



1.2.3. Issued instructions

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A compilation of national decrees and instructions issued by the de facto authorities is available in Annex 3: Lists of decrees and instructions. Restrictions issued during the reference period of this report include:

- universities were instructed to remove 680 books ‘conflicting with *sharia*’ from the curriculum (September 2025). These included many books authored by women.[202](#) A Taliban spokesperson confirmed to BBC News that no books authored by women were allowed to be taught;[203](#)
- universities were instructed to stop teaching 18 subjects ‘conflicting with *sharia*’ (September 2025), including gender, women,[204](#) democracy and human rights;[205](#)
- a ban on playing chess (11 May 2025);[206](#)
- a law on ‘Poetry Regulation’ (30 August 2025),[207](#) reportedly restricting poetry gatherings, [208](#) romantic poetry addressing relationships between men and women, and poetry criticising the Taliban Supreme Leader. Poets were urged to avoid references to feminism, democracy, communism, and nationalism;[209](#)
- new guidelines for political analysts participating in political debates (July 2025).[210](#) They were urged to speak ‘in accordance with sharia’[211](#) and obtain an identity card from the de facto Ministry of Information and Culture before appearing in media;[212](#)
- a ban on new constructions with windows overlooking neighbours’ private areas where women are often visible, such as courtyards and kitchens (December 2024);[213](#)
- a prohibition of medical education for women (2 December 2024).[214](#)

The UN Secretary-General reported on restrictions on religious preaching, smartphone use, and funeral prayers for suicide victims.[215](#) This information has however not been possible to corroborate with other sources within the time constraints of drafting this report.

- [202](#)

BBC News, Taliban ban books written by women from Afghan universities, 19 September 2025, [url](#); New York Times (The), Taliban Bans Books by Women in Afghanistan's Universities, 19 September 2025, [url](#)

- [203](#)

BBC News, Taliban ban books written by women from Afghan universities, 19 September 2025, [url](#)

- [204](#)

BBC News, Taliban ban books written by women from Afghan universities, 19 September 2025, [url](#)

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New York Times (The), Taliban Bans Books by Women in Afghanistan's Universities, 19 September 2025, [url](#)

- [206](#)

France 24, Taliban suspends chess in Afghanistan, cites religious concerns over gambling, 11 May 2025, [url](#)

- [207](#)

Amu TV, Taliban leader bans romantic poetry and his criticism under new law, 31 August 2025, [url](#)

- [208](#)

UN General Assembly and UN Security Council, The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security, 5 September 2025, [url](#), para. 5

- [209](#)

Amu TV, Taliban leader bans romantic poetry and his criticism under new law, 31 August 2025, [url](#); Print (The), As Taliban declares war on verse, Afghan women lose their only weapon, but say silence won't last, 2 September 2025, [url](#)

- [210](#)

Telegraph (The), Taliban bans political debate in free speech crackdown, 3 July 2025, [url](#)

- [211](#)

UN General Assembly and UN Security Council, The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security, 5 September 2025, [url](#), para. 35; Telegraph (The), Taliban bans political debate in free speech crackdown, 3 July 2025, [url](#)

- [212](#)

UN General Assembly and UN Security Council, The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security, 5 September 2025, [url](#), para. 35

- [213](#)

UN Human Rights Council, The situation of human rights in Afghanistan, 5 September 2025, [url](#), para. 21; AFP, Taliban leader bans windows overlooking places 'usually used by women', 29 December 2024, [url](#)

- [214](#)

HRW, Afghanistan's Taliban Ban Medical Training for Women, 3 December 2024, [url](#)

- [215](#)

UN General Assembly and UN Security Council, The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security, 5 September 2025, [url](#), para. 5