



Afghan Women: Achievements and Setbacks in Contemporary Afghanistan

Madrid, Spain, September 30, 2022

September 30th, 2022 was the date chosen by WFWP Europe and WFWP Spain to celebrate the International Day of Peace with a joint event on “Afghan Women:

Achievements and Setbacks in Contemporary Afghanistan”

Speakers reviewed the past and present situations, past achievements and current setbacks from various perspectives, trying to offer positive solutions and calling for the international support in order to bring the suggested proposals to their agendas.

Introducing the program, Marcia de Abreu, the moderator of the event, went over the changes occurred in Afghanistan after the American troops left the country in 2021. A period of 20 years had gone by with a good level of progress in human rights and opportunities that are all being banished or barred now.

Dr. Sakena Yacoobi, Founder and Executive Director, Afghan Institute of Learning, made an excellent presentation on video. Her words were grounded on hard work and experience. She insisted on the importance of education for the progress of a society. She expressed her admiration for the Afghan women and how much she wants them to be educated and learn to negotiate the improvement of Afghanistan with love, compassion and wisdom. “...in this way they

can become the change makers for peace”. She also highlighted the resilience with which they continue to live.

Ms. Farkhunda Naderi, Member of Afghan Parliament 2010-2015, led us through the 3 phases of democracy in Afghanistan contemporary history, showing clearly how after each period of progress, a period of setbacks followed. Showing a space for hope, a hope based on the effort the Afghan society is willing to make in order to defend its rights, she expressed the need for a consistent work for peace counting on the support of the international community. Ms. Frohar Poya, Project officer for the European Network of Migrant Women, spoke with heartfelt sadness and frustration for the late school bombing in Afghanistan. She believes there are leaders both inside and outside Afghanistan to move forward the agenda of justice and gender equality in the present.

Ms. Nigin Sanan, an Afghan Activist, is aware of the fear, anger, and profound sense of loss that pervade the daily lives of Afghan women. And she is ready to speak in defense of the women in her country. She hopes and wants that, young women especially, will be able to pursue their desires for a career in Athletics, in the world of Technology and Entrepreneurship, fields she mentioned.

Ms. Teresa Nevado Bueno, European Women’s Lobby

National Coordinator in Spain highlighted the importance of governments and NGOs to attend to the serious needs of the Afghan women, both in Afghanistan and abroad. She called for good planning, logistics and a sincere joint effort by all to help guarantee their lives and future. Mrs.

Marilyn Angelucci, WFPW Afghanistan President, made a wonderful summary of what had been said that afternoon and offered her personal contribution that added much depth to what had already been discussed. Based on her own experience in Afghanistan, as the President of WFPW Afghanistan, she shared about the amazing list of projects carried on by the organization, until it became dangerous to remain in the country. She

also expressed that their efforts for the Afghan people are being made in New Delhi now.

Mrs. de Abreu, WGWP General Secretary in Europe and President in Spain, concluded, from what had been discussed, that the Afghan women, despite their current deprived situation, are hopeful and want to go on fighting for a dignified place in society. Their resilience is unbreakable and they are ready to do anything in their power to keep Afghanistan together, with the heart, the soul and the head it may take. An appeal to the governments and organizations not to forget the Afghan women and society was made. Let's remember our sisters in Afghanistan and offer them all the support they need..