



Afghanistan - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on Friday 18 January 2019

Information on available state protection for youths at risk of forced recruitment by the Taliban

In June 2018 the *European Asylum Support Office* states in a report that:

“The Taliban have no shortage of volunteers/recruits and only make use of forced recruitment in exceptional cases. It is, for example, reported that the Taliban try to recruit persons with a military background, such as members of the ANSF. The Taliban also make use of forced recruitment in situations of acute pressure. Pressure and coercion to join the Taliban are not always violent and would often be exercised through the family, clan or religious network, depending on the local circumstances” (European Asylum Support Office (June 2018) *Country Guidance: Afghanistan, Guidance note and common analysis*, p.46).

Accord in June 2018 issued a compilation of COI sources which included stating, that there is:

“...greater evidence about children being at risk of forced recruitment than adults, but there was a continuing vulnerability for teenagers and those into their 20s and 30s who are not married, extending to a general risk for able-bodied men of any age” (*Accord* (6 June 2018) *Anfragebeantwortung zu Afghanistan: Zwangsrekrutierung von Minderjährigen in Nangarhar, speziell auch in Dschalalabad [a-10614]*, p.3).

A report issued in July 2018 by the *United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan* notes that:

“During the first six months of 2018, UNAMA verified the recruitment and use of 22 boys...and documented credible allegations of the recruitment and use of seven boys by parties to the armed conflict...These boys were used to participate in hostilities, including planting IEDs and killing of civilians...” (United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (15 July 2018) *Midyear update on the protection of civilians in armed conflict 1 January to 30 June 2018*, p.3).

The *UNHCR* in August 2018 states:

“In areas where AGEs exercise effective control over territory and the population, they are reported to use a variety of mechanisms to recruit fighters, including recruitment mechanisms based on coercive strategies. Persons who resist recruitment, and their family members, are reportedly at risk of being killed or punished. AGEs are reported to continue to recruit children to carry out suicide attacks and be used as human shields, as well as to participate in active combat, to plant IEDs, to smuggle weapons and uniforms, and to act as spies, guards or scouts for reconnaissance.” (UNHCR (30 August 2018) *UNHCR Eligibility Guidelines for Assessing the International Protection Needs of Asylum-Seekers from Afghanistan*, pp.52-53)

In September 2018 the *Norwegian Refugee Council* issued a report which included a survey which noted

“...in Kunar and Nangarhar...concern[s] about the number of children still being recruited into Taliban...” (Norwegian Refugee Council (27 September 2018) *Education in Emergencies: Children in distress*, p.29).

The *United Nations Security Council* in September 2018 notes:

“The task force verified the recruitment and use of two boys by parties to the conflict and documented credible allegations of the recruitment and use of four boys by the Taliban and one boy by the National Directorate of Security and the Taliban” (United Nations Security Council (10 September 2018) *The situation in Afghanistan and its implication for International peace and security*, p.29).

A report issued in October 2018 by *Save the Children* includes commenting on forced recruitment stating that:

“Existing information on the topic is anecdotal but confirms the real threat of forced recruitment of children. UNAMA has verified the recruitment of 22 boys to armed conflict this year, and news articles have reported the recruitment of children to armed forces, both governmental and other...UNHCR lists protection from under-age recruitment – in line with the UNCRC –as a child-sensitive understanding of sufficient persecution to form grounds for asylum...” (Save the Children (16 October 2018) *From Europe to Afghanistan; Experiences of Child Returnees*, p.37).

References

Accord (6 June 2018) *Anfragebeantwortung zu Afghanistan: Zwangsrekrutierung von Minderjährigen in Nangarhar, speziell auch in Dschalalabad [a-10614]*.

<https://www.ecoi.net/en/document/1442832.html>

Accessed Thursday 17 January 2019

European Asylum Support Office (June 2018) *Country Guidance: Afghanistan, Guidance note and common analysis*

<https://www.easo.europa.eu/sites/default/files/easo-country-guidance-afghanistan-2018.pdf>

Accessed Thursday 17 January 2019

Norwegian Refugee Council (27 September 2018) *Education in Emergencies: Children in distress*

https://www.nrc.no/globalassets/pdf/reports/education-in-emergencies-children-in-distress/nrc-education_in_emergencies-report-full-screen.pdf

Accessed Thursday 17 January 2019

Save the Children (16 October 2018) *From Europe to Afghanistan; Experiences of Child Returnees*

https://www.savethechildren.de/fileadmin/user_upload/Downloads_Dokumente/Berichte_Studien/2018/Report_Afghanistan_original_20181000.pdf

Accessed Thursday 17 January 2019

UNHCR (30 August 2018) *UNHCR Eligibility Guidelines for Assessing the International Protection Needs of Asylum-Seekers from Afghanistan*

<http://www.refworld.org/docid/5b8900109.html>

Accessed Thursday 17 January 2019

United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (15 July 2018) *Midyear update on the protection of civilians in armed conflict 1 January to 30 June 2018*

https://www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/1438474/1226_1531825895_unama-poc-midyear-update-2018-15-july-english.pdf

Accessed Thursday 17 January 2019

United Nations Security Council (10 September 2018) *The situation in Afghanistan and its implication for International peace and security*

https://www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/1444020/1226_1537777428_n1827389.pdf

Accessed Thursday 17 January 2019

Sources Consulted

Amnesty International
BBC News/Monitoring
Electronic Immigration Network
European Country of Origin Information Network
Freedom House
Google
Human Rights Watch
Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada
Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
International Crisis Group
IRIN News
Lexis Nexis
Minority Rights Group International
Online Newspapers
Refugee Documentation Centre E-Library
Refugee Documentation Centre Query Database
Reliefweb
Reuters
United Kingdom Home Office
United States Department of State
UNHCR Refworld