



# Side Events hosted by ACBAR members Afghanistan Conference—November 2020

**16 November 2020 – 08:30 – 15:30 Kabul – SERENA Hotel**

## **Inclusive Peace and Decision Making**

Organisers: Cordaid and Afghan Women's Network (AWN)

A one-day side event will bring together Afghan CSOs and will include women leaders from 14 provinces, including Kabul. The event will culminate in a position paper to be disseminated in advance of the upcoming Donor Conference in Geneva (24 November 2020). Discussions will review and assess the different dimensions of the peace process and how to ensure inclusive peace and decision making.

**16 – 19 November 2020**

## **Afghanistan Week**

Organisers: Norwegian Afghanistan Committee (NAC)

NAC will be hosting a series of seminars in the lead up to the upcoming Donor Conference in Geneva touching on various related themes.

### **SEMINAR 1: A Close-Up of the Peace Process**

16 November, 11:30 – 13:00 CET, 15:00 – 16:30 AFT

### **SEMINAR 2: Islam vs Rights? The Taliban's Negotiation Agenda for Law and Justice**

17 November, 11:30 – 13:00 CET, 15:00 – 16:30 AFT

### **SEMINAR 3: Warlords and Survival Politics**

18 November, 11:30 – 13:00 CET, 15:00 – 16:30 AFT

### **SEMINAR 4: Red Lines and Shrinking Spaces: Activism under Threat in Afghanistan**

19 November, 08:30 – 10:00 CET, 12:00 – 13:30 AFT

### **SEMINAR 5: Peace from Below: How Can Communities Reconcile?**

19 November, 11:30 – 13:00, 15:00 – 16:30 AFT

For more information and how to participate, please visit <https://afghanistan.no/en/seminars/>

**16 November 2020 – 13:30 Geneva / 17:00 Kabul**

## **Protecting education and addressing child protection challenges in Afghanistan**

Organisers: Save the Children, Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack, UNICEF, World Vision International

Despite the huge strides made on education in Afghanistan over the past two decades, enormous challenges remain. This event will highlight how donor countries, the Government of Afghanistan and the humanitarian community can best work together to protect the fragile gains on education since 2001. Panelists will discuss a range of topics, including girls' access to education, attacks on schools during the conflict, and links to child protection.

Co-sponsors: The Permanent Missions of Afghanistan, Norway, and Sweden to the UN in Geneva

Key notes address by H.E. Ms. Rangina Hamidi, Acting Minister of Education, Afghanistan

Time: Monday 16 November at 13.30 Geneva / 17.00 Kabul

The event will be hosted online and open to the public. [Registration link](#)

Follow the event live on [Facebook](#).

For any questions, please contact Olof Blomqvist ([olof.blomqvist@savethechildren.org](mailto:olof.blomqvist@savethechildren.org))

**17 November 2020 - 17:30 – 19:00 Kabul time, 13:00 – 14:30 GMT, 14:00 – 15:30 CET, 08:00 – 09:30 EST**

## **Afghan Women and Economic Empowerment—Thinking Outside the Box**

Organisers: Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief and Development (ACBAR) and Afghan Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industries (AWCCI)

While the conventional methods to help secure livelihoods and economic empowerment in Afghanistan (especially for women) include income generation opportunities such as tailoring, hairdressing, food processing, and handicrafts, more innovative initiatives have been able to bring a fresh perspective to job creation and skills development, particularly for Afghan youth. This will bring together four Afghan professionals who have introduced groundbreaking approaches that have opened up new opportunities for self-reliance – particularly for Afghan women. Demonstrating their 'thinking outside the box', they will bring their direct voices to an international audience to discuss and share the challenges and achievements and how their business models can be scaled up across other provinces in Afghanistan with the right level of support.

### **Panel members:**

Fereshteh Forough, Founder and Executive Director, Code to Inspire, First coding school for women in Afghanistan (based in Herat)

Marghuba Safi, Founder, Peshraft Zanan, organic beauty product company based in Kabul

Sara Wahedi, Founder and CEO Ehtesab, a civic technology startup based in Kabul

Farzana Fazli, Independent Jewelry designer and entrepreneur, based in Kabul

Manizha Wafeq, Panel Moderator, President of Afghan Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industries (AWCCI)

Thomas ten Boer, Special Guest, Afghanistan Country Director of Welthungerhilfe

The event will be hosted online and open to the public and will also be broadcast live Facebook.

Please use <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86907539243?pwd=T3Q0cXloQnVmZmhQcUx2NVdoR0NIUT09>

Meeting ID: 869 0753 9243, Passcode: 169250

For any questions please contact Shahrzad Amoli [advocacymanager@acbar.org](mailto:advocacymanager@acbar.org)

**18 November 2020** – 10:00 Geneva / 13:30 Kabul

## **Durable Solutions for Displaced Afghans**

Organisers: Asia Displacement Solutions Platform (ADSP), in partnership with the Centre for Asia Pacific Refugee Studies (CAPRS)

After four decades of conflict, Afghans remain one of the largest and longest displaced populations in the world. Yet, return still remains an elusive prospect for most Afghan refugees. This event brings together an expert panel to discuss what 'return and reintegration' means in today's Afghanistan? What role can refugees play in rebuilding Afghanistan and what are the barriers to return currently? Panellists will seek to explore the centrality of refugees in decision-making and policy development, the need for regional cooperation, and discuss the steps necessary to bring about greater cohesion between humanitarian and development actors in order to facilitate long-term solutions for displaced Afghans.

Moderator (TBC)

Speakers: Samina Ansari (Founder and CEO of Avyanna Diplomacy), Wafiullah Kakar (Deputy Minister at MoRR), Adam Combs (Regional Director at the Norwegian Refugee Council), and Angela Moore (UNHCR Afghanistan)

Time: Wednesday 18 November at 10.00 Geneva / 13.30 Kabul

The event will be hosted online and open to the public. Please register for the event [here](#). For any questions, please contact Evan Jones ([evan.jones@adsp.ngo](mailto:evan.jones@adsp.ngo))