

## Promoting Religious Freedom During the Campaign Against Terrorism": Martha Brill Olcott Written Answers to Follow-up Questions

November 27, 2001 Q. What can the United States do to encourage the emerging government of Afghanistan to avoid violating the religious freedom of that country's residents? A. I am honestly not sure what the US can do to try and protect religious freedom in Afghanistan in the transition period to the drafting of a new constitution. I think that our efforts will have to be relatively indirect, sponsoring NGOs that are supportive of secular society and full integration of women, sponsorship of dramatic expansion of female educational opportunities, etc, rather than a direct onslaught against traditional Afghan (largely traditional Islamic) practices.