

- Carried out monitoring and evaluation of judicial training project to provide IDLO with feedback on capacity development initiatives.
- Liaised with stakeholders and technically supported judicial institutions to develop training plans, budgets, training materials, and assessment tools.

Justice Sector Support Program (JSSP)
Ethics Advisor-Ministry of Women's Affairs

Kabul, Afghanistan
March 2014-December 2014

- Assisted counterpart Afghan government officials to develop policies, strategies, and planning systems.
- Drafted grant and project proposals for governmental institutions.
- Developed training material on professional ethics, proposal writing, and project management based on international practices relevant to Afghanistan and applicable to Afghan laws.
- Conducted training in the justice institutions with an emphasis on public service.

Peace Waves International Network/Delphi Research Project
Researcher

Rome, Turin (Italy), Glasgow (UK)
2011-2013

- Research on women empowerment in provinces of Afghanistan.
- Represented Afghan women in international conference in Rome, Italy and presented on "Women's Empowerment in Afghanistan" at Rome Parliament and Turin City Council, Italy.
- Presentation on "Children Education in Afghanistan" in Glasgow, UK.

EDUCATION

Chevening Scholar, University of Aberdeen
Master of Law in International Law and Strategic Studies

Aberdeen, United Kingdom
2019- 2020

Dissertation: Afghanistan's International Human Rights Obligations Regarding Domestic Violence Cases – The Law on the Elimination of Violence Against Women

Relevant Course: Use of Force in International Law, Strategic Studies, International Human Rights Law and Global Security

Herat University
Bachelor of Law (Public and Private Law) and Politics

Herat, Afghanistan
2010 – 2013

Dissertation: Transitional Justice in Afghanistan

Activities: Herat University Jessup International Law Moot Court team

Relevant Course: Public International Law, Constitutional Law, Criminal Law, Administrative Law, Insurance Law, Civil Procedure, Criminal Procedure, Organization and Management and Diplomatic Law

Voluntary Jobs

British and Irish Agencies Afghanistan Group (BAAG)
Program Advisor

London, United Kingdom
January 2021- ongoing

International Law Students Association (ILSA)

Judge at Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition

Nov 2013-April 2018

- Judged at the Worldwide Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition in Afghanistan, USA and India on behalf of the International Law Students Association
- Rewarded as the First Afghan Female International Judge
- Invited by ILSA for the 2015 international rounds and Indonesian and Turkish National rounds
- Reviewed the written memorials of the competitor teams on a national and international level

Fellowships

Aspen UK Rising Leaders Fellowship (Class of 2023)

Asia Foundation Development Fellow (Class of 2022)

(<https://asiafoundation.org/people/fereshta-abbasi/>)

Research Fellow

Global Family Care Network, St. James Research Center

(<https://www.stjamesresearchcentre.org/fereshta-abbasi>)

April 2021- August 2022

TRAININGS AND INTERNSHIP

University of California, Los Angeles

Human Research - Social & Behavioral Researchers & Staff

2019

VSL Consulting
GDPR Awareness for Small Charities

May 2021

Afghanistan Economics and Legal studies Organization
Human Rights Training Course

Kabul, Afghanistan
August-October 2014

Global Rights
Practical Legal Education for Young Lawyers

Herat, Afghanistan
August 2013

Center for Peace and Reconciliation
Human Rights Training Course

Kabul, Afghanistan
August 2010

AWARDS

- **Chevening Scholarship (2019-2020)**
 - Awarded a Chevening Scholarship which is a very prestigious scholarship dedicated to future leaders, to pursue an LLM at the University of Aberdeen
- **Recognition by Jessup Moot Court Competitions:**
 - Rewarded as the First Afghan Female International Judge, November 2013
 - Invited by ILSA (International Law Students Association) to judge in international rounds of Jessup Moot Court Competition 2015 in Washington, DC
 - Invited to judge in national rounds of the competitions in Jakarta, Indonesia and Istanbul, Turkey.
- **Achievement from Jessup Moot Court Competitions:** competed in national rounds in Kabul and international rounds in Washington, DC as member of the Herat University team. For the first time in history of Afghanistan's participation in Jessup Moot Court Competitions, the Herat University team became the 39th best team among around 120 teams from around the world in January 2013
- **Recognition by Herat University:** Represented Afghan women in Italian parliament
For the speech see:
<http://www.radioradicale.it/scheda/381551/afghanistan-la-cultura-come-sfida>

