



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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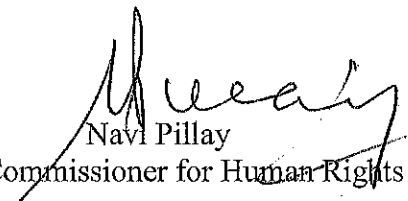
Dear colleagues,

I would like to thank you sincerely for organizing my meeting with a broad range of Afghan NGOs during my recent visit to Kabul. Although it was a short visit, I was able to meet with a variety of Government counterparts and civil society partners such as your network, which added to my understanding and knowledge of your concerns.

I share your concern about any backtracking on gains made with regard to women's rights in Afghanistan, especially in light of the elections and withdrawal of international forces next year. I am inspired, however by the perseverance and dedication of Afghan civil society in such a difficult environment to safeguard the progress achieved in the last 10 years.

I do encourage you to remain in touch with my Office in Geneva regarding specific cases or trends of human rights violations, as well as with the Human Rights Unit in UNAMA. We look forward to working with organizations and networks such as yours in the coming years to strengthen the protection and promotion of human rights in Afghanistan.

Yours sincerely,


Navi Pillay
High Commissioner for Human Rights

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