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Gender discrimination in Pakistan and Afghanistan

Gender discrimination in Pakistan has not only impacted on the status of Pakistani women, but also created an environment in which the ideology of gender discrimination has been exported to neighbouring countries. Afghanistan is a prime example: the Taliban, nurtured in Pakistani madrassas, have imposed a policy of gender discrimination in those areas of Afghanistan under their control. The most recent incident was a horrific attack on a young girl, whose nose and ears were cut off by the Taliban. International appeals to Pakistan to repeal the Hudood Ordinances, which sanction gender discrimination, have had no impact.

What steps does the EU envisage taking to promote gender equality in Pakistan and to ensure that any political settlement in Afghanistan does not allow those who come to power to establish a system of oppression of women akin to that found in Pakistan or under the Taliban?