



IBBY Statement on Afghanistan  
August 2021

The whole world is watching the tragic unfolding events in Afghanistan. The IBBY community is no exception.

Our first concern is for the people of Afghanistan, and in particular the most vulnerable of them – women and children, especially the girls.

IBBY stands by its mission to promote international understanding through children's books and give children everywhere the opportunity to have access to books with high literary and artistic standards. Furthermore, and perhaps most importantly, IBBY is committed to protecting and upholding the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

IBBY therefore joins the global call to respect the human rights of all Afghan citizens, as well as the right to education for all with no prejudice against girls as they strive for a better life.

We call on the authorities in Afghanistan to safeguard schools and protect the international obligation of all governments to their children, without discrimination due to ethnicity, gender, religion, or political opinion, to ensure that future generations have the chance to live in peace and prosperity.

We call on all people of the world to respect the rights of the child wherever they may be.

We also call on all nations to encourage and support the establishment of a safe and fair society in Afghanistan.

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