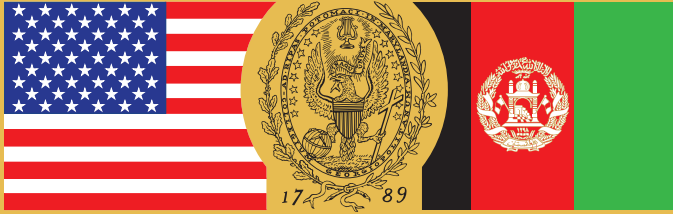


U.S. - AFGHAN Women's Council



GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY



10 YEARS &
COUNTING



The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 and the subsequent fall of the Taliban in Afghanistan provided a potent backdrop for the formation of the U.S.-Afghan Women's Council (USAWC). The plight of Afghan women and girls captured the hearts of the American people. The counterpoint of their oppression, the horrific attack on innocent citizens in the United States, underscored their brutal oppression. The American public was outraged, particularly American women. First Lady Laura Bush captured these sentiments in her historic radio address on November 17, 2001. Americans wanted to respond. Harnessing the empathy, compassion, and energy of these individuals was to become the impetus for forming the U.S.-Afghan Women's Council—a mechanism to direct public and private resources to help Afghan women re-establish their rightful place in society and contribute to the rebuilding of Afghanistan.

The stars were aligned. Influential leaders both in the White House and State Department began developing the idea of a private-public partnership to address the future of women in Afghanistan; they were inspired by the determination of several remarkable women in the private sector who were prepared to develop and fund new initiatives. The idea of a Council that would gather ideas and talent, channeling them into a private-public response, emerged in partnership with the Afghan government and the enthusiastic support of the President and the First Lady.

On January 28, 2002, President George W. Bush and Afghan Interim Authority Chairman Hamid Karzai announced in a joint statement, following a White House meeting on security, stability and reconstruction for Afghanistan, that they would "...agree to launch a joint U.S.-Afghan Women's Council to promote private-public partnerships and mobilize resources to ensure women can gain the skills and education deprived them under years of

First Lady Laura Bush—Historic Radio Address

NOVEMBER 17, 2001

First Lady Laura Bush called on all Americans to ensure that “dignity and opportunity will be secured for all the women and children of Afghanistan. She said, “The plight of women and children in Afghanistan is a matter of deliberate human cruelty, carried out by those who seek to intimidate and control. Civilized people throughout the world are speaking out in horror—not only because our hearts break for the

women and children in Afghanistan, but also because in Afghanistan we see the world the terrorists would like to impose on the rest of us. All of us have an obligation to speak out... Fighting brutality against women and children... is... a commitment shared by people of good will on every continent.... The fight against terrorism is also a fight for the rights and dignity of women.”



Taliban misrule....” The Council was officially established as a presidential initiative in the State Department under the direction of the Under Secretary for Global Affairs and the Office of International Women’s Issues.

Ambassador Paula Dobriansky, the Under Secretary for Global Affairs and the Council’s U.S. chair, provided strong, collaborative leadership in initiating the Council’s work. From 2002-2009, she led the Council along with the Afghan co-chairs, starting with the Minister for Women’s Affairs, Sima Samar, a dedicated advocate for human rights and women’s issues, and Foreign Minister, Abdullah Abdullah. First Lady Laura W. Bush (later named as Honorary Chair), from the beginning, demonstrated a deep and enduring commitment to the women of Afghanistan and to the Council. She was and remains a driving force for the work of the Council. Individuals from the U.S. government, private sector, and philanthropy who were willing to commit to organizing resources and support for specific projects were invited by the Under Secretary to join the Council as members. Cabinet members, including the Secretary of State, Secretary of Health and Human Services, Secretary of Education, Secretary of Labor, and Secretary of Agriculture joined as Honorary Members, as did a Justice of the Supreme Court.

The inaugural meeting of the Council was held on April 24, 2002 at the State Department in Washington, D.C. This meeting would bring to fruition a mechanism for creating private-public partnerships to rebuild Afghanistan with a focus on women and girls and to ensure that the significant U.S. government expenditures in support of Afghan reconstruction included programs targeted specifically at women. The Afghan Minister of Women’s Affairs, responding to the needs articulated by Afghan women, identified several key areas of need: education, job creation, political training, capacity building, and health care;





these would become the major pillars of work for the Council. The Council agreed to its first project, implemented in fall 2002, a Leadership and Management International Visitor's Bureau training program in the United States for 12 women in the Afghan government ministries.

A Gift Fund was established at the State Department in May 2002 to allow for the solicitation and acceptance of private contributions to support Council projects in Afghanistan. Additionally, the U.S. Congress appropriated over \$1 million in the FY2002 Afghanistan Supplemental for the State Department as seed money to fund initial Council projects, including exchange programs to train Afghan women in the U.S. and grants to NGOs to provide training programs in Afghanistan in areas such as literacy, computer skills, human rights awareness, and political leadership.

