



3 November 2011

The Honorable Dr. Guido Westerwelle  
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany  
Auswärtiges Amt  
D-11013 Berlin

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**Representation of Women at the Foreign Ministers Conference on Afghanistan and the inclusion of the Afghan civil society to be held in Bonn on 5 December 2011 and also during the process of selecting Afghan representatives to take part in the preceding Afghanistan activities and the Civil Society Forum to be held 2/3 December in Bonn.**

Your Excellency,

The International Federation of University Women (IFUW) is a non-governmental organization promoting education and the rights of women and girls worldwide. We are a strong supporter of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and believe that their full implementation is a global priority. As you are aware, at the heart of Resolution 1325 is the acknowledgement that women must be fully represented in all discussions aimed at conflict resolution and the development of a just and peaceful civil society.

On 5 December 2011, Foreign Ministers from over 90 countries will meet in Bonn with the Afghan government to discuss the future of Afghanistan. Based on recent information from Afghan women, IFUW and our national federations and associations in 62 countries are seriously concerned that neither will Afghan women be adequately represented, nor Afghan women's issues be fully addressed at the Conference or in the Civil Society Forum and consultative process that are to precede this meeting.

In accordance with the strong position of the European Union on implementation of Resolution 1325 and women's participation in all aspects of conflict resolution and peace processes, we are convinced that Germany, as the host country, has a particular responsibility as a member of the United Nations to pursue the fulfillment of Resolution 1325. Afghan women must be full and active participants in the discussions of Afghanistan's future.

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**International Federation of University Women**

**Fédération Internationale des Femmes Diplômées des Universités**

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In accordance with our strong position on women's human rights and our solidarity with the women and girls of Afghanistan, in spite of short time available, we now seek your commitment as Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany that your Government will take all necessary steps to:

- (a) ensure the full representation of Afghan women in all preparations and as delegates to the Conference;
- (b) ensure the inclusion of Afghan women's issues on the Conference and Civil Society Forum agendas; and
- (c) facilitate the presence of Afghan women to provide an opportunity for their voices to be heard during the Civil Society Forum and for their views to be included in those to be forwarded to the Conference of Foreign Ministers.

Being aware of your personal commitment to the Afghan peace process, we appeal to you to support our particular request for the rights of Afghan women at this important meeting.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marianne Haslegrave". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marianne Haslegrave  
IFUW President