



4th Symposium - Afghan Women, Messengers of Peace

15-17th May, 2017

The 4th Symposium on Afghan women was held from 15th-17th of May, 2017 under the theme of “Afghan Women, Messengers of Peace” in Kabul. The symposium was held under the leadership of her Excellency First Lady of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan with the cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Women’s Affairs, High Peace Council, and civil society organizations, and financial support of the Norwegian government, European Union, and Embassy of Australia in Kabul. The aim of the symposium was to revive the culture of peace, co-existence, and mutual respect in families and among various segments of society in Afghanistan.

In the symposium, 300 people participated including high-level government officials, high level international delegates, women from 34 provinces of Afghanistan, civil society members and youth.

The symposium was inaugurated by his Excellency President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. His Excellency not only listened to the recommendations of the working groups, he also extended his full support for the role of women in peace process and implementation of the recommendations of the participants.

During the symposium, the participants delved into different dimensions of the role of women in building social peace and at the end, presented the following recommendations:

I. Recommendations to the Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

- Foster and promote the culture of peace in all government and non-government organizations through awareness campaigns and programs;
- Review of the school curriculum and inclusion of “Peace Education” as a subject in the educational curriculum by the Ministry of Education;
- Implement 50 percent participation of women and increase of peace programs in the National Citizens Charter;



- Build and maintain public spaces for women’s gatherings at the province and community level;
- Foster and implement developmental programs in insecure areas;
- Implement and report on the National Action Plan with regard to the 1325 Resolution of the UN Security Council;
- Support the role of women in fostering and promoting the culture of peace and co-existence by the Ministry of Religious Affairs, Religious Scholars Council, and High Peace Council with the coordination of Ministry of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, Ministry of Women Affairs, and Ministry of Rural Development;
- Establish and implement economic programs for women and youth in order to prevent and eliminate violence in families and also prevent youth from joining terrorist groups;
- Monitor activities of madrasas, schools, and higher education institutes in order to prevent promotion of extremism; and
- Establish psychological counselling centers to treat victims of war and violence; and
- Continuous support of the families of martyrs especially widows and children.

II. Recommendations to media

- Promote and advertise the culture of peace and restraining from broadcasting violence-inciting and divisive programs through government and non-governmental media; and
- Promote and implement programs in support of women’s rights by the respective organizations.

III. Recommendations to the High Peace Council

- Empower and support the role of women in decision-making and leadership levels in the center and provinces;
- Concentration of the High Peace Council on the role of women in social peace along with their activities in the political peace process;
- Share the data of the High Peace Council with people; and
- Inclusion of women, youth and civil society in the process of mediation, negotiations and conflict resolutions with insurgent groups and other groups in the society.



IV. Recommendations to other countries in the region

- Establish and implement regional strategies in regional peace building;
- Establish solidarity programs between women across the region; and
- Facilitate cultural exchange programs between women and youth across the region.

V. Recommendations to the international community

- Support regional cooperation in the process of regional peace building;
- Financial support for the implementation of the National Action Plan with regard to the 1325 resolution of the UN Security Council; and
- Financial support of the social and cultural exchanges between Afghan women and other women in the region.

VI. Recommendations to the people and society

- Support role of women in families and society for the promotion of social peace; and
- Belief and respect in the role of women as an active member of families and society.