All members of the Council were expected to initiate a project that would benefit the women and girls of Afghanistan and address the critical areas of need identified by the Afghan leaders on the Council. The earliest initiatives included ARZU ("hope" in Dari), a social entrepreneurship initiative that provides income, access to education and healthcare to Afghan women weavers by sourcing and selling the rugs they weave; a PBS media training program that led to a widely acclaimed documentary produced by Afghan women on their plight under the Taliban, *Afghanistan Unveiled*; a hospital intervention targeting maternal mortality; the Grossman Burn Center for families; a TriWest Healthcare Alliance burn prevention campaign; Sunshine Foundation scholarships for Afghan women to attend U.S. colleges; Daimler Chrysler support to provide women access to microcredit loans; a dental clinic sponsored by the New Hudson Foundation; "Project Artemis," an intensive entrepreneurship training program at Thunderbird School of Global Management;

Excerpts from a Speech Delivered by Ambassador Paula Dobriansky at the Launch of the U.S.-Afghan Women's Council

JANUARY 29, 2002

Long denied basic education, health care, and opportunities to provide for their families, the resilient women of Afghanistan are once again regaining control over their lives and futures. We stand resolute in our support for Afghan women. ...To that end, I am pleased to announce that we have agreed to establish a U.S.-Afghan Women's Council. As the Afghan proverb says "a river is made drop by drop." This public-private partnership will link our Afghan colleagues with American partners, in academia, the private sector, media, health services, and other key sectors. This will mobilize private resources and foster an exchange of

information and experience to support the reconstruction of Afghanistan, as well as ensure follow-up. And, it will bolster the pivotal role that women will play in rebuilding Afghanistan. We are heartened to see girls returning to schools, mothers providing for their children, and women returning to the workplace. Our efforts are a part of the restoration of rights for Afghan women. As Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah aptly stated "the life of every single woman and man in this country has changed for the better...But that is not the end of the road, that is rather the beginning."





Excerpt from an Interview with John J. DeGioia, President, Georgetown University

In December 2008, we had the distinct honor of bringing the U.S.-Afghan Women's Council to Georgetown University, under the direction of Phyllis Magrab and the Center for Child and Human Development. By doing so, we sought to use the unique resources of our community—our Catholic and Jesuit tradition, commitment to service and social justice, and academic excellence—to advance scholarship and foster multidisciplinary collaboration to further empower Afghan women. We continue to pursue these goals today, uniting leaders from government, the private sector, and the Academy to develop new opportunities for Afghan women and children in the areas of literacy and education, entrepreneurship, political leadership, and health care. It has been a distinct privilege to lead this effort, and we look forward to the next decade of collaborative and innovative work.

“Afghan Women Leaders CONNECT,” an initiative that supported women-led non-profits that deliver education, legal aid, and health support; and a training program for women judges.

Ambassador Dobriansky began leading delegations to Kabul in January 2003, alternating Council meetings between capitals twice a year and adding new initiatives and programs. The Council meeting of April 2005 held in Kabul was a particularly momentous event. First Lady Laura Bush, a champion for the women of Afghanistan, who had met so many Afghan women in the United States, longed to see their country. Her Chief of Staff, Anita McBride, made this a top priority and succeeded in implementing this historic “secret mission,” despite all the security challenges. During this trip, Mrs. Bush visited some important Council-led initiatives and projects. At the National Women's Dormitory she inaugurated the Women's Teacher Training Institute at Kabul University. She also toured the Afghan Women's Business Association marketplace, planted a tree with the Women's Conservation Corps and announced the establishment of the International School of Kabul (K-12) and the American University of Afghanistan. U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings was on hand to sign a formal memorandum of understanding to establish these entities along with Minister of Education Noor Mohammed Qarqeen and Minister of Higher Education Dr. Sayed Amir Shah Hassanyaar. Mrs. Bush also spent time visiting with U.S. soldiers at Bagram Air Force Base.

Throughout the Administration of President George W. Bush, the White House, the State Department, the Afghan government and the private sector continued their strong commitment to the women of Afghanistan through the work of the U.S.-Afghan Women's Council. Since the Council was a presidential initiative which would end with the Administration, in 2006 Ambassador

Dobriansky began thinking about transitioning its work to the private sector. She had several meetings with relevant offices at the State Department as well as the White House on appropriate institutions that should be considered to carry forward its mission. Several were considered, but in the end, Georgetown University, an institution that had a long standing commitment to Afghanistan, including hosting two Afghan-American Summits on Recovery and Reconstruction, was approached and its President, John J. DeGioia was enthusiastic about homing the Council in the university.

