



NECDO NEWS LETTER

Let's light a Candle instead of Cursing the Darkness

Date: 15/June /2018 NO: 18

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 EVAW 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

Bringing Finance Information and Assistance Services to Women in Kabul

Inaugurating a Finance Information Helpline:

NECDO's gender and finance information officer and other employees inaugurated the online financial information centre. This centre was inaugurated for the purpose of increasing women's financial literacy. NECDO's gender and finance information officer is solving the financial literacy problems of those women, who are not willing to come to our office and to share their problems. In this centre which has established on 2018, in NECDO main office, the gender and finance information officer is receiving calls from women about their financial rights, income generation approaches and entrepreneurship. The gender and finance information officer is responding to each call and answer their questions. In addition NECDO employees promoted the helpline through its social media accounts as well.

This is only online financial information center which is responding those questions which are related to finance literacy and asking by women. Till now 3 women/day at least calling to the center to solve their problems through this helpline. Currently we made a helpline which people can only call us through 0093772408287, but we planned to make separate website for this initiative. This initiative is part of ADB project.



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, youth, women to Protect Women Rights Workshops

During this month NECDO were contacted one workshop in Kabul. The participants were students, civil society activists, women right activists, local leaders, government employees from gender department, scholars, NGO employees, and other men and women from different areas. This one workshop was held in NECDO workshop hall. The participations were very active and hardworking, they were very successful during the workshop and they were much interested learning what was taught in the workshops. They were very thankful and pleasant from NECDO for conducting such programs. Most of the participations were very active 6 them were selected as CWG (community working groups) members.

The training agenda are the following:

1. Violence against women in Afghanistan
2. Short review of EVAW law
3. Five core rights of women in Islam
4. Muslim women's responsibilities in family
5. Gender
6. Peace and Conflict management and resolution
7. Democracy
6. Evaluation



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NECDO Photo Gallery



NECDO Board of Directors Meeting

On 20th Jun 2018, NECDO board of directors held its second meeting according to the annual plan to follow up and evaluate the implemented activities and check the result and have their view on how the organization can be sustainable in future.

The meeting was attended by the chair person BD, Ms. Jamila Afghani, and BD members Mr. Amanullah Hotak, Mr. Faramarz Jahanbeen, Mr. Ahmad Zia Anwari, Ms. Jamila Safi as well as WILPF Afghanistan Group supervisor Ms. Masooda Waisy, NECDO MD Mr. Fazal Ghani Kakar, and Ms. Parina Jahid.

The meeting started by recitation of holy Quran then, Mr. Kakar welcomed board members and handed over the chairing of the meeting to Ms. Afghani. The meeting was chaired by Ms. Jamila Afghani. Based on agenda Ms. Parina Jahid presented NECDO activities from 1st March 2018 until 30th June 2018. Followings are the presentation's highlights:

- Mobilizing Afghan Man, Youth and Women to Protect Woman Human Rights
- Bringing Finance Information and Assistance Services to Women in Kabul
- Consortium
- Relief Program Interventions (Ramadan Karim Program) Short Report on Jerrahi Order of America Sadaqa and Zakat
- Ramadhan Iftari
- Meeting attend by NECDO staff During this Months

Update of Activity done during this Period by NECDO presented to BD by MD

First Mr. Kakar presented NECDO's Annual plan and BD members gave some suggestions on it. Then Mr. Kakar gave update about NECDO off shoot NUA and he mentioned about the trip that he had with HPC and also he added decree (Fatwa) which Afghanistan's Ulama council released about war in Afghanistan peace and reconciliation, NUA was part of it and also.

He said by end of August we expect to conduct the NUA annual conference. He said we have introduced 85 individuals in scholarships through NUA. After that Ms. Masooda gave update on NECDO off shoot WILPF work during this period. Consequently Ms. Jamila Afghani chairperson said we have created NECDO Relief Program Distributions Department and gave information about it, she asked the board members for the approval. She also added that NECDO strategic plan needs revision they should share their views about it.

Recommendation Made By BD:

- Mr. Jahanbeen suggested a column should be added in annual plan by the name of progress so we can see how many of activities are done how many of it is pending.
- Ms. Afghani recommended to developing strategic plan, management plan and security plan for Relief Program Distributions and the members to cooperate.
- Mr. Anwari suggested that the column which going to be added should be evaluated on quarterly bases.
- Ms. Afghani suggested the external evaluation of organization to be done by a third firm.
- Ms. Safi and Mr. Hotak suggested that strategic plan should be revised.

