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January/February 2024 News Bulletin

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January/February 2024

News Bulletin of the Alliance for the Education of Women Afghanistan

General Updates from the Alliance

ICAWWE Conference, Doha, Qatar

The American University of Afghanistan (AUAF) represented the Alliance for the Education of Women in Afghanistan at the International Conference on Afghan Women's Education (ICAWWE) held in Doha on December 9th, 2023. This conference, co-hosted by Qatar and Indonesia, focused on addressing the challenges Afghan women face in accessing quality education and served as a vital forum for the exchange of best practices and the formulation of strategies aimed at supporting their educational endeavors. Conference highlights included:

- **Advocating for Afghan Women's Education:** The conference centered on overcoming the barriers that hinder Afghan women from accessing quality education. It provided a platform for stakeholders to share effective practices and develop comprehensive strategies to bolster their educational journeys.

- **Evaluating the Current State of Education for Afghan Women:** Participants engaged in discussions to review the current conditions, recognize the progress made, and pinpoint the persistent challenges in the education of Afghan women. This exchange was pivotal in understanding the landscape and forging paths forward.
- **Developing a Strategic Roadmap:** A key objective of the ICAWE conference was to act as a catalyst for positive change. The event aimed at producing actionable recommendations and a strategic roadmap to advance the education sector for Afghan women, setting the stage for tangible improvements and sustained support.

The Alliance Grows!

We are excited to warmly welcome the newest Alliance member organizations, who joined us in December and January:

[Afghanistan Law and Political Science Association \(ALPA\)](#)

[Guldasta Academy](#)

[Justice For All Organization Canada](#)

[Kaaj Education Organization](#)

[United States Institute for Peace](#)

[Educate Girls Now](#)

[30 Birds Foundation](#)

[Afghan Female Student Outreach](#)

[Alliance for International Women's Rights](#)

[Women's Learning Partnership](#)

[Stanford Centre for South Asia](#)



Member Organization News

Educate Girls Now Announces Pathways School

Educate Girls Now is proud to announce the inauguration of our new "Pathways School" through which we will provide a full curricular pathway for Afghan students, primarily girls, to earn diplomas from an accredited US based school. Our curriculum allows students to meet the academic requirements for high school graduation and prepares them to attend a university outside of Afghanistan, an online regional university such as American University in Afghanistan, and/or participate in the economy of Afghanistan or other country. Our Pathways School has a highly trained and caring Afghan faculty who work closely with each student to ensure a full understanding of course material. In order to prepare students for this US and English based program, students must have achieved a working knowledge of English. Therefore, our Pathways School begins with English classes in kindergarten and continues on through 6th grade.

Beginning in 7th grade, since girls are no longer allowed to attend school in Afghanistan our Pathways School takes them from 7th through 12th grade. Starting in 7th grade, students who successfully finish each grade will earn certified transcripts from our accredited school. This is what makes Educate Girls

Now's Pathway School unique, i.e., we provide Afghan girls an opportunity to earn a certified, accredited diploma from a US based school taught by Afghan teachers on the ground in Afghanistan in their time zone.

For more information please contact: Marilyn Mosley Gordanier, Founder and President, Educate Girls Now at marilyn.mosley@gmail.com.

Vacancy Announcement from 30 Birds Foundation

30 Birds is looking for someone who can build out a program to help the top female Afghan students pursue their education in various countries around the world. This requires understanding and evaluating the academic capabilities of Afghan girls, building relationships with boarding schools and universities, working with government bodies to navigate visa processes, and the management/disbursal of scholarship funds. We are seeking someone who is passionate about girls' education, who has a knack for managing complex logistical operations, and who is relentlessly creative when it comes to solving problems that others think are impossible.

Read the full vacancy announcement here:

[Director of Immigration, Refugees, and Scholarship Opportunities](#)

New from ASU's Education for Humanity

ASU's Education for Humanity and Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan (CW4WA) recently launched a partnership to offer digital English language programs to women and girls across Afghanistan. This first cohort of learners has reached over 500 female students across the country.

