Amnesty International welcomes the report by the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of Human Rights in Afghanistan and reiterates the need for a concerted approach by the international community to urgently address the Taliban’s “institutionalized system of discrimination, segregation, disrespect for human dignity and exclusion of women and girls” in the country.

While the Taliban systematically engages in actions that may constitute the crime against humanity of gender persecution, efforts to hold them accountable have been weak. For over 1000 days now, 2 million girls have been banned from education, while dozens of women protestors have been disappeared, arbitrarily detained, and tortured. Women are exposed to serious mental health conditions and are economically disempowered.

The Taliban’s gross human rights violations include: extrajudicial killings, torture and other ill-treatment, public corporal punishment, arbitrary arrest, unlawful detention, enforced disappearance, and crackdown on media professionals, journalists, activists and HRDs. Furthermore, attacks by the so-called Islamic State of Khorasan Province (ISKP) on Shias and Hazaras continue to claim lives.

Afghanistan has a history of impunity for crimes under international law committed by the Taliban and other parties in various past and present conflicts in the country.

In this context, we note with grave concern that there is, at present, no dedicated international mechanism to collect and preserve evidence of serious violations in Afghanistan for prosecuting crimes under international law. We call on this Council to establish such a body at its next session through a resolution on Afghanistan.