

## 4.8.7. Turkmen

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Turkmen originate from Turkic-speaking tribes and adhere to the Sunni Hanafi school of thought.<sup>1854</sup> They speak Turkmen and Dari.<sup>1855</sup> Although their exact number is ‘uncertain’,<sup>1856</sup> some sources have estimated that they make up 1 % to 3 % of the Afghan population.<sup>1857</sup> Turkmen predominantly reside in northern Afghanistan,<sup>1858</sup> in provinces bordering Turkmenistan.<sup>1859</sup> Large numbers of Turkmen were reportedly residing in Jawzjan Province, as well as smaller numbers in the provinces of Faryab,<sup>1860</sup> Takhar, Samangan, Sar-e Pul, Balkh, Kunduz,<sup>1861</sup> Badghis,<sup>1862</sup> and Herat.<sup>1863</sup> They live mainly in rural areas.<sup>1864</sup>

Since the Taliban takeover, ethnic minorities, including Turkmen, have faced marginalisation,<sup>1865</sup> and Turkmen have also reportedly been affected by forced evictions.<sup>1866</sup> According to the UN Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team, there were ‘persistent reports of a deliberate and seemingly organized campaign by Pashtuns to dislodge ethnic Tajik, Turkmen and Uzbek communities from rich agricultural land in the north’.<sup>1867</sup> Forced evictions were reported in several provinces across Afghanistan,<sup>1868</sup> but particularly in the northern parts of the country, as reported by Maliha Shirzay for RWI.<sup>1869</sup> In many cases, forced evictions occurred as a result of land disputes and claims by persons and groups perceived to have Taliban support,<sup>1870</sup> such as Kuchis.<sup>1871</sup>

A UN report published in September 2023 noted that members of *inter alia* the Turkmen community has continued to allege that the removal of their languages as official curriculum languages constitutes an ‘attack’ on their linguistic heritage.<sup>1872</sup>

In June 2025, Sheikh Samiullah Farahmand, a Turkmen cleric, was appointed by the de facto authorities as their ambassador to Türkiye.<sup>1873</sup> Before this appointment, he served as the de facto provincial head of the military court in Kunduz Province.<sup>1874</sup>

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