



LAWASIA STATEMENT ON HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN IN AFGHANISTAN

LAWASIA, the Law Association for Asia and the Pacific, notes with concern recent reports by a number of human rights organisations of an increasing number of violent acts being committed against women in Afghanistan over the last year.

It expresses its strong condemnation of violence against women, such as the reported torture and beheading of a young woman in October 2012 by her mother in-law and another male relative for allegedly refusing to become a prostitute, and the execution of a young Afghan woman by her husband in front of hundreds of spectators in July 2012 for allegedly committing adultery.

As an Association formed of nationally-representative law associations of Asia and the Pacific region, LAWASIA calls on the Afghan government to increase its efforts to reduce violence and other human rights abuses against women and girls in Afghanistan, and to enforce the *Law on the Elimination of Violence against Women*.

The *Law on the Elimination of Violence against Women*, which was enacted in August 2009 and criminalises rape, forced marriage and other violent acts against women, continues to be enforced by Afghan authorities only spasmodically.

LAWASIA calls on the Afghan government to:

- uphold the rule of law;
- improve protections and support for women who have been subjected to violence; and
- ensure that the perpetrators of these violent acts and human rights abuses are brought to justice.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Malathi Das' with a horizontal line underneath.

MALATHI DAS (Ms)
PRESIDENT

As agreed by the LAWASIA Council at its meeting in Bali, Indonesia

18 November, 2012