Decision Made By BD:

- Majority of board members approved Relief Program Distributions Department.
- Majority of board members agreed to revise of the strategic plan.
- Majority of board members agreed to add progress column in the annual plan.

Next Meeting BD Date and Time:

The next meeting will take place in September 2018 the day and time to fix by NECDO admin by then in advance.



Eid –Ul-Fitr

Eid ul-Fitr is a [Muslim holiday](#) celebrated when [Ramadan](#) is finished. Muslims do not fast on Eid ul-Fitr as it is not allowed. When the new moon is seen after month of Ramadan, the next day is Eid ul-Fitr. After the Eid Prayer, the [Muslim](#) greets each other. Eid ul-Fitr lasts three days. During this festival, children accept gifts and eidiya in form of money from adults. It is an occasion intended for enjoyment, forgiveness, and feasting. In this festival, the [Muslims](#) wear new clean dress. People go to relatives to meet them. They also buy gifts for each other. It is happened of in the first day of the month of Shawwal. It is a gift from Allah to his people for fasting for the whole month of Ramadan. No person should remain hungry on this day, which is why fitr charity is given to the deserving. War is forbidden on certain months and this month is among them. The Muslims have to give zakat for gold in this holy month. It is a must that people celebrate this by praying in the special prayers and by feasting. The month of [Ramadan](#) is the 9th month of the [Islamic calendar](#) and Shawwal is the 10th.

The Statement on Lack of Women Participation in Afghanistan Peace Talk

WILPF Afghanistan (Wednesday 11th July 2018)

We Afghanistan WILPFer's are united to raise our voices and strong support for any of the positive and necessary step towards peace building in Afghanistan. The ongoing peace movement from the side of Afghan government, High peace Council, Ulama, civil society, individuals and groups for promoting peace in Afghanistan is highly appreciated. We are delighted especially by the peace talks that were held in Jakarta on 1st and 2nd May and followed by another gathering among Pakistan, Indonesia and Afghanistan Ulama on 11th and 12th May. There were gathering of more than 2000 Ulema, which were held in Kabul on 5th June and issued their decree(fatwa) on promoting peace in Afghanistan. The three days of cease-fire during Eid ul Fitr, alongside the very current peace talks, which is still ongoing at the moment in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia? The civil society movement by the people of provinces such as: Helmand, Kunar and many other provinces, shows that majority of the population are worn out from the 40+ years of war and conflicts. Most of the Afghan population face the tragedy of war, but Afghan women witness displacement, loss of wealth and health, and suffer due to the violence at all levels of daily life. They have lost their dear ones and remains under great social and economic condition. At the same time we want to raise our voices on the concerns that Afghan women are usually the targeted victims of this long and tiresome war and conflict in Afghanistan but their role in peace talks are not considered by the stakeholders in the ongoing peace talks. The reason we have been issued this press statement today is mostly because we are concerned about the lack of any representatives of the Afghan women in these peace talks that would be symbolic within all the above-mentioned process. We believe that with full and active participation of women, we can expect sustainable and everlasting peace. We are concerned about the symbolic representation of women in High Peace Council and therefore this calls urgently upon Afghan Unity government, especially Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Afghanistan High Peace Council, Ministry of Women Affairs, Shura of Ulema of Afghanistan, all International friends, allies and donors supporting Peace talks in Afghanistan to give priority to Afghan women voices and ensure their full participation in the peace process. There are specific points for:

1. We call upon the Afghan government, which promotes women's right through verbal services and adopting policies and conventions such as the UNHCR, 1325 National Action Plan in 2015. However, even with all these efforts, there is silence of NUG on scarcity of women participation in the ongoing peace talks on national and International levels, which is unacceptable for Afghan women activists. We ask for urgent and sincere efforts ensuring women's full participation in peace talks.
2. We call upon Afghanistan Ulema Council, which is one of the most privileged and respected institutions in Afghanistan. Even though Afghanistan has women scholars, but there is no visible representation of women in the council. We urge upon them as Islamic and moral responsibility to establish a women wing within Shura of Ulema who should be responsible for women affairs and ensure full women participation in peace talks.
3. We strongly call upon HPC who is responsible for peace process and the symbolic women role in HPC, which is unacceptable for civil society, and we want full women participation in all level of peace process. They have responsibility to encourage all parties to promote women leadership role in peace talks.
4. We strongly call on MoWA that they must be an active mediator who should ensure women full participation in all peace process.
5. We call upon all international and allies to ensure women participation within all level of peace talks in Afghanistan

We Afghanistan WILPFer cordially appreciate the role of media and civil society for supporting us for distributing this press statement and raising our voices to the concerned authorities, stakeholders, national and international supporters.



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