



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 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

Conducting Trainings:

NECDO organized and conducted trainings for at least 60 women, in 4 different batches. The gender and finance training officer conducted a 4 batches financial information training for 3 half days. It means 60 women each received 9 hours of training time (3 hours x 3 sessions). The trainings were conducted during February 2018. the first training was conducted 3rd, 4th, 5th, the second training were conducted on 10th, 11th, 12th, the third training were conducted on 17th, 18th, 19th, and the fourth and the final training were conducted on 24th, 25th, 26th of February 2018 in main office of NECDO. The gender and finance training officer trained at least 60 women (15 at each batch) on finance literacy, entrepreneurship, life skills, access to financial institutions and services. In addition the gender training officer conducted pre and post-test and post-test evaluations to know the satisfaction of the trainees. We will share the evaluation analysis report as an attachment with other documents in final report. NECDO gender and finance training officer used modern training techniques during the trainings; brainstorming, lectures, group work, pair work, group discussions, presentation and Q&A sessions conducted in the mentioned trainings.

Participants View: Participants of the training were very glad from the training materials, but they belong to low income families of Afghans and suggested to provide various types of loan to them to become self-sufficient. One of the trainees, who wants to start a business in education sector requested to provide loans to start her new business. In the same time another trainees also indicated the same demands and added to extend the time and number of the trainings and cover the women of the provinces as well. In the same time one of the trainees which have a small business explained their challenges, obstacles and problems, which she confronted during her operation. She believes that inexistence of monitoring and evaluation system to track progress, identify problems and expose success created more problems for female entrepreneurs. She also suggested that NECDO should advocate for making of such a system in the country to explore the achievements of businesswomen.



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 Amazon Education center . 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 5 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



Strengthen the youth group of WILPF of Afghanistan group

Summary:

On May 29th of 2018 a meeting was held in NECDO main office to strengthen the youth group of WILPF of Afghanistan group and plan more empowerment activities.

Agenda:

1. Information about activities of Afghanistan WILPF group to new members
2. Plan for more empowerment of youth committee.

Explanation:

On May 9th WILPF meeting was held in NECDO main office. The meeting was attended by Dir.F.H.G .Kakar, Ms.Masooda Waisy and group of youth participants Mr.Qdratullah Lashkari, Mr.Jamshid, Jahesh, Ms.Freshta Khalilzad, Mr.Ahmad Kalid Babik and Mr.Seyer Nikzad.The meeting was chaired by Ms.Masooda Waisy who welcomed the participants and did presentation about activities of Afghanistan WILPF group to participants who newly joined . Then Mr.F.GH.Kakar talked about WILPF and he provide general information about activities the youth group , he added that the main issue of this meeting is to select youth group for Afghanistan WILPF group to take the responsibly for publication the massage of WILPF to young generation through conferences ,peace disputation ,negotiation of peace and building up mentalities of the upcoming generation in peace for a bright future. Mr.Qutdratul Lashkari,Mr.Jamshid,Jahesh,Ms.Freshta Khalilzad,Mr.Ahmad Kalid Babik and Mr.Seyer Nikzad accepted members of Afghanistan WILPF group .Then Mr. Qdratullah Lashkari added that as WILPFer youth group we take the responsibility to work for peace in Afghanistan and we are sure to achieve this goal by the grace of God Almighty.

Decision Made:

Mr.QutdratulLashkari,Mr.Jamshid,Jahesh,Ms.FreshtaKhalilzad,Mr.Ahmed Kalid Babik and Mr.Seyer Nikzad elected members of Youth's group of Afghanistan WILPF group who will further work for improvement and empowerment of the group.

Role of Women and Youths in Sustainable Peace and Development in Afghanistan

On May 12th 2018 WILPF AFG GOURP held a national conference on role of Women and Youths in Sustainable Peace and Development in Afghanistan. In tow main below topics were focused the agenda of the conference

Information about WILPF and activities of Afghanistan WILPF group. And inauguration of youths for Afghanistan WILPF group finally.



Ramadan Kareem

Alhamdulillah (praise and thanks be to God), we were given the chance to see another Ramadan. Even with the added stress that can come during this month due to fasting long hours, not getting enough sleep, etc., it's hard not to feel the blessings of this special time of the year. There is a sense of community, a drive for self-improvement, and a renewal of our intentions and efforts to get closer to our Creator. But with all of these positives, there is also a great deal of guilt for many people. It might be due to not being able to fast, not attending Taraweeh, or not meeting certain Qur'an recitation goals. The shame and self-judgment can be heavy and even immobilizing. It can block us from seeing all the good we *are* doing, or simply remembering that Allah (SWT) will judge each of us individually according to our unique situations. And even if someone else seems to have it better or worse than us during Ramadan, it may not necessarily be as good or bad as it seems. God will judge and reward each of us differently. The same issues which stop a person from reaching their full potential (in terms of quantity of acts of worship) may be the reason why they actually receive extra reward—such as taking care of children or other family members, working long hours inside or outside of the home, or volunteering at the masjid rather than praying with the congregation. There are also those who can't fast for some or all of the month, and that may seem like a major disadvantage. But maybe a person who is not able to fast is being rewarded extra. Maybe they are being rewarded more for being patient than they would be for fasting. Maybe their strength of faith and not questioning the will of Allah (SWT) is actually worth more to Allah than 30 strenuous days of fasting would be. And of course, Ramadan is also the month in which many people come closer to Allah than ever before. Let's not take away from this by making unfair comparisons. For example, maybe some of us were not reading the Qur'an at all outside of Ramadan, and now we're making sure to read at least a few verses every day. It's not fair for a person in this situation to compare themselves to someone who was used to reading the Qur'an on a daily basis and is now trying to complete a full recitation during this month. Maybe some of us were not offering all 5 prayers before Ramadan, and now we are trying to pray all 5 on time every day and some Taraweeh Rakaat on weekends. It's not right for this person to compare themselves to someone who was already in the habit of praying 5 times with Sunnah prayers and is now standing for 20 Rakaat of Taraweeh every day as well. Ramadan is about doing and being one's *personal* best, and being sincere with ourselves and with Allah. It's not a competition where the person who does the most acts of worship (of a certain type) is automatically better or rewarded more. Just as it's important for us to check our intentions throughout the month (and the rest of the year), it's also vital for us to practice self-compassion. If God is the Most Compassionate and the Most Merciful towards us, why shouldn't we offer a little bit of that to ourselves as well? May Allah (SWT) make this the best Ramadan yet for all of us, and make it a month of spiritual growth and self-compassion. Amen.



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