



**Oral Statement  
Human Rights Council 52<sup>nd</sup> Session**



*Statement prepared and delivered by Razia Arefi, Moeders voor vrede - Mothers for Peace, an MMM associate member*

**The Refugee crisis and the double suffering of Afghan women**

The refugee crisis and the double suffering of Afghan women which I am going to speak about, is not a decorative statement for the pertaining occasion; but rather a narrative from the inside, a lived story of a woman who has experienced three times seeking refuge.

As a little child, I was a *muhajir* in Iran. I didn't know the meaning of *muhajir* then, but I was treated as *muhajir*.

Again, as a mother, I found myself as a *muhajir* in Pakistan. There in Pakistan, I knew the meaning of *muhajir* and was treated as *muhajir*. *Muhajir* was the word to evoke the meaning of homeless and unwelcome guest.

The third time, after 20 years at home and along with other Afghan women, nurturing the colourful dreams of a free and purposeful life, all at once witnessed their withering and destruction, consequently I found myself as a refugee in Europe.

It is the story which tells you, not only about the impacts of the refugee crisis; but also about the cause of the vicious circle of the unfinished suffering of Afghan women, especially those women who are left behind and under the anti-woman rule of Taliban, they are being reduced to an object.

I mean despite the decrease in the media spotlight on Afghanistan, the issue, which caused thousands of Afghans to flee Afghanistan, is still deepening and overwhelming there. I completely agree with the July 2022 report of Amnesty International with the title,

“Death in slow motion” under the Taliban rule”

Here, I would like to call on all international organizations that while we are witnessing the slow death of women and girls in Afghanistan, we should not leave the fate of nearly 20 million Afghan women at the mercy of a criminal group that caused these black days.