



Please cite as: EUAA, '[Abbreviations and glossary](#)' in *Country Guidance: Afghanistan*, May 2024.

# Abbreviations and glossary

---

[A](#) • [B](#) • [C](#) • [D](#) • [E](#) • [F](#) • [G](#) • [H](#) • [I](#) • [J](#) • [K](#) • [L](#) • [M](#) • [N](#) • [O](#) • [P](#) • [Q](#) • [R](#) • [S](#) • [T](#) • [U](#) • [V](#) • [W](#) • [X](#) • [Y](#) • [Z](#)

---

## A

<b>ACC</b>	Afghan Citizen Card
<b>ACLED</b>	Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project
<b>AFF</b>	Afghanistan Freedom Front
<b>AGEs</b>	See 'anti-government elements'
<b>ALM</b>	Afghan Liberation Movement
<b>ALP</b>	Afghan Local Police, a security initiative to include armed militias in the police force, under the auspices of the Ministry of the Interior.
<b>ANA</b>	Afghan National Army
<b>ANDSF</b>	Afghan National Defence and Security Forces, see also ANSF
<b>ANP</b>	Afghan National Police
<b>ANSF</b>	Afghan National Security Forces, including Afghan National Army (ANA), Afghan National Police (ANP) and National Directorate of Security (NDS)
<b>Anti-government elements</b>	Armed opposition fighters, or insurgents, who are fighting against the Afghan government and its international allies. Examples of such groups of fighters are the Taliban, the Haqqani network and the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan.
<b>Asylum Procedures Directive</b>	Directive 2013/32/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 on common procedures for granting and withdrawing international protection

## B

<b>baad</b>	The practice of exchanging women/girls to resolve a dispute; exchanging daughters between families for marriage to avoid bride price costs.
<b>Badal/ badaal</b>	The concept of revenge or retribution in the Pashtunwali.

***bacha bazi***

Dancing boys: boys or young men who are sexually exploited by men for entertainment. They are made to dance in female garb and provide sexual favours. This practice is often associated with men in power.

**C**

**CAT**

Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

**CJEU**

Court of Justice of the European Union

**COI**

Country of origin information

**complex  
attack**

A deliberate and coordinated attack that includes a suicide device, more than one attacker and more than one type of device. All three elements must be used for an attack to be considered complex.

**E**

**ECHR**

Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (European Convention on Human Rights), as amended by Protocols Nos. 11 and 14, 4 November 1950

**ECtHR**

European Court of Human Rights

**EU**

European Union

**EU+**

Member States of the European Union plus Norway and Switzerland

**EUAA**

European Union Agency for Asylum

**F**

***fatwa***

A ruling or opinion given by the head of religious community in Islam.

**G**

**GDI**

General Directorate of Intelligence

**ground  
engagement**

Ground engagements include kinetic ground operations, stand-off attacks, crossfire and armed clashes between parties to the conflict. Ground engagements include attacks or operations in which small arms, heavy weapons and/or area weapons systems, i.e. mortars and rockets are fired.

## H

**haad (plural: hudud)**

A category of crime under Islamic Law. Punishment for crimes against God prescribed in the Quran

**Hanafi**

Sunni jurisprudence in use in Afghanistan; one of the four schools of Sunni jurisprudence.

## I

**ICC**

International Criminal Court

**ICRC**

International Committee of the Red Cross

**IDP(s)**

Internally displaced person(s)

**IED**

Improvised Explosive Device. A bomb constructed and deployed in ways other than in conventional

**IFRP**

Illegal Foreigners' Repatriation Plan

**ILO**

International Labour Organisation

**IMU**

Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan

**IOM**

International Organization for Migration

**IPA**

Internal protection alternative

**ISKP**

Islamic State Khorasan Province

## J

**jirga**

A council or assembly of tribal elders held for dispute resolution; jirgamar refers to elders whose profession is dispute settlement

## L

**LGBTIQ**

LGBTIQ people are people:

who are attracted to others of their own gender (lesbian, gay) or any gender (bisexual);  
whose gender identity and/or expression does not correspond to the sex they were assigned at birth (trans, non-binary);

who are born with sex characteristics that do not fit the typical definition of male or female (intersex); and

whose identity does not fit into a binary classification of sexuality and/or gender (queer).

## M

<b><i>mahram</i></b>	A close male relative: either a husband or a male relative whom a woman cannot marry, such as a brother, father, son or uncle
<b><i>madrassa</i></b>	Islamic religious school
<b>Moi</b>	Ministry of Interior Affairs of Afghanistan
<b>MPVPV</b>	Ministry for the Propagation of Virtue and Prevention of Vice
<b><i>mujahideen</i></b>	Islamic 'holy warriors'. In the context of the conflict of Afghanistan, the term dates back to the 1980s, when it referred to Islamic fighting groups opposed to the communist regime and the military forces of the former Soviet Union in Afghanistan. Its fighters have since been called mujahideen. Currently, the Taliban refer to their fighters as <i>mujahideen</i> .

## N

<b>NATO</b>	North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
<b>NDS</b>	National Directorate of Security, Afghanistan's intelligence service
<b>NGO</b>	Non-governmental organisation
<b>NLFA</b>	National Liberation Front of Afghanistan
<b>NRF</b>	National Resistance Front

## P

<b><i>Pashtunwali</i></b>	A traditional social, cultural, and quasi-legal code regulating the Pashtun way of life.
<b>PoR</b>	Proof of Registration
<b>PDPA</b>	People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan
<b>PGM</b>	Pro-government militia

## Q

<b><i>qisas</i></b>	Under Islamic Law, <i>qisas</i> are crimes against the bodily integrity of a person; when one person harms or kills another, an alternative to 'eye for an eye' punishment ( <i>qisas</i> ) is the payment of <i>diyya/diyat</i> ('blood money').
<b>QD (Qualification Directive)</b>	Directive 2011/95/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on standards for the qualification of third-country nationals or stateless persons as beneficiaries of international protection, for a uniform status for refugees or for persons eligible for subsidiary protection, and for the content of the protection granted

## S

**sharia**

The religious law of Islam; Islamic canonical law.

**shura**

A decision-making community council; often formed for non-State dispute settlement; made up of a group of people with community authority (elders) to discuss and find solutions to a problem.

## T

**targeted/  
deliberate  
killing**

Intentional, premeditated and deliberate use of lethal force by States or their agents acting under colour of law or by an organised armed group, party to an armed conflict against a specific individual who is not in the perpetrator's physical custody.

**TTP**

Tehrik-i Taliban Pakistan

## U

**UCDP**

Uppsala Conflict Data Program

**Ulema**

Body of Muslim scholars who are recognised as having specialist knowledge of Islamic law and theology.

**UN**

United Nations

**UNAMA**

UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan

**UNDP**

United Nations Development Programme

**UNHCR**

UN High Commissioner for Refugees

**UNICEF**

United Nations Children's Fund

**UNOCHA**

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

**US**

United States of America

**USDOS**

US Department of State

## W

**WHO**

World Health Organisation

## Z

***zina***

A criminal offence in Islamic law referring to unlawful sexual intercourse, fornication or adultery.

---

© European Union Agency for Asylum 2026 | Email: [info@euaa.europa.eu](mailto:info@euaa.europa.eu)