

Ehsan Qaane, LL.M.

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Senior Researcher & Legal-Policy Analyst | Afghanistan · International Justice · Human Rights · Transitional Justice

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Senior researcher, legal-policy analyst and human-rights practitioner with more than 15 years of experience conducting research, policy analysis and advisory work on Afghanistan, international justice, human rights, governance, conflict and accountability. Experience spans independent research organisations, international and Afghan civil-society organisations, United Nations entities, a national human-rights institution and the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court.

Former Country Director and long-term researcher with the Afghanistan Analysts Network, with extensive experience producing evidence-based research for academic, policy and practitioner audiences and engaging governments, diplomatic missions, international organisations, donors, civil society and affected communities. Author or co-author of more than 50 research papers, policy analyses and briefings.

Combines rigorous legal and political research with practical policy engagement, institutional advisory work, research-project leadership, interdisciplinary collaboration and the translation of complex evidence into clear policy recommendations. Particular expertise in international criminal law, accountability for Afghanistan, transitional justice, gender persecution, human rights documentation and Afghanistan's political, legal and institutional developments.

RESEARCH & POLICY EXPERTISE

Afghanistan political, legal and institutional analysis · International criminal law and international justice · Transitional justice and victim-centred approach · Human rights and gender analysis · Women's rights and protection · Governance, rule of law and institutional development · Conflict, displacement and humanitarian policy · Evidence-based policy analysis and recommendations · Research design and qualitative investigation · Human-rights documentation and legal analysis · Policy briefs, reports and scholarly publications · Institutional and stakeholder advisory work · Research partnerships and collaborative projects · Grant proposals, concept notes and project development · Conferences, consultations, training and public engagement

EDUCATION

Master's Degree in Public International Law

Kateb University, Kabul

Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.)

Kateb University, Kabul

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Independent Policy, Research and Legal Consultant

2019–present

International NGOs, UN agencies and Afghan civil-society organisations

- Conduct research and provide legal and policy advice on Afghanistan, human rights, international justice, accountability, displacement and protection.
- Develop analytical reports, policy submissions, advocacy strategies, briefing notes, concept notes, consultation materials and recommendations for engagement with governments, UN mechanisms, international institutions and civil-society networks.
- Advise organisations and coalitions on institutional engagement, strategic positioning, research initiatives and policy development.
- Contribute to collaborative initiatives concerning international accountability, human-rights documentation and policy responses to developments in Afghanistan.

Senior Legal Researcher

2024–2025

Afghanistan Human Rights and Democracy Organisation (AHRDO)

- Led complex legal research, accountability and documentation initiatives concerning serious human-rights violations in Afghanistan.
- Led a ten-month research project concerning gender persecution and contributed to a legal submission to the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court.
- Supervised five researchers and coordinated an international expert while managing research methodology, workplans, quality assurance, ethical safeguards, data protection and deadlines.
- Prepared legal analyses, research reports, executive summaries, policy-facing materials and senior-level briefings.
- Maintained engagement with survivor networks, civil society and international institutional stakeholders.

Research Fellow

2023–2024

Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, Lund, Sweden

- Conducted policy-relevant research on international justice, human rights and Afghanistan.
- Researched the International Criminal Court’s Afghanistan investigation and analysed legal, institutional and policy challenges affecting accountability.
- Translated complex international-law questions into accessible analysis and recommendations for civil society, practitioners and decision-makers.
- Collaborated with international experts and engaged with UN human-rights mechanisms and other stakeholders.

Legal and Political Affairs Researcher

2012–2022

Afghanistan Analysts Network (AAN), Kabul / International

- Authored or co-authored more than 50 research papers, policy analyses and briefings on Afghanistan’s politics, conflict, governance, human rights, international justice, displacement and humanitarian conditions.
- Conducted extensive field-based and desk research, transforming complex political and legal developments into evidence-based analysis for specialist and policy audiences.
- Produced research used by diplomats, international organisations, donors, NGOs, researchers and practitioners.
- Monitored political and policy developments, identified emerging trends and provided timely contextual analysis.
- Conducted and participated in consultations with government officials, civil society, affected communities, international organisations and diplomatic representatives.
- Contributed research and contextual expertise to organisational strategy, proposals, programme development and institutional partnerships.

Country Director

2018–2020

Afghanistan Analysts Network (AAN), Kabul

- Led AAN’s country operations while continuing substantive research and policy engagement.
- Represented the organisation in relations with diplomatic missions, institutional donors, UN agencies, international NGOs, Afghan institutions and civil-society organisations.
- Supervised staff and coordinated research, organisational delivery, risk management, finance and strategic priorities with senior management and the board.
- Contributed to proposals, budgets, workplans, narrative reporting and donor communication.
- Quality-assured research, policy analysis and senior stakeholder materials on Afghanistan.

Country Programme Coordinator

2010–2012

International Centre for Transitional Justice (ICTJ), Kabul

- Coordinated ICTJ’s Afghanistan-level engagement with victims’ groups, civil-society organisations, national institutions and international partners.
- Supported transitional-justice research, policy engagement, programme planning and stakeholder consultations.
- Prepared briefs, analytical materials, programme updates and coordination documents.
- Contributed to dialogue on accountability, victims’ rights and transitional justice in Afghanistan.

Assistant Researcher

2009–2010

Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC), Kabul

- Reviewed and sorted interview forms completed by field researchers of the AIHRC conflict-mapping project.
- Entered hundreds of interview forms into purpose-designed software.
- Reviewed and identified research gaps in the first draft of the Conflict-Mapping Report under supervision of the project coordinator.
- Conducted secondary-source research to fill the identified gaps.

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

Visiting Professional, Office of the Prosecutor

2015–2016

International Criminal Court, The Hague

Conducted confidential legal research and analysis and prepared internal analytical material in an international criminal-justice institution.

Consultant (assignment-based)

2024

UN Women

Provided research and policy analysis concerning women’s rights, gender-based persecution and Afghanistan.

Consultant

2020–2021

United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA)

Provided time-bound research and analytical support in coordination with UN colleagues and external stakeholders.

SELECTED RESEARCH AND POLICY PUBLICATIONS

A New Accountability Mechanism for Afghanistan: What the IIM-A Can (and Cannot) Do. Afghanistan Analysts Network, 2025.

The International Criminal Court’s Afghanistan Investigation – Challenges and Constraints Assessment. Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, 2024.

Gender Persecution in Afghanistan: Could It Come under the ICC’s Afghanistan Investigation? Afghanistan Analysts Network, 2023.

The Insecure Spring of Ghazni: Results of Third-Grade Treatment by the Centre? Afghanistan Analysts Network, 2018.
Thirteen Years after Afghanistan's Accession to the International Criminal Court: What Stage at the Court has Afghanistan Reached? Journal of Afghan Legal Studies, Vol. 1, 2017 (Dari).
Author or co-author of more than 50 Afghanistan-focused research papers, analytical reports, briefings and policy publications.

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

Human Rights in Practice – Lund University.
European Master's Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation (EMA) – Global Campus of Human Rights.
Human Rights and Human Development; Human Rights of Women – Maastricht University.
International Criminal Law for Practitioners – International Nuremberg Principles Academy.
International Crimes Analysis – Institute for International Criminal Investigations.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Co-founder and member, Afghanistan Transitional Justice Coordination Group; adviser and contributor to Afghan civil-society, human-rights and accountability networks.

LANGUAGES

Dari (native) · English (full professional proficiency)