

Appendix I: Questions from Human Rights Watch to the Taliban (Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan or IEA)

Education:

We found significant variations in implementing the official IEA policy on education. Your education officials have said that the differences in access to education between districts and provinces are due to security and to the varying levels of acceptance of girls' education within the communities themselves.

- If communities do not demand education, the policy on allowing girls' and women's education is not enforced. Is that correct?
- Are there disagreements about girls' education in the IEA leadership? For example, we heard in some places that girls can only go to school if all of the staff are female, including guards and cleaners. Is this the official policy?
- There seem to be differences even in the same or nearby districts. For example, we are aware of the fact that girls are studying in district centers in Kunduz, but we were also informed that some girls' schools and also literacy classes in Dasht-e Archi were closed. What is the reason for that?
- Can you also clarify if young women are allowed to attend Kunduz University from districts in Kunduz?
- We also understand that there have been new girls' madrassas established in Naw Abad, Kunduz. What curriculum is taught in the madrassas?
- In Helmand, can local Taliban officials make decisions about education policy that are different from the official policy?
- In Gereshk we were told by education officials that until there is peace, girls should not go to school. Is this your official policy in Helmand? In order for there to be girls' schools, do communities have to first ask for girls' education? If people

believe it is not possible how would they ask? Are NGO education programs allowed in Helmand?

Community Restrictions

- Is there a department of *al-Amr bi al-Ma'ruf wa al-Nahi `an al-Munkir* (vice and virtue)?
- Are these kinds of restrictions and their enforcement by officials compulsory for all communities?
- What is the official IEA policy on smartphone use and televisions? In some districts we have been told that they were not allowed. We are concerned that people have access to information, for which access to the internet, television, radio, etc. is essential.
- We have been informed that the IEA would place no restrictions on the media except that they respect Islamic values. Would the IEA accept reporting that is critical of IEA governance and policies?
- On dress code, hijab, and women's ability to move outside the home, people in some communities have said that they were told they had to adopt certain practices (a certain kind of hijab or other clothing) that was different from what they had normally done. As one example, in Jalrez district of Wardak, the women were told to wear a different hijab than the one they traditionally wore. Is it possible within your policies to allow for minority communities to follow their own practices?
- Regarding restrictions on women moving outside the home: we are very concerned about how these restrictions might affect access to health care for women, especially if female medical workers find it difficult to move around outside their clinics, and if this makes it difficult to recruit qualified staff. We are also concerned about whether local women have access to health services, since they also cannot move outside the home without a male relative. Can you clarify your policy on this?

Infractions and punishments for contact with the Afghan government

- In many provinces, including Helmand, Wardak, Kunduz, and Logar, we have heard that having contact with anyone in the Afghan government is strictly prohibited, and that family members of people working in the Afghan government or security forces may be punished severely. Is that IEA policy? If so, does it apply even to teachers and medical personnel?
- Are there trial procedures for persons accused of having contact with the government? Who presides and what legal protections do the accused have?