

Question for written answer E-014578/2015
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Barbara Matera (PPE)

Subject: VP/HR - Victims of war and widows in Afghanistan

According to a *Wall Street Journal* report on 3 November, 2015, a large number of women who are victims of war in Afghanistan are being forced to live in poverty and suffer abuse on account of the lack of a proper protection system in the country. A UN report issued in February said that most widows of civilians killed in war received a small, one-off payment, rather than the regular stipend, because the bureaucratic mechanism is complicated. Middlemen sometimes take those stipends fraudulently and most women believe that only the well-connected are entitled to them. Widows are among Afghanistan's most vulnerable groups. According to the UN report, more than one in four Afghan widows who were interviewed experienced violence after their husbands' deaths.

Are there any EU programmes in Afghanistan targeting women who are victims of war, and specifically war widows?

What proportion of EU funds specifically targets women in Afghanistan?

With the number of women who are victims of violence in Afghanistan rising after the withdrawal of the US-led coalition forces, how will the EU address the issue of protection for women in this country under these new circumstances?