PUBLICATIONS

- **Ethnic Republic**, Etilaat Roz Daily, 16 March 2021, <https://www.etilaatroz.com/120247/ethnic-republic/>
- **Untimely thinking of the supreme commander**, Hashte Subh Daily, 13 March 2021, <https://8am.af/untimely-thinking-of-the-supreme-commander/>
- **Is the authentic afghan literature important or preventing terror?** Etilaat Roz Daily, 18 November 2020, <https://www.etilaatroz.com/111814/is-authentic-afghan-literature-important-or-preventing-terror-education/>

- **Where is the way to peace?** Hashte Subh Daily, 26 October 2020, <https://8am.af/where-is-the-way-to-peace/?fbclid=IwAR2E6dmmicRnkfUwIBsN-xKPsqnd7sOS6FzFYg0-Fn9GyUQL1GP8Uevfc2c>
- **Taliban, Socio Political Perspective**, Etilaat Roz Daily, 22 September 2020, https://www.etilaatroz.com/107260/taliban-socio-political-perspective/?fbclid=IwAR1sojn0yACKFtgY9AAX1gQlxwJmrGTMnJI0vkNt_NUZ9_0aJmGrnqN9Fg
- **Taliban Prisoners, today on battle field, tomorrow on repression field**, Etilaat Roz Daily, 17 September 2020, https://www.etilaatroz.com/106910/released-taliban-prisoners-today-on-battlefield-tomorrow-on-repression-field/?fbclid=IwAR3IkSwsDxqkjAU22_3M1rVgnU3JcDhQdqNB6J4630dck6RRdkZ_dp2mQ90
- **The Government's sparrow tweets against the roar of terrorist guns**, Etilaat Roz Daily, 14 May 2020, <https://www.etilaatroz.com/98499/government-sparrow-tweets-against-roar-of-terrorist-guns/>
- **A ray of peace in dark battlefield**, Etilaat Roz Daily, 13 May 2020, https://www.etilaatroz.com/98444/a-ray-of-peace-in-dark-battlefield/?fbclid=IwAR3M7sfYvsCxYiWhv-UjShsuTB0Fv6k3IKmtY_Soddp2SpjbVNNnK-Tk_D4
- **Letters: "We will fight to protect our hard-gained freedom"**, Kabul now, 8 March 2020, https://kabulnow.af/2020/03/letters-we-will-fight-to-protect-our-hard-gained-freedom/?fbclid=IwAR0p1rbiPiUL0wEYQqjDkVcqD_MfTuTvA4JPn5Z7Ut1HXtRr-GrLmf17EGA
- **Afghan Students Defy Attackers and Return to Class**, Human Rights Watch, 20 August 2018 <https://www.hrw.org/news/2018/08/20/afghan-students-defy-attackers-and-return-class>
- **Article on Anti-Harassment Law of Women and Children in Afghanistan**, Etilaat Roz daily, 20 Nov 2016 <http://www.etilaatroz.com/43200>
- **Who is Responsible?** Etilaat Roz daily, 26 July 2016 <http://www.etilaatroz.com/39977>
- **The Minister of Women Affairs Seeks Reconciliation of the Victim and Offender**, Etilaat Roz daily, 22 June 2016 <http://www.etilaatroz.com/39108>

SKILLS AND LANGUAGES

Language: Farsi/Dari (native), English (fluent), Pashto (good)
Computer: Microsoft Office programs
Research: SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences)

REFERENCES