ASU's Education for Humanity recently launched a new program in collaboration with the Afghanistan Female Student Outreach organization, reaching female students still residing within Afghanistan. These students are engaging in preparatory courses while pursuing scholarship opportunities to continue their educational journeys

ASU's Education for Humanity and Afghan Women Support recently collaborated to design and launch a program that will provide English language courses to female students in Afghanistan with hopes to pursue offline-access to these offerings in coming months.

Member Spotlight: Afghan Female Student Outreach (AFSO)

The Afghan Female Student Outreach (AFSO) is a non-profit organization, made up of volunteer professors from four continents who teach Afghan women currently living in Afghanistan, via zoom and other synchronous online platforms. These students have had their education interrupted and AFSO is trying to provide as many non-credit courses as possible to help them prepare for a possible academic future in or outside of Afghanistan.



Currently no one is doing what AFSO is doing: teaching English and university content classes to women in Afghanistan ranging from high school graduates to grad-school candidates. AFSO is offering a pathway for students to improve their English, writing, and critical thinking skills to the point where they are prepared to face the challenge of obtaining admission to respected universities and programs in their field outside Afghanistan. AFSO is offering the close, emotionally supportive attention that our volunteer professors and teaching assistants are offering to the students in our live, remote seminars.

We currently have 250 students registered for classes and over 50 faculty teaching STEM courses as well as courses in the humanities. We have been able to link with the Open Society University Network (OSUN) at Bard which can provide credit bearing courses for some of our advanced students.

Our AFSO students have now established a Student Advisory Board (SAB), which will keep us abreast of student needs and challenges as they evolve and will give us fresh ideas for curricular planning and communication. The students organized a Student Orientation this winter and also made a presentation at the Faculty Orientation, attended by 18 new instructors teaching a wide array of courses this spring. Watch for a new development on our website (afsousa.org) as the students plan a "Journals" section, highlighting student work and other new initiatives will be posted.

Current Courses Offered by Classrooms Without Walls

Classrooms Without Walls, driven by the belief that every individual deserves the right to education, established the Teachers for Afghanistan program in response to the ban on education and employment of women in Afghanistan. In March 2023, founder David Falconer began by teaching JSL novel to a small group of 30 students. During this time, he witnessed the immense wisdom and unwavering enthusiasm for learning among Afghan girls, which further fueled his determination to continue and expand the program. With the support of professionals and instructors who volunteered their time, the program has grown to include more than ten ongoing classes, benefiting over 200 Afghan students. These classes have not only enriched their lives but also empowered them to share their knowledge with their families and society. CWW is supported by four dedicated Afghan students who volunteer as Teaching Assistants – Niloufar Ahmadi, Latifa Khanjar, Marwa, and Heela Amanzai. Current courses offered by CWW include: English ESL (Basics, Intermediate and Advanced) & Speaking Classes University & career counseling; GED prep courses; The Adventures of Marathon Martin Developing Leadership skills Rotaract Club; Linear Algebra Computer Class Art Course; The Art of Persuasion; Marketing Fundamentals Workshop Human Rights Course; Yoga & Self-care Classes. Learn more: <https://classroomswithoutwalls.ca>

CW4WAfghan Looking for a Project Manager

Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan (CW4WAfghan) is recruiting a Project Manager for an exciting project focused on scaling its online high school for Afghan girls. [Read the full vacancy announcement.](#)

Kaaj's Legacy of Resilience: Turning Tragedy into Triumph

In the spirit of unwavering perseverance, the Kaaj Girls to University Program stands as a powerful testament to our commitment to transforming adversity into opportunity. From August 2023 to January 2024, Kaaj Education Organization embarked on a transformative journey with ten extraordinary young women—survivors of a tragic 2022 suicide attack on Kaaj STEM Tutoring Center in Afghanistan. This visionary initiative, fueled by hope and resilience, was designed to empower these remarkable individuals by guiding them through every stage of the application process for U.S. and Europe-based educational institutions.



