

## 2020 Afghanistan Conference

### Civil Society Delegation

2020

We are pleased to introduce to you the ten delegates representing Afghan Civil Society at the 2020 Afghanistan Conference on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of November 2020.

The ten civil society delegates are:

1. Farida Amiri - Peace Friends
2. Forozan Rasooli – Equality for Peace and Democracy
3. Hadi Marifat – Afghanistan Human Rights and Democracy Organization
4. Mohammad Naem Ayubzada – Transparent Election Foundation of Afghanistan
5. Roshan Mashaal – Afghan Women’s Network (AWN)
6. Samiullah Hamidee – Organization for Social and Economic Development (OSED)
7. Sayed Ikram Afzali – Integrity Watch Afghanistan
8. Sayed Hussain Anosh – Civil Society and Human Rights Network (CSHRN)
9. Suraya Pakzad – Voice of Women Organisation
10. Zarqa Yaftali – Women and Children Legal Research Foundation (WCLRF)

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## Delegate Biographies

### 1. Farida Amiri - Peace Friends



Farida Amiri studied English Literature at Kabul University and is currently doing her second bachelor's degree in Political Science and Public Administration at the American University of Afghanistan.

Living as a young woman in Afghanistan, she has realized the need for an initiative to raise the voice of the marginalized population in the chaotic situation of Afghanistan. She believes that the young generation has lived all their lives in war, and they are more affected by the conflict. The role of the young population especially young women is ignored, including in the current peace negotiations. In early September 2019, out of her passion for peace, she found the "Peace Friends", a volunteer non-profit initiative. It is a youth-led and youth-focused initiative that focuses on young people, particularly young women to promote peace and harmony in society and help them become change-makers through designing and conducting fruitful programs and events. "Peace Friends" also aims to raise awareness and promote UNSCR 2250 and UNSCR 1325.

She has also worked at the Office of H.E. the First Lady of Afghanistan as Assistant to Advisors of H.E. the First Lady where she was one of the key organizers of a national peace forum called "Afghan Women National Consensus for Peace".

To make the voices of Afghan women and youth heard, Farida has spoken about the inclusion of young people, and women in decision-making and peace processes on national and international platforms. Therefore, she was recognized as one of the nominees for the 2019 UNDP N-Peace Awards. Languages: English, and Dari/Persian.

### 2. Forozan Rasooli - Deputy Director, Equality for Peace and Democracy (EPD)



Forozan, 29, is from Helmand province of Afghanistan. She holds a master's degree from the Portsmouth University of United Kingdom in Public Administration and is working as Deputy Director at Equality for Peace and Democracy (EPD) organization. She is a recipient of the "Top Peace Builders" award from the Women's Regional Network (WRN). She has represented Afghanistan at different national and international programs and conferences including the Geneva Conference on Afghanistan in

2018, Canada's #FemParl 2019, USA's IVLP program, and high diplomatic events to share the concerns of Afghans especially women on peace and security, human rights and good governance.

Through EPD, she is supporting a group of 700+ women peacebuilders in 15 provinces of Afghanistan to implement UNSCR 1325 and ensure the meaningful participation of women in the peace process of Afghanistan. Frozan has facilitated two Peace Consultative Loya Jirgas (grand council) of Afghanistan which was called by President Ashraf Ghani in 2019 and 2020 for making major decisions in the peace process of Afghanistan. Languages: English, Dari/Persian, Pashto, and Urdu.

3. Hadi Marifat - Executive Director, Afghanistan Human Rights and Democracy Organization (AHRDO)



Hadi Marifat is the Executive Director of Afghanistan Human Rights and Democracy Organization (AHRDO) where he focuses on inclusive peacebuilding by enhancing the roles of civil society and other marginalized and minority groups in the peace negotiation process and fostering the potential for peace at the grassroots level by promoting inter-community dialogue initiatives in socially divided contexts. Hadi has also founded the Afghanistan Centre for Memory and Dialogue, a war memorial museum, to collect and preserve memories and stories of war victims, foster victim-centred narratives, and help promote public discourse on human and material costs of conflict as a peacebuilding strategy.

