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## EVAW law should be approved without amendments: protester women

By *younus.naseh*  
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Dozens of women staged a protest on Monday in front of the parliament building and asked the *Wolesi Jirga* to approve the draft law of Elimination of Violence Against Women (EVAW) without bringing any changes in it.

The draft law, having four chapters and 44 articles, was prepared under presidential decree of 2009 before being sent to the lower house for approval.

Enacted in August 2009, the law criminalises child marriage, forced marriage, selling and buying women for the purpose or under the pretext of marriage, forced self-immolation and 17 other acts of violence against women, including rape and beating.

The proposed law was debated last week, but lawmakers could not take any decision on its fate because of sharp differences among them. The MPs said that some of the articles of the draft law were against the Afghan constitution and *Shariah*.

Nearly a hundred of protester women including the activists of civil society were chanting slogans” don’t trade on the women’s rights” and “we oppose amendments in EVAW.”

“ We don’t want such changes in the law and immediate approval of the law by *Wolesi Jirga*,” one of the protester, Tamanna Hela, told Pajhwok Afghan News adding women should not be deprived of their rights.

The women also issued a five-article resolution letter, saying that the rights of male and female are equal according to the national constitution, so they should be allowed in the law to get the benefits of equality regarding their rights, privileges and duties.

It asked the international community to take necessary measures for the rights and justice and should not allow depriving women of their rights.

On Wednesday, hundreds of Kabul University students staged a protest, demanding the repeal of a presidential decree for women's rights they said was un-Islamic.

The protesters had warned of continued and violent protests if the parliament approved the law. Carrying black, white and green flags, they even said they would join the Taliban and resort to uprising against the government if the law was not repealed in the parliament.