

ADVOCACYNET 369
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The New Face of Women's Education in Afghanistan

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The photo above, issued by the new Afghan government, shows what lies ahead for women and girls in Afghanistan.

Girls will be barred from high school. Women will be permitted to enroll at university, but required to wear a black burqa, black gloves and even black socks.

The Taliban have also closed the Ministry of Women and replaced it with the Ministry of Virtue and Vice, one of the most regressive features of Taliban rule between 1996 and 2001.

If you are concerned by this, we ask you to join us today in investing in the [**Oruj Learning Center**](#), a long-time partner of AP that has an outstanding record of educating women and girls in Afghanistan. Oruj manages a major program of remote learning in Kabul and [**is appealing for funds through GlobalGiving**](#).

Between 2003 and 2009, Oruj put 3,470 Afghan girls through school in Afghanistan. As fighting intensified in the provinces, Oruj opened a college for women in Kabul that expanded into a university offering classes in business, law and economics for male and female students alike. Costs are covered by fees and the university is entirely self-sustaining.

Oruj has continued to adapt. When the COVID-19 pandemic closed down schools last year, the university moved quickly to include remote classes. Over 900 students are currently enrolled. Students – men and women – have been trickling back since the change in government.

Today's Afghanistan presents obvious challenges for any educator, but the best response is to trust in Afghan women and organizations like Oruj that have been repeatedly tested yet kept the flame alive. Oruj's experience with remote learning will surely prove useful. It maintains a loyal staff in Afghanistan and outside the country.

Oruj managers have turned to GlobalGiving to give them resources and flexibility over the coming months. They will need help in supplying devices, reading material and Internet connections to students and professors. Oruj also hopes to build a network of supporters in North America and work closely with Afghan women leaders.

AP is committing \$300 from our own funds to this vital work and we hope you can join us. [**All donations made today – Wednesday September 22 – will earn a bonus**](#). Oruj will secure a permanent slot on GlobalGiving if it can secure \$5,000 from at least 40 donors.

Please share this email as widely as possible - and thank you!



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