Furthermore, Hadi has worked as a Permanent Representative of the Afghan Civil Society to the International Criminal Court (ICC). He has also served as Country Analyst at the Centre for Civilians in Conflict (CIVIC), contributing to the development of civilian casualty mitigation frameworks and institutions, worked as a researcher with Human Rights Watch and Human Rights Associate with the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan. Hadi investigated and documented human rights violations and promoted the protection of human rights through continued engagement with a broad array of Afghan security and law enforcement institutions. He holds a master's degree in Peace and Conflict Studies from the Erasmus University Rotterdam and a bachelor's degree in Politics and International Relations from the London School of Economics (LSE). Languages: English, Dari/Persian, Pashto

4. Mohammad Naeem Ayubzada - Director, Transparent Election Foundation of Afghanistan (TEFA)



Mohammad Naeem Ayubzada is an acclaimed election and peace expert, a civil society activist, and a human rights defender who, since the year 2002, has been working to consolidate and institutionalize democratic principles, help shape functional parliaments, and democratize political parties in Afghanistan. Ayubzada holds two bachelor's degrees, one in Economics and the other in Political Science, and a master's degree in International Relationships.

Ayubzada, with extensive work experience with domestic and international organizations, has led and worked with a host of election observation missions as a professional election watchdog in 11 countries. In the past 18 years of his journey as a civil activist, Ayubzada visited all 34 provinces of Afghanistan to work closely with the Afghan people, especially those working in grassroots, establishing several centers for peace and electoral studies, where over ten thousand young talents were trained and mentored under his leadership. He is also the deputy director of the Afghanistan Peace Foundation. In 2017, Ayubzada received the Peace Award by the HWPL. Working for over a decade, Naeem Ayubzada has cultivated strong relationships with several domestic and international civil society networks viz. Civil Society Joint Working Group, HWPL, GENDEM, ANFREL, and India Foundation. He was among the elected members of the 2013 selection committee for selecting members of Afghan EMBs and has assumed delegation on behalf of the Afghan civil society for the 2014 London Conference, 2016 Brussels Conference, and 2018 Geneva Conference. Languages: English, Dari/Persian, Pashto, Urdu.

5. Roshan Mashal - Deputy Director and Advocacy Manager- Afghan Women's Network (AWN)



Born in Kabul and graduated from the Journalism Faculty of Kabul University, Roshan Mashal is a human and women's rights defender. During the civil war, Roshan migrated to Pakistan where she educated Afghan students in Rawalpindi. During the Taliban rule, when girls' education was banned, she returned home and continued educating Afghan girls in her own home. Eight years ago, interested in women's participation in social

life, Roshan joined the Afghan Women's Network. Now, she is a member of the board of Central Afghanistan Welfare Committee (CAWC), The New Afghanistan Women Association (NAWA), and Afghanistan National Education Coalition (ANEC), UNESCO National Council Executive Board, and Women's Network of MENA and Southeast Asia. Roshan has implemented many programs for mobilization of women, capacity building, and advocacy for women. During her years of women's rights activism, she has coordinated activities among women in the capital Kabul and provinces to improve their participation in social and political life. Languages: English, Dari/Persian

6. Samiullah Hamidee - Director of the Organization for Social and Economic Development (OSED)



Samiullah Hamidee is a civil activist from Helmand Province. He advocates for peace, actively pursues anti-corruption reforms, access to justice, improved aid effectiveness and reform in public service delivery. He also directs a Practical Legal Education and Legal Aid program and is founder of the first fully functional law clinic and legal aid facility in Helmand province. His contribution to the development of the Civil Society Mechanism for Peace (CSM-Peace) has been recognized as integral. He fulfills a critical role in the Civil Society Consultative Board for Peace (CCB-Peace) where he leads the Technical and

Advocacy working group. His organization runs the newly created Journal for Peace Studies and the Journal of Regional Connectivity Studies. He has also participated in many international conference to promote the role of civil society organizations.

Languages: English, Dari/Persian, and Pashto.

