



NECDO NEWS LETTER

Let's light a Candle instead of Cursing the Darkness

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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 EAW 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

OR-2015-25319-Graduation ceremony:

The ceremony started by the recitation of some verses from holy Quran by Ms.Yalda Mukhtar one of the beneficiaries and the graduates. Afterward, Dr.Jahanbeen, the technical advisor of NECDO, welcomed the guests, introduced himself and then said, "This program started on first of July 2016 and ended 31st August 2017. At the beginning of this program an expert was hired to develop training materials. This person had prepared best materials for learners. Afterward the most qualified master trainers had been hired to train the learners. The master trainers had received an effective initial training (ToT) on how to train the students in accordance to the modern and participatory methodologies. After ending this process, the most eligible candidates from different institutions were identified through pre-established eligibility criteria, to get the nine months training. At the beginning an entry exam was conducted by NECDO among 86 eligible women who had applied for this program. After the entry exam 43 women were selected to the program. The training program accordingly started as per an effective schedule (morning and afternoon shifts) was set in line with working schedules of the students. Subsequently, Mr. Ahmad Zia Anwari, the Human Resources General Director of the ministry of culture and information had a brief speech on Women's Leadership. He said,

"The leadership plays an important role in a society and is evaluated in the light of the progress of the talent and worth of that society. It shows that how a country has developed and has progressed. A leader has the key role in a society as Gandhi was one of the best leaders for his community and did lots of good things for his country's development. A good leader should use his strength for the dignity of his community and added that God has given more and more strength to us, which must use these strengths'. Afterward, Mr. Tariq Istanikzai, Director of the Ministry of Higher Education, presented his speech on the topic of the importance of implementing the educational projects, he said,

"Women make half of our society. Implementing such trainings is very important for women awareness in the society. And women leaders have more talent and capacity. All women should work and know about their rights".

At the end, Ms.Patoni Haydari one of the graduates of this program shared her opinions about this program as such: **"I and my classmates are very glad that we were part of this training and we learned a lot of things from this program on women's rights from Islam perspective, and would suggest such opportunity to be provided to other women and sisters of mine who are awaiting such an opportunity".**

The ceremony ended officially at 4:00pm and the graduation certificates distributed to all trainees.

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.

Participants Feedback on Mobilizing Afghan Men to Protect Women Rights Democracy and Peace workshops

- One participant expressed his opinion as such, “We are very grateful to NECDO for conducting such workshops that increase public awareness. The materials we studied in this workshop were very interesting. If such workshops are held in the villages and provinces perhaps it will reduce violence against women cases. And will help the families to stop violence against women.
- We found the workshop effective and majority of the participants suggested that they would like to have such workshops for more of their fellow men and women in their respective communities
- One participant expressed her opinion I learned from mobilizing of afghan men for the support of women’s right, peace and democracy that woman can be a Politician, businesswoman, doctor and also a good mother and wife.
- We also came to learn that such trainings are required to be extended into more provinces of country where women in the mentioned provinces suffer more form the domestic violence.
- We learned that religious scholars and bodies have more effective role in the elimination of violence against women.



NECDO Photo Gallery

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Conference World Peace Day Celebration By WILPF Afghanistan Group

Summary:

The World Peace Day Celebration Conference was held in the Ministry of Information and Culture Media Hall on the 26th September of 2017. More than 100 participants from different walks of life participated in the event. Members of WILPF Afghanistan Group, CSOs, Government Bodies, Diplomatic missions of Embassies in Kabul, women groups and youth and Ulama. The program successfully commenced in accordance to the agenda. The participants were welcomed by Ms. Parina Jahid, the deputy head of WILPF, followed by Ms. Maryam Arya, WILPF Afghanistan Group member who introduced the program and talked about the history of World Peace Day Celebration. Then Ambassador of Republic of Indonesia gave a speech about the Role of Islamic Countries in bringing peace. Afterward, Mr. Hayat NUA board member talked about the role of Ulama in Peace. Ms. Yasameen, advisor at MOWA, talked about the role of women in making peace. Mr. Jafari, advisor at MOIC, talked about the Role of Media in Peace. After that, Mr. Ramizpor, head of human rights department in UN Kabul, talked about the role of civil society in peace.

Preparations for World Peace Day Celebration:

Based on the decision of the Board of WILPF Afghanistan Group, preparation for World Peace Day Celebration Conference began on the 20th of September 2017 to be celebrated on the 26th of September 2017. All logistic preparation, sending out invitations, and all administrative preparations were guided to the appointed committees.

Explanation:

The World Peace Day Celebration Conference was held in the Ministry of Information and Culture Media Hall on the 26th September of 2017. The program started by recitation of some verses of the Holy Quran by Faridon Aziz. After that, the program participants were welcomed by Ms. Parina Jahid, the deputy director of NECDO. After that, Ms. Maryam Arya, WILPF Afghanistan Group member, introduced the program and talked about World Peace Day Celebration history.

“The International Day of Peace, sometimes unofficially known as World Peace Day, is a holiday observed annually on 21 September. It is dedicated to world peace, and specifically the absence of war and violence, such as might be occasioned by a temporary ceasefire in a combat zone for aid access.

Then Ambassador of Republic of Indonesia gave a speech about the Role of Islamic Countries in bringing peace. He said,

“Indonesia is not an Islamic state, but as the largest of Muslims country in the world, we uphold and actively participate in keeping peace in the world including Afghanistan”. Adding to its hard power, Indonesia also makes the soft power approach as a priority through religion and culture. We also include the two biggest Islamic Organizations in Indonesia, which are Nahdlatul Ulama and Muhammadiyah to promote continuously the peaceful and tolerance of Islam. Every one of us should be brave enough to. Lastly, I strongly hope that be “part of the solution” and not be part of the problem, in the effort of contra-terrorism. Afterward, Mr. Hayat NUA board member talked about the role of Ulama in Peace. Mr. Hayat said,

“As we all know Afghanistan is a conservative and religious society. Ulama play a significant role in all aspects of Afghanistan social and political situation. Ulama can play a key role bringing peace as well. All Ulama should guide the people and tell them about the importance of peace”

Ms. Yasameen, advisor at MOWA, talked about the role of women in bringing peace. Firstly, she thanked the organizers for this program because such programs are crucial. She said,

“Women are the first people who are affected in the wars, so we should not exclude them from the peace negotiations”. Mr. Jafari, advisor at MOIC, talked about the Role of Media in Peace. He said,

“Media can play an important role in bringing peace by publishing and telecasting the message of peace”.

Mr. Ramizpor, head of human rights department in UN Kabul, talked about the role of civil society in peace. He said,

“The reports that we have published, our analyses on the daily basis, on average 10 to 20 civilian people die. It is the responsibility of every individual to put efforts in bringing peace”.

At the end, refreshments were served and the program was concluded by a group photo and with the emphasis and commitment to work for global peace together.

Keep in mind that the objective of civil society is not to get funds but to provide to the needs of Afghan citizens.



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Muharram: 1st Month of the Islamic Calendar

The Tenth of Muharram and Ashurah.

The Islamic year begins with Muharram ul Haram, the first month of the Hijri Calendar. While followers of other religions spend their opening month in worthless merriment, the first month of Islam teaches us lessons of admonition, good counseling, knowledge of Allah Ta'ala, sacrifice, selflessness, patience and seeking the pleasure of Allah Ta'ala.

The tenth day of Muharram (Ashurah) has many distinctive qualities and features. Allah Ta'ala created the heavens and the earth on this blessed day. On this day He gave His infinite blessings and bounties to many of His Prophets and delivered them from the clutches of their enemies.



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