The Council always had bipartisan support. Now it needed it more than ever. In the incoming Administration of President Obama, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton was a potent champion for the women of Afghanistan and the U.S.-Afghan Women's Council, citing the Council as an example of the power of private-public partnerships in her confirmation hearings. As the Council was transitioned to its new home at Georgetown University, Melanne S. Vermeer, Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues and John J. DeGioia, President of Georgetown University, agreed to serve as the U.S. Co-Chairs. President Karzai already had pledged his ongoing commitment to the Council in a meeting in Kabul, Afghanistan, November 20, 2008 with Under Secretary for Global Affairs, Paula Dobriansky; Mrs. Shamim Jawad, wife of the Afghan Ambassador to the United States; and Dr. Phyllis Magrab, representing Georgetown University (also future Vice-Chair of the Council). President Karzai agreed that the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Women's Affairs would continue as the Afghan co-chairs. Mrs. Bush agreed to remain as an Honorary Advisor.

Financial support for the infrastructure of the Council came from both public and private sources—in-kind support from the university, an initial grant from the Goldman Sachs Foundation,





Excerpts from an Interview with Melanne S. Verveer

AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE FOR GLOBAL WOMEN'S ISSUES

Why the Transition to the New Administration Was So Smooth

First of all, as senator, Senator Clinton was not a stranger to the work of the U.S.-Afghan Women's Council. She had worked from the earliest days of the Bush Administration, which coincided with her election as senator, to put a focus on (as she had as First Lady) the plight of Afghan Women under the Taliban. Then when the opportunity came in 2002 with the overthrow of the Taliban to really focus on Afghan women, she of course was an extraordinary champion of that effort.... We were all working in concert from different places—she, from the Senate and Mrs. Bush, from the Administration.... So it was as if we were part of a whole no matter where we came from across party lines. One of the things Secretary Clinton did was to convene an informal hearing in the Senate that many, many senators participated in, on why the Afghan women themselves were going to be critical to building the new future for their country....

Secondly, Hillary Clinton, whether First Lady, Senator, and now Secretary, has been a huge champion of the role that the private sector, each individual in civil society, has to play in any of these undertakings that are critical to our world and to our country....

And as the baton was being passed and the administrations were changing, there was a recognition that this (the USAWC) needed to continue. There had been a vital role for the State Department as a co-partner in this effort which now would change, and Georgetown came to the fore and stepped in to be that extraordinary good citizen in this process. Secretary Clinton's support was vital because, as the Secretary of State, to say that the U.S. Government wanted to continue to play our share or play our role in the work that the Council represented was a commitment that she made from the earliest days.

Taking Stock of the Council

I think the vision for the Council has been a consistent vision and is one that recognizes that we all have a role to play in ensuring that Afghan women are not only able to sit at the table but be effective at the table, fully participate in their country whether it is economically

or politically or in building institutions, and running NGOs—the full gamut of what is necessary.

Some of us are uniquely suited for that and, of course, government is uniquely suited to doing what it has a responsibility to do which is to conduct foreign policy, to ensure in the conduct of that foreign policy that we are espousing the role of women in peace and security, the role of women in Afghanistan as fully participating.

I think when one sits down and looks at the record of commitment and contributions that have been made—from schools that have been organized and supported, to trainings that have ranged from supporting diplomats to women starting small businesses, to working hand-in-glove with the government so that our own development, policies and political interventions were working in a way that was steering this whole effort along the same lines—one does not stand out over another. It's been the range of activity and the range of commitment...and I think that's actually been the success of the Council. It hasn't been one way fits everybody. It has allowed people to say, "I care about what happens in Afghanistan as an American.... I care about the women in Afghanistan because I know they are a big part of the solution and, therefore, I look at myself and what I can bring to this cause that will enable it to flower—no matter how small my contribution might be."

The Future of the Council

As the troops will draw down, this will mean even more that the investments that have been made need to be both accelerated and this is the unique virtue of the Council. We have been striving to build capacity which is all about sustainability. Because if women have the know-how and the where-with-all and the direction, they will be able to continue to move their country in a good direction.... The Council has played a role in constantly keeping a focus on the role that women have to play in Afghanistan.... So as I frequently have said, to me, the Council reflects the best of America because it is America coming together, as we do best, not as Democrats or Republicans but as citizens and the fullness of that word, as members of the business community and members of organizations and certainly as officials in government.



Shamim Jawad

PRESIDENT OF AYENDA FOUNDATION

I grew up in Afghanistan in times of complete peace and relative prosperity, but I have also witnessed times of adversity and unspeakable hardships for the women of Afghanistan. It is in the latter context that the work of the U.S.-Afghan Women's Council in recreating lost opportunities, re-empowering our women and generating hope for the less fortunate generation of the Afghan women that is so imperative and crucial.

The most sustainable way to fully empower women is to educate them and offer opportunities for financial independence. The U.S.-Afghan Women's Council not only understands but practically implements this precept. It has been working both to domestically help improve the condition in our society, but it is also building strong international bonds of friendship and sisterhood between determined but neglected Afghan women and prominent U.S. leaders and institutions. As we celebrate 10 years of success of USAWC, I feel privileged as an Afghan woman to be part of its outstanding team and an honor to work with its leadership, especially Former First Lady Mrs. Laura Bush.

a later grant from the Abbott Fund, and a State Department contribution of a Foreign Service Officer to Georgetown University to serve as the Council's Executive Director—a model of the private-public partnership embodied by the Council itself.

