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**Title:** Why We’re There

**Author:** Adam Radwanski

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**Synopsis:** Against the backdrop of Hamid Karzai’s support for a law decriminalizing rape within marriage,Radwanski’s article suggests that women’s rights and gender equality are alien to the Afghan mindset.

Radwanski, however, overlooks the role of constant conflict and strife in the shaping of current conditions in Afghanistan.

 He ignores the fact that prior to the Soviet invasion, the Afghan royalty had taken a number of steps to achieve gender equality, including the abolition of the veil and the establishment of co-educational institutions (<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5380.htm>).

**Quotes: “**Ending the barbaric treatment of women is as laudable a goal as one could possibly have, and of course it strikes a chord with Canadians (and Britons, and Americans) at least as much as preventing a repeat of a terrorist attack that was almost eight years ago. But it overlooks that, before we went into Afghanistan, we never had a serious discussion of whether it was possible, and if so how best to go about what would be a full-scale cultural change.”