



Women for peace: the Afghan challenge

Insights from the Task Force of Afghan women

13 December h. 15.00

Sala Conferenze Internazionali, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs –
piazzale della Farnesina 1, Rome

in collaboration with




Ministry of Foreign Affairs
and International Cooperation

Framework

The Conference represents the public event of the project “Women’s participation in Afghanistan’s peace and stabilization process”, developed by Women In International Security (WIIS) Italy with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy within the framework of the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security 2020-2024 (NAP WPS). Within the project, over the past months, WIIS Italy created a Task Force including Afghan women who have held high-level and senior roles at the political, diplomatic and negotiating levels in Afghanistan and as part of the Diaspora involved in several closed-door meetings and exchanges. Specific focus group discussions have been organized to discuss the concept of security from the Afghan women’s perspective, their expectations on the role of the international community, the protection of women activists and the role of young women in the reconstruction of the country. The aim of the initiative is to gather Afghan women’s voices, serving as a platform to share experience and to reflect on the role the international community and Afghan women could play, benefiting from the expertise and insights of the people involved; to provide reinforced support for women peacebuilders, negotiators and mediators, and a mentoring programme for younger women; and to promote a continued dialogue on the future of Afghanistan and women’s rights in the country.

Overview of the event

This event aims at reporting on the results of the project and providing a platform to discuss the essential role of Afghan women and women mediator and peacebuilder networks with regards to the Afghan crisis, as well as the role that Italy can play in fostering women’s rights in Afghanistan. Leading women negotiators, peacebuilders and policymakers from Afghanistan will present the urgency of this situation, address critical questions, and provide recommendations for a more cooperative, effective and inclusive response to the crisis in Afghanistan, focusing on promoting actions to protect women and girls, as well as supporting their equal and meaningful participation in peace and political processes. Moreover, the event will give voice to other initiatives developed in Europe and beyond for Afghan women, providing a platform to share their outcomes and to foster synergies.

Format

The 2.30-hour event will be held at the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Conference Room. The speakers and a selected audience will attend in presence. The meeting will be conducted in English.

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Agenda

15.00 – 15.10	<p>Opening</p> <p>Opening remarks by Maria Tripodi, Undersecretary of State to the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation</p>
15.10-15.20	<p>Introduction</p> <p>Dr. Loredana Teodorescu, WIIS Italy President and Head of the Mediterranean Women Mediators Network</p>
15.20 – 16.30	<p>First Panel discussion</p> <p><i>Afghan Women’s voices: peacebuilding experiences and recommendations</i></p> <p>Introduction: Min. Valeria Biagiotti, WPS National Focal Point, Italian MFA</p> <p>Speakers (in presence):</p> <p>Ms.Fatima Gailani, Afghan Peace Negotiator</p> <p>Ms.Mahmouba Seraj, Afghan journalist; Executive Director of the Afghan Women Skills Development Center</p> <p>Ms.Frozan Nawabi, focal point UNSCR 1325 Afghanistan, former Director General of Human Rights and Women International Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan</p>

	<p>Ms. Quhramaana Kakar, Senior Strategic Advisor, Women Mediators across the Commonwealth; founder and director of Women for Peace and Participation</p> <p>Ms. Rahela Sediqi, Former Senior Government Employee in Afghanistan</p> <p>Ms. Nilofar Ayoubi, Leader at Women’s Political Participation Network</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Nicoletta Pirozzi, WIIS Italy Vicepresident</p> <p>Video and inputs for discussion</p>
16.40-17.25	<p>Second Panel discussion</p> <p><i>Strengthening synergies with existing initiatives on women’s rights Afghanistan</i></p> <p>Introduction: Min. Gianfranco Petruzzella, Italian Special Envoy for Afghanistan</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Mr. Tomas Niklasson, EU Special Envoy for Afghanistan</p> <p>Ms. Irene Fellin, NATO Secretary General’s Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security and Human Security; WIIS Italy Founder and Honorary President (online)</p> <p>Ms. Raffaella Iodice, Chargée d'affaires a.i-Deputy Head of Delegation of the European Union to Afghanistan (online from Kabul)</p> <p>Ms. Alison Davidian, UN Women’s Special Representative in Afghanistan (online from Kabul)</p> <p>Ms. Lina Tori Jan, Afghanistan Policy Associate at Georgetown Institute for Women Peace and Security and Implementation Lead for Onward for Afghan Women (online)</p> <p>Ms. Haidari Shahrbanu, Co-founder and Vice President of Associazione di solidarietà per le donne زنان برای زنان همبستگی انجمن</p> <p>Initiatives for Afghan women and their main outcomes will be presented.</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Azzurra Meringolo, WIIS Italy founding member and journalist at the foreign desk of the Giornale Radio Rai</p>
17.25 – 17.30	<p>Closing remarks</p> <p>Amb. Natalia Quintavalle, Italian Ambassador to Afghanistan</p>