



**MEDIA STATEMENT
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION OF MALAYSIA (SUHAKAM)**

EDITOR, NEWS DESK

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS STATEMENT

KUALA LUMPUR (29 DECEMBER 2022) – The Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM) supports the action of the Government of Malaysia through the Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE) for urging the Government of Afghanistan to revisit its decision on banning Afghan women from attending higher education, as announced on December 20.

To exclude women from acquiring education is a form of systematic discrimination, a clear contravention of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), of which Afghanistan is a member to the Convention. Such move also violates Article 9 of the Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam (CDHRI) which guarantees equal access to education to everyone including women. CDHRI is adopted by the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) countries and is constructed based on the teaching of Islam.

As universally accepted, education is vital for an individual's development as well as for improving the situation of a country. Goal 4 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) outlines recommendations on appropriate measures to ensure equal enjoyment of the right to education and that includes no one being left out from obtaining quality education, as the success of a country would hinge on the level of education of its citizens.

SUHAKAM further calls on the Malaysian Government to leverage its position as a current member of the United Nation's Human Rights Council and a fellow Member States of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to strongly encourage the Afghanistan Government to accede to the establishment of an inclusive government that respects the desire of the Afghan people and restores, respects, and upholds the basic rights of Afghan women and girls.

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**Prof. Dato' Dr. Rahmat Mohamad
Chairman
Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM)
29 December 2022**