The Council continued to add new members with projects like Kate Spade New York's rebuilding of the cashmere industry and employment of women; building schools and computer labs for girls through the Lamia Afghan Foundation, Nooristan Foundation, and Ayenda; expanding higher education opportunities at the American University of Afghanistan (AUAF) which graduated its first class in May 2011 with several women receiving diplomas; creating peer-to-peer mentoring programs between Georgetown University students and their AUAF counterparts; implementing midwifery training by Abbott Laboratories; producing culturally appropriate Sesame Street episodes; using cell phone technology to promote literacy among rural Afghan women; and conducting more intensive training programs for Afghan women leaders at Georgetown University. Successful entrepreneurship and business training programs continued to be a hallmark of the Council such as Project Artemis, 10,000 Women, and PEACE THROUGH BUSINESS®. Graduates of these programs began to train other aspiring businesswomen, using teaching materials developed by Council members. Council members produced engaging publications, such as *Afghanistan in Transition* to highlight the achievements of the U.S.-Afghan partnership. And Mrs. Bush's support remained unwavering. She hosted two major Council events with the George W. Bush Institute: *Educating and Empowering the Women and Girls of Afghanistan: A Symposium on Education and Literacy* in 2010 in conjunction with SMU Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development and *Building Afghanistan's Future: Promoting Women's Freedom and Advancing their Economic Opportunity* in 2011.

Ambassador Said T. Jawad

(FORMER AMBASSADOR OF AFGHANISTAN TO THE UNITED STATES)
CHAIRMAN OF FOUNDATION FOR AFGHANISTAN

The Council's leadership and commitment have been instrumental in bringing the highest level of attention to the plight of Afghan women, the most underserved segment of our society. In the past, crucial to our history, many prominent members of the Council travelled to and implemented projects in Afghanistan's remotest provinces. For instance, the female Governor of Bamiyan and the proud people of this beautiful and isolated province still talk about the historic visit of U.S. First Lady Mrs. Laura Bush to their isolated province.

In the past 10 years the U.S.-Afghan Women's Council has brought significant public and private-sector

resources, as well as personal passion and commitment of its members together, in a powerful synergy, to promote women's empowerment through education, health care, leadership skills and capacity building for financial independence. Those who know Afghanistan well fully understand and appreciate the magnitude of fundamental positive changes that our society has gone through in the past decade. As the Council celebrates its tenth year of thriving work, our sincere appreciation goes to USAWC for being a trusted partner in this triumphant but uncompleted journey. We hope that the Council stays at our side until we complete our intricate crossing to pluralism and prosperity.



Excerpts from an Interview with President George W. Bush

All statistics show that societies without empowering women are societies that can't provide peace. The U.S.-Afghan Women's Council was an attempt to encourage American women to inspire and support Afghan women knowing that Afghan women had been suppressed for a long period of time.

One of the real challenges for our country and one of the most important things about the U.S.-Afghan Women's Council is that it is a vehicle to remind our country that isolationism endangers women in Afghanistan. The fundamental question is 'Do we care?' The U.S.-Afghan Women's Council shows that not only do we care, but that we are going to do something about it.

...And the Council is now going to have a larger calling—larger than I thought because we are all hopeful that an Afghan democracy will not only take hold, but will take root and this has been hard. It has been hard mainly because the country has been so ravaged and so poor. The U.S.-Afghan Women's Council can take pride in how they have helped women; the statistics prove it. There

are results you can point to. This is not just a feel good organization. The U.S.-Afghan Women's Council can say, "Here is what has been done and here is what needs to be done." ...Americans are so anxious for results and they should be; they should be demanding results with a certain realism and that's where the U.S.-Afghan Women's Council can help. You can say, "Here is what happened—extraordinary progress in a very short period of time," (even though 10 years doesn't seem that short to some people)... American women are really going to have to make the case on behalf of the Afghan women.

The Council needs to keep doing what it has been doing and to be an advocate for continued years of involvement... You will need to continue to expand the Council. I don't know if the membership is growing—but what you don't want to do is to make the Council insular. We founded it 10 years ago and many of the same people have been involved for 10 years. Sometimes organizations tend to get kind of hemmed in. We don't want that; we want to grow.... There's a lot to do in Afghanistan so there's a lot left for the Council to do.



The successes of the Council have been many—improving health care, expanding educational opportunities for women and girls, increasing economic opportunities, and developing women leaders in the public and private sector. Graphically, one council member described the road to this success; “Initially it felt like digging at a mountain with a spoon; then the spoon became a shovel, and the shovel became a bulldozer.”

