



## What's going on?

A military group called the Taliban has taken control of the capital city of Kabul in the South-Central Asian country of Afghanistan. The country has been caught in war and fighting for decades. The Taliban are a military group that have been fighting for power in the country. Lots of people are concerned about what this takeover by the Taliban could mean both for people in Afghanistan and in other parts of the world.

Question:

What's happening in Afghanistan?

Listen, think, share

- Look at the poster image and talk about what we can see. Explain that the picture was taken in Afghanistan recently and shows a military helicopter flying over the city of Kandahar. Does anyone know why Afghanistan is in the news? Explain that the departure of US troops has led to a military group called the Taliban taking over the country. Some people are worried about some of the changes that they may bring and as a result, people have been trying to flee the country.
- Explain that the Taliban are a very divisive group in Afghanistan. Taliban means 'student' in Pashto, and they are a radical Islamic group who previously rose to power in Afghanistan in 1996 and ruled until 2001. Their beliefs are considered much more extreme than the majority of Muslims. When they were previously in power, music and television were forbidden and education for women was also banned. Their rules and punishments were very severe.
- Read through the information found on the resource about how events in Afghanistan unfolded. Talk about how the people who live there may have felt during each period.
- Now the Taliban are in power, it is unclear how they plan to lead the country. Taliban spokesperson Suhail Shaheen says the group will respect the rights of women and minorities. UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab has said, "The UK needs to face the "new reality" in Afghanistan and work with other nations to exercise a "moderating influence" on the Taliban." Do you think in modern times other countries and world leaders may be able to influence and work together to bring positive changes?

## Reflection

The country of Afghanistan is going through a difficult period of struggle and uncertainty. Some people who live there are worried about what the future holds. Governments and organisations around the world are trying to help bring safety to those who have fled, and security for those who remain in the country.

## Web Links

**Useful video – What led to the Taliban takeover**

[www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/58221225](http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/58221225)

**A guide to the history of Afghanistan**

[www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/58237792](http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/58237792)