



STATEMENT ON AFGHANISTAN

Content Warning: Imperialism, violence, and murder

August 19, 2021

The York Federation of Students would like to extend our support to the Afghan community abroad and in the diaspora. On August 14th 2021, the capital of Afghanistan, Kabul was taken over by the Taliban following the withdrawal of US troops. People in Afghanistan continue to face widespread human rights violations that occurred long before the current events began. Today, millions of innocent people are facing killings, starvation, displacement and further difficult conditions under not only the control of the Taliban but the result of years of exploitation and rape, kidnapping, torture and murders imposed by the United States and its allies. Afghan women and young girls are facing extreme loss of human rights and autonomy.

It is important to recognize that the current situation in Afghanistan can be attributed to the role that many western states, such as the United States, have played in further destabilizing Afghanistan as part of a much larger geo-political strategy of imperialist control and power through invasion, war, and displacement; a strategy that has resulted in the continued suffering of Afghan people.

For decades, the people of Afghanistan have been facing foreign interference to their sovereignty, invasion and oppression by the United States, Pakistan, Russia, Britain and allies. The actions of these governments and their contributions to the human rights violations occurring in Afghanistan, must be condemned and they have an inherent responsibility to provide support to Afghanistan. In the pursuit of political control, land, resources and power, the imperialism forced upon Afghanistan continues to destabilize regions and cause severe harm, especially to ethnic and religious minority groups within the country. Afghanistan has been used as a playground for proxy wars, while Afghan people continue to be mercilessly used as pawns for the political benefit of a few. Western mainstream media outlets have contributed to the normalization of violence in Afghanistan under the pretenses of these issues being far more complex than they truly are.

As every day passes, more lives are being threatened by this situation and assistance has not been extended from other countries and the United Nations itself.

We, the York Federation of Students, affirm our utmost solidarity in the resistance against imperialist violence. As a students union with a continued commitment to anti-war movements, we recognize the severity of the ongoing crisis in Afghanistan. This recent crisis is one of many that emphasizes the harm caused by war and harmful geo-political interventions.

It is crucial that we continue to raise awareness of the realities that the people of Afghanistan continue to endure, especially amidst the heavy attempts by other governments to silence them.

We strongly encourage folks to listen and amplify the voices of the Afghan community and to provide support through genuine solidarity, awareness and donations.

We recognize these times have been extremely difficult for Afghan students at York University and the community as a whole, please reach out to us if you are in need of resources or support.

Support resources:

[Saveafghanistan.good.do](https://saveafghanistan.good.do)
gofundme.com/idprelief
[Focus-canada.org](https://focus-canada.org)