When Council members are asked about the value of the Council, a common theme arises: the Council provides camaraderie, synergies, support, opportunities to share different ideas and a “spiritual home” for those who care about the women and girls in Afghanistan. All the members are eager to return as a Council to Afghanistan, awaiting a more secure environment. The Council is a reflection of the members’ passion and dedication and of the courage and determination of the Afghan women who are partners in the work. Afghan women do not want to be seen as victims but as the potential leaders they are.

Looking to the future, the Council must continue to be responsive to the many changes and challenges on the ground by adding new partners with creative solutions and keeping alive the commitment to a better life for the women, girls, and their families in Afghanistan.



Ambassador Eklil Ahmad Hakimi

AMBASSADOR OF THE ISLAMIC
REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN
TO THE UNITED STATES

The U.S.-Afghan Women’s Council—comprised of compassionate, dedicated, hardworking individuals who give of themselves to help women and children in Afghanistan—plays an essential role as a uniting partnership, bringing the individual parts together to form an effective and powerful force for good. Improving donor coordination is more important now than ever, and we are glad to see that the Council is increasingly reaching out not only to donors, but also to Afghan-Americans, students, and other interested individuals. By working together, we can all accomplish more for the women of Afghanistan.

Hillary Rodham Clinton, U.S. Secretary of State

MEETING WITH AFGHAN WOMEN MINISTERS, MAY 13, 2010

We know that women are central to long-term stability and our strategy to promote security, good governance, and economic and social development inside Afghanistan.

The United States will continue to target assistance to women in areas ranging from girls' education, to better health services—particularly maternal health—to protecting women from violence, to enhancing their roles in agriculture and the economy.

I pledged to President Karzai that we would not abandon Afghanistan in its quest for peace and long-term stability, and we will not.

And I make the same pledge to the women of Afghanistan. We will not abandon you. We will stand with you always. I am so impressed and admiring of the contributions that women have made in all of Afghanistan's history, but particularly in recent history and especially in the last years. And I will be their partner and their supporter as they continue to make improvements in their lives and the lives of their children and families.



EDUCATION/LITERACY PROGRAMS

- **Afghan Teacher Education Project.** The U.S.-Afghan Women's Council (USAWC), in cooperation with the State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, directed \$1 million for a project at the University of Nebraska from 2002-2003 to provide training for Afghan women teachers in grades K-12.
- **The American University of Afghanistan (AUAF)** is Afghanistan's only private, not-for-profit institution of higher education, offering internationally-supported degree programs in a range of competitive areas. With funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the doors opened in 2006 with 57 students. Today, more than 20% of its 800 students are women.
- **The AYENDA Foundation**, established in 2005 by Council members Shamim Jawad and Tim McBride, builds and operates schools, funds health programs, sports, scholarships, trainings, and skills development programs. In 2011 Council member Dr. Marna Whittington and The Alliance Group established a computer lab at the AYENDA Learning Center for the school and the community.
- **Building and Supporting Local Schools.** Council member Karen Hughes worked with local churches and the Austin community to build and renovate several schools for girls and boys in a war-torn area near Mazar-e-Sharif, in partnership with the Seattle-based *Journey with an Afghan School*. The team also raised funds for teacher training, operations, supplies and a computer center.
- **Conference on Educating and Empowering the Women and Girls of Afghanistan.** In March 2010 President George W. Bush and Council Honorary Advisor Mrs. Laura W. Bush co-sponsored a conference with the USAWC and the Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education at Southern Methodist University to address challenges and progress in education in Afghanistan.
- **The Foundation for Afghanistan**, established by Council member Ambassador Said T. Jawad, invests in secondary and university education to train the next generation of Afghan leaders. The Foundation awards AUAF scholarships and partners with U.S. universities and colleges to offer scholarships to Afghan students, particularly girls.
- **Friends of the American University of Afghanistan (AUAF)**, founded by Council member Leslie M. Schweitzer, supports AUAF. Funds support scholarships, academic programs, and new buildings including the new *International Center for Afghan Women's Economic Development* being built on the International Campus with funding from the U.S. Department of Defense.
- **International School of Kabul (ISK)**, operated by OASIS International Schools, opened in 2005 to provide Afghan children with a first-rate education through

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES 2002 TO 2012

U.S.-style curricula to help prepare them for higher education and leadership roles. Current enrollment is approximately 260 students, 39% of whom are girls. Students represent 27 countries, with more than half from Afghanistan.

- **The Lamia Afghan Foundation**, founded by Council members Lt. General USAF (ret.) John Bradley and Mrs. Jan Bradley, built and equipped three schools and currently is renovating another, having raised \$375,000 in private donations. Working closely with the Minister of Education, they obtained certification for nationwide use of HOOPOE Books in elementary and secondary schools.



