**Manifesto about my Literary Journal**

***Bahar* is a new, biannual literary journal of Persian writers: both Afghan and Iranian women.**

We are a journal that empowers and gives a voice to the underrepresented women of Afghanistan and Iran. The two countries are going through hardship and revolution, with women fighting at the front lines. Oppression, sexism and vicious discrimination are running rampant with religion used as the justification. This journal aims to provide a safe space of free-thought and writing for our women.

*Bahar,* translated from Farsi, is the spring season, we hope to provide the space for new and enlightening writing, that exhibits freedom and emotion. We look towards the bright future with powerful words.

*Bahar*’s goal is not only write for ‘minority interest’ but for those who want to understand, educate and entertain themselves. We have an unbounded vision to provide you the ability to embrace and connect with the real human beings across the world, who our media and news has forgotten about. When the news was recent, there was much coverage on it, however as time has gone by, the media attention has favoured celebrity news and other topics instead. We emphasise on providing quality and thought-provoking writing across the globe.

Striving for not only gender-inclusivity and diversity, *Bahar* will aim to inform the Western world of the very current and devastating reality that women are experiencing in Afghanistan and Iran. Resistance is met with violence, there are bans on basic education, human rights are being violated, and the rest of the world cannot fathom that this is occurring – perhaps to the point of not wanting to think about it at all. It is real, and there are women who are experiencing it or are affected by it.

Like *Wasafiri*, which aims to provide much needed literary and critical coverage from writers in minority backgrounds, we desire to draw attention back on the marginalised groups which don’t receive mainstream attention.

We are an online and in-print journal, aiming to give exposure to our writers across the world.

*Bahar* is edited by Lily Majid, Parwana Zahib, Sidiq Zahib and Sidiqa Dashti.

**Our Call to You:**

*Bahar* accepts submissions from Afghan and Iranian women, whether they be residing in Afghanistan and Iran, or in other counties. Every voice impacted by our home countries deserves to be heard.

We publish prose, fiction, non-fiction and poetry. There are few boundaries that, if executed well, we do not mind being shattered. Our words will not be contained. We encourage honestly, eloquence and imagination. Any writing that holds power is considered.

We will not consider fantasy, magical realism, detective fiction or children’s literature.

We accept two pieces of original Farsi writing with each edition, which will be translated by our in-house experts, who will ensure the melody and smoothness is retained, maintaining the authenticity of the writing.

We look forward to reading your words.

*(Word Count – 477 words)*