INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JUDGES
UNION INTERNATIONALE DES MAGISTRATS
UNIÓN INTERNACIONAL DE MAGISTRADOS
INTERNATIONALE VEREINIGUNG DER RICHTER
UNIONE INTERNAZIONALE DEI MAGISTRATI

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CALL FOR INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT IN AFGHANISTAN

The International Association of Judges (the IAJ) joins the many others calling for urgent, sustained and meaningful support for those in Afghanistan now likely to be adversely affected by current events. The world community has a clear duty to support those who will now find themselves on the wrong side of the new regime. We have some responsibility for having created expectations of rights and liberties in that country that may no longer be available. Many in Afghanistan have in recent years tried to create a system based upon freedoms and liberties that we take for granted but which may no longer be available to them. Promises were made and expectations were created that may now no longer be given but they must not be left without support. Women judges in Afghanistan have already expressed genuine fear in an uncertain and evolving situation. They are one of many groups that have tried to implement the values which many of us take for granted and which the west has actively encouraged. They cannot be left without support.

The IAJ supports the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary. We believe that these are fundamental to a free and ordered society in which people can live in peace and safety. We believe also that it our duty to support those who also support these principles and whose life and freedom may be at risk for seeking to apply them or live by them. The situation now evolving in Afghanistan will leave many at risk and the international community must not leave them to an uncertain fate. We must do all we can to help those who have sought to implement those principles which we hold dear and which we believe to be fundamental to a free and safe life.

The Hon G. Tony Pagone QC
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