- **Mobile Literacy Project**, a USAWC initiative at Georgetown University, funded by the Geraldine P. Waldorf Foundation with support from Roshan Telecommunications, is partnering with the Afghan Institute of Learning (AIL) to use mobile phone technology to promote basic literacy among women in rural Afghanistan through text messaging and classroom sessions.
- **Mothers as First Teachers**, a new initiative chaired by Council member Jill Iscol, will develop effective strategies drawing on the latest research in early childhood development to enable Afghan parents to help their young children achieve their full potential. Programs promoting best practices in early childhood development will be implemented in Women's Resource Centers and Women's Gardens.
- **The Nooristan Foundation**, led by Council member Mariam Atash Nawabi, supports rural education. The Foundation established the first primary school in Pasigam village and is building a permanent school to be powered by solar energy. It supports teacher training through a variety of initiatives, including partnering with AIL, and led a bicycle drive to help rural children get to school.
- **Sesame Workshop**, Tolo TV and Lemar Television, with a grant from the State Department, produced 26 Afghan-adapted Sesame Street episodes in the Dari and Pashto languages, celebrating the diversity of young Afghan children from varying backgrounds. Tolo and Lemar intend to continue production of these high quality educational content programs.

- **The Sunshine Lady Foundation**, under the leadership of Council member Doris Buffett, supports scholarships for students at the American University of Afghanistan and scholarships for the *Initiative to Educate Afghan Women* which provides Afghan women the opportunity to complete four-year degree programs at universities in the U.S.
- **The Women's Teacher Training Institute** was established in September 2004 with \$30 million from USAID and \$100,000 in donations of computers and software from Microsoft and DELL computer companies. The Institute is now part of Afghanistan's National Literacy Center which continues to operate with USAID support.
- **Building Afghanistan's Future: Promoting Women's Freedom and Advancing their Economic Opportunity.** In March 2011 President George W. Bush and Council Honorary Advisor Mrs. Laura W. Bush, with the USAWC, hosted a conference to address the urgent need to protect the rights of Afghan women and illustrate the societal benefits of creating economic opportunities for women.
- **Daimler Chrysler**, through Council member Tim McBride and the Foundation for International Community Assistance (FINCA), provided \$35,000 in microloans to women-owned businesses through local banks in 2003. An additional \$29 million was awarded by the World Bank, the U.S. Government and other donors in 2005 to assist more than 30,000 Afghan clients over the next three years.

SELF-SUFFICIENCY PROGRAMS

- **Agricultural Entrepreneurship Program**, initiated by USDA in 2005, the University of Nebraska, and the U.S. Department of State, is a program for Afghan women in the agriculture industry, offering advanced training and access to microloans for business start-ups.
- **ARZU STUDIO HOPE**, founded by Council member Connie K. Duckworth in 2004 with funding from USAID, provides sustainable, fair labor, artisan-based employment for women and worker benefits including education, health care, and community development projects. Proceeds from ARZU's naturally-dyed carpets and hand-woven Peace Cord™ bracelets support ARZU social programs.
- **Global Summit of Women/Handicraft Training.** In 2002, the Global Summit of Women held in Barcelona, Spain donated \$10,000 for job-skills training for Afghan women. Through this program *Shuhada*, an Afghan NGO, trained women as weavers and provided each program participant with a loom to produce textiles.
- **Kate Spade New York (KSNY)**, under the management of Council member Syndey Price, partners with *Women for Women International* to train and employ Afghan women artisans, pairing traditional Afghan and KSNY's signature designs in the Afghan cashmere industry. Jewelry and other fashion accessories are being added this year, creating an expected 1500 jobs by 2013.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES 2002 TO 2012

- **The Lamia Afghan Foundation** partners with Special Operations Cultural Support Teams, *Checker Distributors* and *Clara's Calling* to provide sewing machines and supplies for sewing projects led by U.S. Military Female Engagement Teams in six provinces, as well as four other Afghan women-owned sewing training programs in four provinces.
- **The Lamia Afghan Foundation** partners with *Marshall Plan Charities* to achieve sustainable, self-sufficient "model villages" with wells, crops, a school, a vocational center, and a clinic. The first is Khairabad in Herat Province. The Foundation also partners with *ROC Wheels, A Leg To Stand On (ALTSO)* and the *Kabul Orthopedic Organization* to provide wheelchairs and prosthetics to disabled children.
- **U.S. Department of Agriculture Cochran Fellowships.** In 2004, USDA sponsored women from five provinces in Afghanistan for a job training program in agribusiness through its Cochran Fellowship Program in the United States.
- **Vocational Workforce Development.** Council member Charlie Ponticelli and Lori Blaker of *Technical Training Inc./TTi Global* will train Afghan women and youth to start and run automotive technician businesses, offering an established curriculum based on guidelines for General Service Technicians, skills which are highly transferable to other industry sectors within Afghanistan.
- **Women's Conservation Corps.** A division of the Afghan Conservation Corps, this \$1 million initiative was established in 2004 by the State Department's Bureau of

Population, Refugees and Migration to train vulnerable and unskilled women in Kabul to rehabilitate Afghanistan's environment by growing flowers and vegetables and planting trees.

