



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

The First network meeting of the beneficiaries of the project "Delegitimizing Oppressive Discourse Training for Afghan Women Women's Rights Activist on Women's Rights in Islamic Legal Framework" was held on 25th July 2017 one day meeting was arranged according to the plan to open a discussion between the participants (43 trainees), in NECDO main office. The Meeting started by the recitation of the Holy Quran by Ms. Sayeda Pari. Then Ms. Jahid opened the program & welcomed the participants. Then she provided a brief report on the Network activities and achievements of this project. Also she added that between these 43 trainees a strong network has been built. Our aim for creating such program is to know about your expectations and desires for an effective role in elimination of violence against women. She also talked about how to make a stronger network. After that all participants had a group discussion how to run the Network and what is aim of the Network, name of the Network, JD for the head of the Network. Then they selected Ms. Sayeda Pari one of the trainees from afternoon shift as head of the Network who concluded the program with promise to work for the strength of the Network.



Our Goal: Seeking Allah's pleasure by supporting our people through the light of education, empowerment & Community mobilization for a just society.

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

Two workshops were conducted on July of 2017 in Kapisa. 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. These four workshops were held in directorate of women affairs of Kapisa. The participants were very active and hardworking, they were very successful during the workshops and they were much interested learning what was taught in the workshops. They were very thankful and pleasant from NECDO for contacting such programs because Kapisa is a remote area and they lack such programs. Most of the participants were very active so they 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 responsibilities in family
5. Gender
6. Evaluation



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NECDO Photo Gallery



Message to WILPF members from the Standing Committee on Organisational Development (SCOD)

Dear WILPFers,

Since our establishment in 2015, the Standing Committee on Organisational Development (SCOD) has worked in close cooperation with ExCom Vice President Margrethe Tingstad, Standing Constitution Committee Convenor Lyn Lane and Standing Finance Committee Convenor Inge Stemmler on how, together, we can create, nurture, grow and re-structure our membership organisation efficiently.

With this message we want to share SCOD's reflections with you. They are based on the numerous discussions we have had with members in sections and during regional meetings (in Europe and in Africa). They are also based on the findings in the 2013 ad-hoc report on WILPF organisational development, the recommendations of the 2016 evaluation of WILPF made by Eleanor O'Gorman and the discussions we had during the 2016 International Board (online) meeting. Finally, we are happy that our reflections go hand in hand with the responses to the 2017 questionnaire put together by Chris Henderson from WILPF Australia.

What makes us one?

The findings of SCOD and the responses to the ExCom questionnaire tell us what inspires the members of WILPF and unifies us as one voice:

As WILPF members, we are opposing dominant narratives and mainstream power politics, and we are not just observers and/or victims of a given political agenda. Instead, we are sharing our analyses of root causes of conflicts and wars, and we translate these from our founding resolutions into the actual political context.

We constantly deepen our understanding of diversity, strengthen our cultural competence and stop war.

Our expertise lies in our Academic Network, in our international programmes and most of all it comes from our diverse and rich membership. We know that we depend on each other and our interconnection enriches the whole. Furthermore, we are engaged in intergenerational dialogues with women and men on how we best mobilise together to reach our vision, and we support each other in the foreseeable challenges. We believe successful dialogue is best achieved through face-to-face meetings in order to build trust, to feel the spirit of WILPF and to transmit stories of courageous and devoted women.

What we are facing

During the past 10-20 years the world has changed, and so have the challenges we as WILPF members are facing.

Grassroots women organisations are threatened by the general tendency of shrinking space for civil society, and women's viewpoints are neglected and participation missing.

As we speak out against the root causes of conflicts and the tremendous impact of the economic system on our lives, we are often threatened by marginalisation in our societies and/or even put in danger for our activism. In a world dominated by money, voluntary work on a political and humanitarian basis and in a spirit of "commons" is at risk.

Peace activism is a notoriously low-funded area of civic engagement—a sector where we have made great progress with movement building in recent years. The way people join organisations has changed.

Today, people are loosely organising through the internet—they sign petitions online with one click and then they move forward to the next cause. They rarely commit themselves to long-term membership—unless the organisations give them a special reason to do so. The number of members in many sections is decreasing, and many report the difficulty of attracting new, and especially younger, members. WILPF's specificity nevertheless is a committed membership and their political involvement. In addition, WILPF has a growing number of international members, who are not bound to a specific national section, and are not yet included in our decision-making procedures. Movement building should not be in contradiction to growing membership.

The path forward

To move forward, we must make some organisational changes to correspond to diverse expectations and needs. This is also what we hear from sections and from the answers in the questionnaire. We see that the International Board (IB), as defined in our Constitution, is barely functioning as a political and governance body. An IB of 33 and expanding as we increase the number of sections is too big and is failing to function effectively. Many members miss to be involved sufficiently in political thinking, dialogue and actions by the existing ExCom, and we believe a new structure should raise the engagement of members and inspire political discussions in WILPF. The way forward is to re-structure the governance of WILPF in order to integrate the knowledge and devotion of members, and SCOD is working in this direction together with the ExCom and the other Standing Committees. The key word for this is "OneWILPF".

A proposal for a new governance structure, endorsed by ExCom, will shortly be shared with all members. Members' input will be captured in September and October leading up to the IB meeting in November 2017. The 2017 IB meeting will be asked to endorse the proposal in principle, prior to going to the Standing Constitution Committee for it to update the draft constitution. Further consultations among sections and decisions by IB in April will occur in the regions and during the months before congress. SCOD is supporting this process and looks forward to engaging in a dialogue with members.

What do we envision? WILPF has grown. WILPF has done so much in the last few years. And now it's time for the International Board to be restructured into a leaner and more efficient governing body by and for WILPF's members.

NUA (NECDO off shoot) introduced to CSOs in a Meeting held in Indonesian Embassy

The program started with recitation of some verses from the Holy by Qari Sahib Murtaza. Afterwards, Mr. Aref Rahman, the Ambassador of Indonesia, welcomed all the Guests and appreciated their presence and attending the program and added "I am really grateful to have you all here. He said that I have been wishing more than five years to come and see Afghanistan fortunately, Allah (SWT) accepted my wish and delighted me to be among you honorable scholars. He gave information about movement of religious scholars in Indonesia and point out the unity of Indonesia and said after many hardships we could manage to end hunger, poverty, war and injustice. We give our properties' and achievements' credit to the Afghan people because we learnt patience and tolerance through that we were able to maintain our independence".

Afterwards, the meeting led by Mr. Abdul Sattar Hayat and all NUA members introduce their selves.

Consequently, Mr. Abdul Sattar Hayat member NUA broad of directors presented the information of about this organization and added that this movement could be able to be successful and achieved its goals because of the Indonesian embassy's help. There are people who still can sacrifice their lives in the path of Islam and services for Islam. Hope Allah (SWT) give us such courage and energy service for Islam and Muslims .Later, Honorable Sayed Salahuddin Hashemi director of NUAS said that we are working with the scholars for the sake of God's pleasure, and we want to make the people of Afghanistan aware of Islam religion and to expand it. Also he added that in this regard we need Indonesia's financial help.

Lastly, Indonesian ambassador gave the sign of NUA of Indonesia to NUA of Afghanistan and wish them luck and promised to support them. The program was concluded by giving presents to All NUA members.



NECDO participate in Women, Peace and Security Working Group at Monday, 17 July 2017

UNAMA Palace 7

Co-Chairs: Embassy of Finland and Women and Peace Studies Organization (Report in coming edition)



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