

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H. RES. 616
OFFERED BY MR. CROW OF COLORADO

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas, upon their takeover in August 2021, the Taliban became one of the world's most repressive organizations, depriving the Afghans of their enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms and rolling back respect for the rights of women, girls, and members of vulnerable communities;

Whereas the Taliban have placed severe restrictions on women and girls, limiting their travel, access to education, and livelihoods;

Whereas the Taliban has banned women from attending school beyond sixth grade, attending universities, or teaching in boys' schools;

Whereas the Taliban has resisted the inclusion of female aid workers from local and nongovernmental organizations in humanitarian aid work in Afghanistan;

Whereas the Taliban have violently responded to Afghans participating in demonstrations in support of women and girls, including through the use of water cannons, public floggings, beatings, and other serious physical abuses;

Whereas the Taliban continue to engage in human rights abuses including arbitrary detentions, disappearances and abductions, physical abuses, summary killings, collective punishment, and profiling and surveilling members of

ethnic, tribal, religious groups, and others perceived as holding anti-Taliban views;

Whereas the Taliban have placed severe restrictions on the exercise of the freedoms of expression, including freedom of the press, peaceful assembly, and association, and have targeted members of the media, human rights defenders, and civil society activists through harassment, interference, surveillance, intimidation, detention, and violence;

Whereas many Shi'a—including ethnic Hazaras—Sufis, Sikhs, Hindus, Christians, Ahmadiyya Muslims, and members of other religious minority groups face repeated harassment, detention, violence, and other egregious abuses of religious freedom due to their beliefs since the Taliban reimposed their strict interpretation of Sunni Islam on Afghanistan;

Whereas the Taliban and Islamic State in the Khorasan Province have forcibly displaced a large number of Hazara families from their homes and ancestral lands as a form of collective punishment and targeted this community in violent attacks;

Whereas the Taliban have engaged in summary killings and disappearances targeting former government and military officials despite an announced policy of amnesty;

Whereas terrorist groups, including the Islamic State in the Khorasan Province, continue to destabilize Afghanistan and present an enduring threat to nations around the globe;

Whereas it is in the global interest to prevent the growth of terrorist organizations operating in Afghanistan by addressing the human rights degradation and internal op-

pression that have the potential to fuel external aggression;

Whereas the restrictive policies of the Taliban have undermined respect for human rights and exacerbated the ongoing financial and humanitarian crisis, contributing to an unstable operating environment for humanitarian relief with continued interference and violence against aid workers;

Whereas the United Nations estimated in December 2023 that 69 percent of the Afghan population lacks access to basic items, utilities, and essential services and an estimated 15.8 million Afghans were experiencing acute food insecurity;

Whereas the United States supported efforts to build democracy, promote rights for women and girls, and strengthen the rule of law in Afghanistan through diplomatic, military, and humanitarian efforts for over 20 years; and

Whereas the United States remains committed to supporting the Afghan people through their struggle for democracy and human rights: Now, therefore, be it

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

1 That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) condemns the Taliban’s ongoing human
3 rights abuses against women and girls, members of
4 religious and ethnic minority groups, civil society
5 leaders and activists, humanitarian workers, and
6 journalists, among members of other vulnerable

1 groups in Afghanistan, and calls for the group to
2 halt any further acts of violence and repression
3 against the Afghan people;

4 (2) encourages the Secretary of State, as appro-
5 priate, to consider determining whether the Taliban
6 have committed crimes against humanity in connec-
7 tion with their treatment of women and girls in Af-
8 ghanistan; and

9 (3) encourages the United States Government
10 to work with our allies and partners, including the
11 United Nations and multilateral partners, to develop
12 a comprehensive, long-term strategy to—

13 (A) counter a resurgence of increased vio-
14 lence against human rights defenders in Af-
15 ghanistan, especially against those who defend
16 the rights of women and girls, held political of-
17 fice in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan,
18 were involved in the peace processes, or are oth-
19 erwise in the public eye;

20 (B) support human rights defenders, espe-
21 cially those who defend the rights of women and
22 girls and the aspirations of the Afghan people
23 for a democratic future based on the respect for
24 human rights, good governance, and the rule of
25 law;

1 (C) support those pursuing their education
2 and meaningful participation in society;

3 (D) support the Afghan people in their
4 struggle for survival, human rights, and democ-
5 racy;

6 (E) support the comprehensive documenta-
7 tion of human rights abuses committed by the
8 Taliban since the group's takeover of the coun-
9 try in August 2021;

10 (F) hold the Taliban to account for its
11 human rights abuses;

12 (G) expedite processing and evacuation of
13 Afghan Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) appli-
14 cants and Priority 1 (P-1) and Priority 2 (P-
15 2) applicants; and

16 (H) counter terrorist organizations in Af-
17 ghanistan including through the use of over-the-
18 horizon capabilities.

Amend the title so as to read: “A resolution express-
ing support for the people of Afghanistan, condemning
the Taliban’s assault on human rights and the specific
targeting of women, girls, and members of religious and
ethnic minority groups, and expressing support for Af-
ghans who assisted in the United States mission in Af-
ghanistan.”.