BUSINESS EDUCATION

- **Goldman Sachs' 10,000 Women**, under the leadership of Council member Dina Powell, is a \$100 million, five-year initiative to provide business and management training to 10,000 underserved women around the world. Since 2008, 150 Afghan women have graduated from the program and 150 more are being trained in partnership with AUAF and Thunderbird School of Global Management.
- **The Institute for the Economic Empowerment of Women**, led by Council member Dr. Terry Neese, offers the PEACE THROUGH BUSINESS® program. Since 2006 the business education, public policy advocacy, and mentoring program for Afghan and Rwandan women has graduated over 200 entrepreneurs with more than 80% of its graduates still leading prosperous businesses today.
- **Project Artemis**, created by Council member Barbara Barrett in 2005, has brought 63 promising Afghan businesswomen to Thunderbird School of Global Management in Arizona for two weeks of intensive, high-level entrepreneurship training and mentoring, enabling them to cultivate their businesses, create jobs, and grow the Afghan economy. The next group will be welcomed in 2013.

- **Project Artemis Scholars Training.**

USAWC organized leadership training, professional consultations, and networking for 19 Afghan businesswomen from the *Project Artemis* program in November 2010. The program was sponsored by Goldman Sachs *10,000 Women* and included a briefing at the White House and a reception at the Afghan Embassy.

- **Entrepreneurship Toolkit.** USAWC, Goldman Sachs, the Institute for Economic Empowerment of Women, Thunderbird, and Northwood University developed an entrepreneurs' guidebook to serve as a toolkit for graduates of USAWC entrepreneurship programs to share what they learned with other aspiring Afghan women business owners. The toolkit is available in both English and Dari.



HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS

- **Abbott**, under the leadership of Council member Katherine Pickus, partners with *Direct Relief International* and *The Afghan Institute for Learning (AIL)* to train midwives, to support five AIL clinics (three in Herat, two in Kabul) and to offer five-day community health workshops. Abbott has given more than \$700,000 in grants to AIL and more than \$4 million in product donations.
- **Afghan Family Health Book.** In 2004, the Department of Health and Human Services and LEAPFROG Enterprises Inc. published the *Afghan Family Health Book*. These “talking books,” which teach basic health, hygiene, and disease prevention, were distributed via hospitals, clinics, and women’s centers in Afghanistan.
- **The Grossman Burn Foundation**, created by Council members Dr. Peter and Rebecca Grossman, provides burn training and equipment and a support structure for better physical and psychological healthcare, including online counseling for women. The Foundation helped an Afghan girl horrifically disfigured from a burn injury, a woman mutilated by her husband, and countless others.
- **The Lamia Afghan Foundation** has worked with Indira Gandhi Hospital, Children’s Hospital, CURE International Hospital, Afshar Hospital and The Afghan National Military Hospital to provide medical equipment including anesthesiology machines, operating room tables, exam tables, infant incubators, wheelchairs, baby beds and thousands of pounds of urgently needed medical supplies.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES 2002 TO 2012

- **The Nooristan Foundation**, working in collaboration with the Afghan Midwives Association, provided refresher training for midwives in Takhar province, reducing the number of deaths during childbirth since the training began and providing women with a career that gives them greater social status, respect, and empowerment.
- **The New Hudson Foundation**, under the leadership of Council member Caroline Firestone, established Afghanistan's first community dental care program in Kabul in 2006. The Foundation also works to combat leishmaniasis disease and supports hospital restoration and management, reforestation projects, school upgrades, and the work of the Afghan Red Crescent Society.
- **TriWest Healthcare Alliance**, under the leadership of Council member David McIntyre, provided \$1 million to *SOZO International* for a four-year public awareness and burn prevention campaign in Afghanistan (2007-2011). *SOZO* created and offered its burn prevention education curriculum in schools, clinics, hospitals, and communities.
- **REACH Program/Midwifery Training**. In 2003, the Council helped establish the pilot phase of USAID's Rural Education and Community Health Care Initiative (REACH) to train midwives and community health workers. This pilot program evolved into an ongoing USAID program that has trained more than 1,500 Afghan midwives.



LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS

- **Afghan Women Civil Service Training.** In July 2009, the Council and the Georgetown University Center for Child and Human Development conducted executive leadership training for seven senior women in the Afghan civil service. The women subsequently formed a Leadership Caucus of women which actively works to increase the numbers and rank of women in the executive service.
- **Afghan Women Diplomats Training.** In March 2010, the Department of State's Office of Global Women's Issues organized a training and professional development program for 10 Afghan women diplomats. Subsequently all 10 were promoted at their next review.
- **Afghan Women Judges Training.** Since 2004, the International Association of Women Judges and the Association of Women Judges in Afghanistan have trained women judges in family, criminal, and civil law, funded by a grant from the State Department. The program also has provided legal and judicial awareness classes for high school girls and their teachers.
- **Afghan Women Leaders CONNECT,** founded by Council member Diana Rowan Rockefeller in 2002, identifies and supports effective and accountable Afghan women-led nonprofits that deliver education, health support, and legal aid services. It provides up to two years of in-depth, hands-on technical assistance and is using social media to publish women's stories and projects.
- **Capacity Building Project/Afghan Ministry of Labor.** Working with The Asia Foundation, the Department of Labor created a program to increase knowledge and awareness of Afghanistan's new labor code and internationally recognized core labor standards including anti-discrimination practices among judges, workers, and employers.
- **Family Law Study.** In cooperation with USAWC, the Woodrow Wilson Center and RAND Corporation researched and published a document, pro-bono, entitled *Best Practices: Progressive Family Laws in Muslim Countries*, depicting family laws in 12 Muslim-majority nations.
- **PlanetPix Media,** co-founded by Council member Mariam Atash Nawabi, is leading an initiative called the Afghan Women's Media Network and has produced programs using satire and comedy to teach about democracy and governance and to address key social issues including domestic violence, forced marriages, and family relations.
- **The Paley Center for Media,** led by Council member Pat Mitchell, convened a senior-level gathering of U.S. and Afghan media professionals in March 2010 to identify training and mentoring needs for Afghan women journalists, reporters, and producers, followed by a series of video conferences, professional exchanges, and mentoring sessions.
- **PBS/Afghanistan Unveiled.** From 2002-03 PBS, under Council member Pat Mitchell, partnered with The Asia Foundation and the AINA Media and Culture Center to provide training, internships, and equipment to five Afghan

camerawomen to produce the film *Afghanistan Unveiled*, which was nominated for an Emmy Award in the “News & Documentary” category.

- **Professional Exchanges** are funded by Abbott and hosted by the USAWC for visiting delegations from Afghanistan and its neighbors, as part of the State Department’s International Visitors’ Leadership Program, often including leaders from local government, NGOs, and media. Exchanges feature discussions and sharing of expertise on key political, economic, and social issues.
- **The US Institute of Peace**, through Ambassador Steven Steiner, leads a working group of Council members, NGOs, and government representatives to compile best practices in empowering Afghan and Iraqi women. In 2012, USIP will conduct a symposium of Afghan and Iraqi women leaders to share their experiences and expertise on empowering women in conflict situations and to establish an informal dialogue.
- **U.S. Leadership Management and Computer Education.** In 2002 the Council organized the travel of women from various Afghan government ministries to the United States for an educational exchange program that included computer training, proposal writing, and leadership management.
- **Women’s Resource Centers.** Seventeen Women’s Resource Centers were established between 2003 and 2005 with funding from USAID, TIME Warner, the Hasbro Foundation, Rotary International Clubs, and Afghan Women Leaders CONNECT. The centers foster literacy, computer skills, constitutional/human rights awareness, and entrepreneurship.

RELIEF AND SUPPORT

- **Afghans and Americans United**, by Council member Caroline Firestone, is the latest of three books revealing the beauty of a country left in ruins after decades of war and the stories of those determined to rebuild it. Proceeds from this and Mrs. Firestone’s two earlier books, *Afghanistan Evolving* and *Afghanistan in Transition*, support programs in Afghanistan. Now available also in Dari.
- **Creating New Communities for Internally Displaced.** In 2007, Council members Caroline Firestone and Doris Buffett established homes, schools, and community centers for 60,000 internally displaced persons in Kabul, including many families headed by women widowed from years of conflict. The facilities provide shelter, health care, and education.
- **Freddie Mac**, through Council member Tim McBride, provided \$40,000 to *Future Generations* in Bamiyan Province to provide accelerated literacy and health skills to village women, enabling them to gain employment as community health workers and midwives.
- **The Lamia Afghan Foundation** has collected, airlifted, and distributed more than 900,000 pounds of humanitarian aid for refugees and needy Afghan communities including winter clothing, blankets, nutrition, classroom equipment and medical and teaching supplies. In partnership with Feeding the Nations, it has provided more than one million meals to needy families in various provinces.



- **New Beginnings.** The Nooristan Foundation, under Council member Mariam Atash Nawabi, supports refugees; provides emergency winter aid (blankets, food, etc.); conducts literacy classes; helps children go to school; distributes bicycles; and offers job training to help women start businesses in poultry raising, sewing, and vegetable gardening.
- **The Nooristan Foundation** has supported 81 families in the Baghe Daoud refugee camp since 2008, providing emergency winter aid (blankets, food, etc.), arranging for children to attend school, and offering literacy classes and a job training program at the camp. It has distributed 286 bicycles to families in the camp to provide mobility.
- **Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, Inc.,** led by Council member Diana Rowan Rockefeller, has invested over \$1 million in nearly 40 programs in Afghanistan including small business training, fast track classes to mainstream older girls into school; efforts to increase female voter participation; legal training for women judges and lawyers; and combating domestic violence and child marriage, name a few.
- **Student Fellows of the U.S.-Afghan Women's Council** at Georgetown collected more than 3500 pounds of warm clothing during a campus drive in winter 2010. Clothing was airlifted and distributed by the Lamia Afghan Foundation.

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