



**Statement of Esta Soler,  
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## **Taliban's Broken Promise to Educate Girls Is Cruel and Heartbreaking for Girls, Families, and for Afghanistan's Future**

"We are deeply disappointed by the Taliban's refusal to allow girls in the 6th grade and older to re-enter school or continue their schooling. This is not only a cruel, heartbreaking broken promise, but also a short-sighted move that will render Afghanistan less successful for years to come. Education is a fundamental right that must never be denied to anyone, regardless of their gender. By barring girls from school, the Taliban is erasing a vital part of the next generation of doctors, teachers, writers, scientists, and leaders of all kinds.

Prior to this betrayal, the World Bank released previously frozen funds to support health, education and other basic services for people in Afghanistan, who are suffering terribly. That may be the last large-scale support the country receives, if the Taliban fails to reverse its decision to deny girls an education. We agree with [the bipartisan women U.S. Senators](#) that the United States and the international community must hold the Taliban accountable. We urge world leaders and multilateral organizations to demand that girls' high schools be reopened; that girls' primary schools remain open; and that all girls in Afghanistan be free to attend school, and to impose severe consequences if that does not happen. This kind of oppression must not continue."

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### **ABOUT FUTURES WITHOUT VIOLENCE:**

For more than 35 years, FUTURES has been providing groundbreaking programs, policies and campaigns that empower individuals and organizations working to end violence against women and children around the world. Striving to reach new audiences and transform social norms, FUTURES trains professionals such as doctors, nurses, judges and athletic coaches on improving responses to violence and abuse. FUTURES also works with advocates, policymakers and others to build sustainable community leadership and educate people everywhere about the importance of respect and healthy relationships. More information is available at [www.futureswithoutviolence.org](http://www.futureswithoutviolence.org).