



# NECDO NEWS LETTER

**Let's light a Candle instead of Cursing the Darkness**

Date: 24/Jun/2017 NO: 011

## Our Vision

We envision a peaceful & prosperous Afghanistan by mobilizing communities through empowerment, capacity building and polishing leadership potential of women and youths in order to have a just society with skilled, professional human resource potential.

## Our Objectives

1. To mobilize & raise awareness among Afghans to eliminate differences and work for long term Peace
2. To empowerment women, men, & youths with leadership potential through research, networking and advocacy for elimination of violence against women.
3. To Empower Afghan women and children (including widows, orphans, and disabled) through vocational, capacity building trainings and arrangement of small self-supported projects leading towards self-reliance.
4. To conduct advocacy initiatives on ERAW with special focus on sexual harassment & child marriage.

## Core Programs:

1. Peace Building Initiative Program
2. Advocacy on Elimination of Violence against Women (Sexual Harassment & Child Marriage)
3. Educational activities (formal & informal education, libraries...)
4. Capacity building (Short term & long term)
5. Research
6. Media

## Delegitimizing Oppressive Discourse Training for Afghan Women

### Women's Rights Leaders and Activists

The 4<sup>th</sup> Dialogue Session-One Day Workshop of Delegitimizing Oppressive Discourse Training for Afghan Women Women's Rights Activist on Women's Rights in Islamic Legal Framework On 19<sup>th</sup> June 2017 one day workshop was arranged according to the plan to make a dialogue between the participants, 43 trainees, and scholars in NECDO main office. The conference started by the recitation of the Holy Quran by Ms. Shekiba Sadat and the Khatem by the all participants. Then Mr. Kakar opened the program & welcomed the participants. Then he provided a brief report on the NECDO's activities and achievements of the projects. Also he added that between these 43 trainees a strong network has been build. Our aim for creating such program is to know about your expectations. And also he talked about how to make a strong network. At the end he said: "hope to see you all as a women leader in Afghanistan. Then Ms. Zarmina presents the presentation about Feminism, at first she defined Feminism then she talked about the similarities between Islam and Feminism, then Ms. Sayeda Alkozay talked about Advocacy, defined Advocacy and then she said how to do an advocacy in Afghanistan. After that all participants had a group discussion how to Establish Network and what is Structure of Network, Name of Network ,JD of Network Then they selected 3 active trainees from morning shift and 3 active trainees from afternoon shift as their team leaders . Then Ms. Muzhgan read the WILFP Afghanistan Statement about" the time is now to Ban the Bomb" After Evaluation Ms. Parina Mehrzad talked about starting the networking with other NGO to introduce the trainees to the NGO us fellows to get the work experience then she concluded the program.



## Who we are?

Noor Educational and Capacity Development Organization (NECDO) is a non-governmental, impartial and non-political organization, registered with Ministry of Economy in 2002 with INO.95. NECDO was established in January 2001 by a group of volunteers to help and support needy Afghan women, youth, and children when the Afghan nation was passing through time-tested moments of its history in Peshawar Afghan Refugee Camps. The destructive civil war resulted in material and spiritual losses for the nation. NECDO started its activities with little means, but greatness of purpose, which was based on humanitarian and development assistance. We believe that unity, faith, proper mobilization of youth & empowerment of Afghan communities can reduce the miseries of the Afghan nation. During our social activities in camps, we realized the need for education, capacity building and income generation projects in order to help our nation with sustainable development; especially educating Afghan women, youth, and children were the priorities set forth; with the believe that it is better to light a candle rather than curse the darkness we initiated several projects and implemented them successfully.

## Mobilizing Afghan Men to Protect Women Rights Democracy and Peace

NECDO is implementing a project by the name of Mobilizing Afghan Men to Protect Women Rights Democracy and Peace; the project expended on Jan 2017 and will end on Dec 2017. The project covers four provinces like Kabul, Kapisa, Khost and Balkh province. The beneficiaries of this project are Imams, Women activists and youth. The project activities are following;

1. Developing and printing of banners, brochures, posters
2. Developing of manual on Islamic Peace education & Afghan culture of peace in Dari & Pashto languages
3. Conducting 5 training workshop
4. Establishing community working groups CWGs

NECDO developed the training materials in initial phases of the project and started preparation for conducting of the trainings and 4 trainings in Kapisa, 1 workshop in Kabul province. The aim of these workshops were to raise local communities capacity to promote a peaceful transition by conducting activities to support the ability of traditional dispute resolution bodies to resolve disputes and to bridge the gap between these bodies, communities, CSOs and formal justice and other government officials. The impact of the conducted trainings



