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## DISCLAIMER

This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. All COI Query Responses are compiled in line with the Common EU Guidelines (2008) and the EUAA Methodology (2023). This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to international protection. Please refer to all documents cited.

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## COI QUERY RESPONSE

### AGHANISTAN – INFORMATION ON HONOUR KILLINGS

The *US Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices* in April 2024 mentioned that: ““Honor killings” reportedly occurred throughout the year.”<sup>1</sup>

A report issued by the *Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)* in March 2024 states that: “Since the Taliban takeover in August 2021, UNAMA had recorded 87 reports involving serious crimes, including murder, rape, suicide, forced marriages (including child marriage), assault, battery and two cases of honour killing. None of those cases had undergone formal justice system proceedings.”<sup>2</sup>

The *Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)* in February 2024 notes that: “Gender-based violence remains a key concern, as the Taliban takeover exacerbated a high prevalence of gender-based violence against women and girls. The legal status of acts that were criminal offences under the now abolished Law on the Elimination of Violence against Women (2009) has been diminished and is unacceptable, including gender-based killings (including so-called honour killings), rape, violence causing injury or disability, including battery and laceration, forced marriage, and forced self-immolation or suicide.”<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> US Department of State (22 April 2024) *2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Afghanistan*, p.17

<sup>2</sup> Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) (4 March 2024) *Afghanistan: Compilation of information prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights*, p.11

<sup>3</sup> Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) (22 February 2024) *Situation of human rights in Afghanistan: Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan* (February 2024), p.6

The *Austrian Centre for Country of Origin and Asylum Research and Documentation* in February 2024 points out that: “Incidents of violence against women and girls continued to be reported, ranging from murder and honour killings to forced marriages and beatings resulting in injuries or disabilities and suicides. Reports continued to suggest that local de facto authorities used a combination of formal and informal justice mechanisms to address civil and criminal matters, including reported cases of violence against women and girls, but the mechanisms were not available equally throughout the country and did not specifically address concerns over women’s access to justice, especially given the absence of female justice professionals.”<sup>4</sup>

In February 2024 *CIVICUS Monitor (World Alliance for Citizen Participation)* reported that: “In a tragic incident on 4th November 2023, a woman protester either committed suicide or was killed after being detained for three days by Taliban soldiers. The woman was arrested at a checkpoint in the northern city of Mazar-e Sharif on 30th October 2023 and reportedly subjected to violence and sexual assault that was filmed. The de facto authorities reportedly threatened her that the film would be made public if she continued her activism. Local media reports said there were signs of torture on her body when she was released. Some local reports suggested she was the victim of an 'honour' killing rather than having committed suicide.”<sup>5</sup>

The *European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA)* in December 2023 notes that: “From March 2022 until August 2023, UNAMA documented at least 324 cases of violence against women and girls, including so-called 'honour killings', forced and child marriages, beatings and domestic violence resulting in self-immolation or suicide.”<sup>6</sup>

The *UK Foreign Office* in July 2023 reported that: “Reports of honour killings and suicides continued.”<sup>7</sup>

The *United Nations* in June 2023 states that: “In a report by UNAMA covering the period from 15 August 2021 to 15 June 2022, it was noted that none of the more than 80 cases of murder, rape, suicide, forced and child marriage, assault and "honour" killings that had been documented since August 2021 had been prosecuted by the formal justice system.”<sup>8</sup>

The *University News: Saint Louis University* in April 2023 mentioned that: “Honor killings have been rampant since the 1990s and they are still prevalent in Afghanistan...”<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Austrian Centre for Country of Origin and Asylum Research and Documentation (8 February 2024) *Afghanistan: Overview of recent developments*, p.19-20

<sup>5</sup> CIVICUS Monitor (World Alliance for Citizen Participation) (7 February 2024) *Afghanistan: Taliban continues its persecution of women's rights activists, journalists and artists*, p.3

<sup>6</sup> European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) (5 December 2023) *EUAA COI Report - Afghanistan: Country Focus* [4. Treatment of certain profiles and groups of the population]

<sup>7</sup> UK Foreign Office (13 July 2023) *Human Rights & Democracy: The 2022 Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office Report – Afghanistan*

<sup>8</sup> United Nations (22 June 2023) *Conflict-related sexual violence: Report of the Secretary-General (June 2023)* [Afghanistan excerpt]

<sup>9</sup> University News: Saint Louis University (27 April 2023) *Supporting Afghani Women Should be a Priority for All, Student Says in Atlas Week Event*

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