

**Witnessing, Resisting, and Narrating:
An Oral History Archive of Afghan Women's Experiences of Resistance to the Taliban**

Oral history, as embraced by feminist and emancipatory traditions of knowledge production, offers a vital corrective to dominant historiographies that often erase or marginalize women's lived realities. By centering personal memory and everyday experience, oral history validates women's voices—especially those of the oppressed and silenced—as essential sources for constructing alternative understandings of the past and present. Feminist scholars have long used this method to challenge stereotypical representations of women and to highlight the multiplicity of their experiences across political, social, and cultural spheres.

This project specifically documents the narratives of Afghan women human rights defenders (AWHRDs) who have actively resisted the Taliban's since its return to power in 2021. These women—many of whom have been exiled and now live in diaspora—continue to organize, protest, and testify against gender-based violence both on the ground and in virtual spaces. Their stories reflect not only trauma and repression, but also courage, resilience, and an unyielding commitment to justice and equality.

Through recording and amplifying these voices, the project seeks to build a historically grounded yet forward-looking archive of resistance. It affirms the feminist understanding that human beings are fundamentally narrative agents, and that storytelling is both a political act and a mode of survival. In line with thinkers such as Hannah Arendt and Julia Kristeva, it positions narrative as a key component of political presence—asserting that to speak and be heard is to exist meaningfully in the world.