## NECDO Photo Gallery

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## Ms. Jamila Afghani the 2017 Aurora Humanitarian Prize Finalist

**GIVE THE WORLD'S WOMEN KNOWLEDGE AND POWER, AND PEACE WILL FOLLOW**

**On April 24, 2017 the Selection Committee for the Aurora Prize for Awakening Humanity has announced the names of the five 2017 finalists who have been chosen for their exceptional impact, courage and commitment to preserving human life and advancing humanitarian causes. One of the finalists, Ms. Jamila Afghani, Chairperson of the Noor Educational and Capacity Development Organization, Afghanistan, is a polio victim who accidentally received the gift of reading and has dedicated her life to bringing reading and education to girls and women, while enlisting the help of Muslim leaders of faith in her mission. Below is the op-ed written by Ms. Jamila Afghani?**

As a disabled woman living in Afghanistan, you might think I would be the last person to tackle the traditions and practices that prevent women from receiving an education. In my country, many consider it shameful to send their daughters to school – it is a damaging mindset caused by a misunderstanding of religious teachings. But I consider myself lucky, since because of my disabled legs, I was allowed to learn to read. As a child, I suffered from polio. At first, I was sad that I couldn't play outside with my siblings, but I embraced the opportunity to spend my days with books. And later, I received the rare opportunity to attend school, where I was thirsty to learn more. In class, I studied hard and earned high marks. While education for women in my country is often considered taboo, women should never be ashamed for wanting an education. My life is committed to making this possible. I am proud of my work, but it can be challenging and dangerous. I operate in a region surrounded by misery and conflict, putting me and my family at mortal risk. To advance my work, I must confront imams who, by misinterpreting Islam, suppress women's rights

And stifle their right to learn. But rather than fleeing from the challenge, I address it head on, working with these powerful Imams, hearing their concerns, and demonstrating my own respect for Islam, which I believe does not limit women's education. I look for the commonalities that connect us as humans (which often surprise them), earn their respect, and go forward together. This is how I've always lived: working with whatever I have been given. During my second year at university, 36 women and children died around me because there wasn't enough food or water at the refugee camp in Pakistan where my family was living after we fled the Afghan civil war. With my friends – many of whom were also disabled – I decided we must do something, working with whatever resources we had. Within one month, we collected food for 1,000 families in the camps. But while we were distributing food and medicine; we also wanted to find a long-term solution. I met women who were convinced their only way to survive was to beg or perform sexual acts for men. We needed to empower women. And we knew education would be the path toward a better life. Working together, we started our organization, which we called the Noor Education Center. We chose Noor as the name of our organization because it means light and serves as a symbol of hope. We started volunteer classes in the camps for children and women, teaching reading and other skills. Today my organization has grown. We work with families to support the acceptance of girls' schooling in rural areas, and with thousands of imams to deliver sermons on the importance of educating women and women's rights. Across Afghanistan, I've worked on numerous projects for the empowerment of women and children socially and economically, and I defend women's rights under both Islamic and international law. Despite the challenges, I feel strongly that we are pursuing a critical cause, for peace building and fighting this cycle of conflict. To truly have sustainable peace in Afghanistan or anywhere, we need to educate and empower women. If you educate one woman, you educate a whole family. It's just like a candle – if you light one candle, that candle can light many others around it. That is how our societies will become more enlightened -in Afghanistan, and throughout the world.



**#AuroraPrize CEREMONY**

**Congratulations Ms. Jamila Afghani "Chairperson NECDO Board of Director"**

**"Let's light a candle instead of cursing the darkness!"**

**NECDO:**

- 16 years of services in education capacity building and empowerment.
- Focus on girls' education and women literacy.
- Gender equality and awareness.
- Peace and re-integration.
- Enhancing role of religious leader in protection of Human Right and Women Right.
- Research and studies on various social and cultural issues



**AURORA PRIZE**  
FOR AWAKENING HUMANITY

**Was awarded the: 2017 Finalist**  
**"Aurora Prize for Awakening Humanity"**  
**"We believe that even in the darkest times, brighter future is in the Hands of those who can give Help and Hope."**



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**Eid Mubarak to all**  
**May Allah Accept all our Good Deeds**



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 دهم شاروالی، خانه  
 شماره چهار

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