



International Day of the Girl

11th October



**'Together, we must create
a world...where girls are
always empowered to
reach their full potential' -
UN Secretary-General Ban
Ki-Moon**



Girls in Afghanistan

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Afghan girls have suffered violence and restricted rights for years:

- In 2002 **less than 0.5%** of all school children were girls.
- The Taliban **banned** girls from attending school and working.
- **Violence** against girls and women is an ongoing problem.
- **Beatings, forced marriage** and **lack of economic support** are distressingly common features of an Afghan girl's life.



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- There is a long tradition of child brides in Afghanistan.
- This has contributed to the normalisation of domestic **violence**, **rape** and **early pregnancy**.
- **Education** can be the most effective solution to such terrible problems.





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The situation for Afghan girls and women has begun to improve:

- Organisations like **Afghan Connection** have contributed to encouraging progress in the educational and working lives of Afghan girls and women.
- Latest World Bank figures say 36% of girls are now enrolled in school.
- More than 25% of **state employees** are now women.
- Women are now employed in the **police** and the **army**.



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However, there is a long way to go before Afghan girls and women enjoy anything close to equal rights with boys and men:

- **Over half** of women are married before the age of 19.
- Female **literacy** rates remain startlingly low compared to male rates (17% vs. 45%).
- The 2009 law against **child marriage** is frequently broken.
- Organisations like Afghan Connection need increasing and continuing support to help Afghan girls and women enjoy greater **freedom** and to realise their **potential**.
- 'You educate a woman, you educate her **family**. You educate a girl, you educate the **future**' - Queen Rania of Jordan.