7. Sayed Ikram Afzali - Executive Director, Integrity Watch Afghanistan (IWA)



Sayed Ikram is the Executive Director of Integrity Watch Afghanistan ([www.integritywatch.org](http://www.integritywatch.org)) since 2014. He has also served as the Chief Information Commissioner of Afghanistan between 2015-2018. He has worked in governance with a focus on civil society and anti-corruption for more than a decade. He was the architect behind Afghanistan's Access to Information Law (currently considered to be the best law globally: [www.rti-rating.org](http://www.rti-rating.org)). He has been playing a leading role in many transparency and accountability initiatives including Construction Sector Transparency Initiative (CoST), Extractive

Sector Transparency Initiative (EITI), Open Government Partnership (OGP), and establishment of the Oversight Commission on Access to Information (OCAI). He has completed a Master of Public Administration degree at the London School of Economics and Political Science and has done a BA in Political Science and Public Administration at the American University of Afghanistan. Languages: English, Dari/Persian, Pashto.

8. Sayed Hussain Anosh - Executive Director, Civil Society and Human Rights Network (CSHRN)





With an MA in Security and Politics and a BA in Law and Political Science, Sayed Hussain has extensive experience in promoting and protecting human rights in Afghanistan. He has worked with different Afghan civil society organizations as well as regional and international platforms. Leading CSHRN, he has travelled to most of the 34 provinces of Afghanistan and works across nine provinces on the inclusion of non-dominant minorities in the ongoing peace talks. Sayed Hussain aims at reflecting the voices and concerns of the minority communities to be shared with all relevant stakeholders to ensure an inclusive and sustainable peace. Also, as part of CSHRN, he is conducting the first-ever Afghanistan National Human Rights Award Program which acknowledges the courage and efforts of human rights defenders throughout Afghanistan. Sayed Hussain is a co-founder of a regional platform for minorities - The South Asia Collective. With this coalition, he has jointly produced two reports. The first report was launched in Colombo, Sri Lanka in March 2020 and the second report will be launched in Geneva in December 2020. Languages: Persian/Dari, Pashtu, English, Urdu, and Russian

9. Suraya Pakzad - Women's rights activist, Executive Director, Voice of Women (VWO)



Suraya Pakzad, one of TIME's 100 most influential people of 2009 and the founder of Voice of Women Organization (VWO), is an Afghan woman who grew up during the years of armed resistance against the Soviet-backed government in Afghanistan. In 1998, she set up covert schools for girls under the oppressive rule of the Taliban. In 2001, Pakzad established the Voice of Women Organization (VWO) in 2001 which provides direct protection for at-risk women and girls in Afghanistan.

She has received many awards including Women of Courage (2008), National Medal (Malali Medal) from the President of Afghanistan (2008), Voice of Peace Award by the Peace Organization, US (2009), honorary Associate of Arts degree by the Burlington County College, Honorary Degree of Doctorate from University of Pennsylvania, United States (2010), Clinton Global Citizen Award from the Clinton Global Initiative, US (2010).

Suraya's works and achievements were recognized and awarded by the Victim of Terrorism Foundation in Madrid Spain in 2010. Moreover, she has received the Female Leader of the Year Award by the Astraia Female Leadership Foundation in Germany in 2012. She has also received the Key of Scranton city from Mayor William L. Courtright, Pennsylvania, the USA in 2015, the Silver sun Medal from Confartigianto Donne Impresa, Italy in 2015, Brigata Alpina Julia Medal from the Italian Army, 2015 and finally the Simply Woman Harmony Award Italy, 2019. Languages: English and Dari/Persian.

10. Zarqa Yaftali – Women and children’s rights advocate, Executive Director, Women and Children Legal Research Foundation (WCLRF)



Zarqa Yaftali, born in 1984 in Badakhshan province holds a BA in Law and Politics from Kabul University.

She joined the Women and Children Legal Research Foundation (WCLRF) as a research assistant in 2007. Through WCLRF, Zarqa has worked extensively towards promoting women and children’s rights and gender equality, raising awareness on women and children’s rights and women’s inheritance rights by conducting research and leading advocacy campaigns. As the executive director of WCLRF, Zarqa Yaftali has led research and awareness

campaigns on the implementation of Afghanistan’s Law on Elimination of Violence against Women and Anti-Harassment Law in Kabul, Balkh and Nangarhar provinces of Afghanistan.