KAAJ EDUCATION

Amina

"In the face of adversity in Afghanistan, Kaaj Education gave me the strength to pursue my dreams. I am grateful for the program's support, which helped me to get admitted to American University of Afghanistan (AUAF)"

#Kaajeducation

Kaaj's Legacy of Resilience: Turning Tragedy into Triumph

Kaaj's 'Girls to University Project' empowers survivors of a 2022 Kaaj tragedy, guiding them to success international higher education






www.kaajeducation.org

The Kaaj Girls to University Project is not merely a project; it encapsulates Kaaj's overarching mission to dismantle barriers through education. As we joyfully celebrate the achievements of our Kaaj Girls, each successfully applying to at least five higher education institutions abroad, joining a group of Kaaj alumni who have already attended UG and pre-university programs, we cast our gaze toward the future with unwavering optimism and determination. Our commitment to empowering lives, reshaping narratives, and nurturing a community that

thrives against all odds stands resolute. Together, we persist in inspiring change, crafting opportunities that transcend adversity and construct a brighter future.

Kaaj, a non-profit organization, is dedicated to transforming the lives of young girls in Afghanistan by furnishing them with the education, skills, and resources needed to excel in international colleges and universities. Through comprehensive language and digital literacy training, holistic mentorship, and technical support, we are paving the way for Afghan girls to become influential agents of change in their communities and the world. At Kaaj, we break through barriers, enabling girls to pursue their dreams with unwavering confidence.

Looking ahead, Kaaj Education Organization is poised to amplify its impact, extending its reach and creating transformative educational experiences. Our vision transcends immediate projects, aspiring to a future where every Afghan girl has the means to break barriers, thrive in international institutions, and lead progress and transformation. As we revel in the triumphs of today, we eagerly anticipate the positive changes our collective efforts will bring tomorrow.

Sector News

2023 Global Education Monitoring Report theme: Technology in Education

The sixth Global Education Monitoring (GEM) report, for the year 2023, was launched, focused on technology in education. An upcoming gender edition of the report is also expected soon. The report launched at an event attended by 18 ministers of education. Outreach and dissemination activities are expected to continue throughout 2024, including national, regional, and thematic discussions around its findings. The GEM Report team states, "In 2024, the GEM Report will continue monitoring progress on SDG 4 and analysing the implementation of national and international strategies to help hold all relevant partners to account for their commitments as part of the overall SDG follow-up and review progress." The next GEM report (2024/5) will be themed on leadership and education. [Learn more and read the report.](#)

New Report on De Facto Authorities' Management of Afghan Education

The NGO Afghan Witness has produced a report entitled, Taliban Management of the Education Sector, in which they examine "the Taliban's stated vision for education in Afghanistan in 2023, comparing the Taliban's stated vision for education and the reality experienced by practitioners, institutions, and students in the country." [Read/download the report here.](#)

Other News, Events, Opportunities of Interest

Medical Education Funding for Female Students

The Afghan Bureau Collaboration Office (ABCO), an NGO in Afghanistan, in collaboration with the European Society of Medicine through the UniHER Academic Support Fund Projects is funding distance/online bachelor studies for qualified medical students, encompassing the following online bachelor degree programs: Bachelor in Medical and Health Services Management;

Bachelor of Medical Science; Bachelor of Science in Nursing; Biotechnology Bachelor's Degree; Bachelor of Physiotherapy (Hons); Bachelor in Public Health (with Specializations in health, promotion, epidemiology, and community health). The deadline for applications is February 29th. [Click here to learn more or apply.](#)

State Department: Integrated Country Strategy for Afghanistan

The US State Department released its Integrated Country Strategy for Afghanistan in November. The document outlines the Chief of Mission Priorities, Mission Strategic Framework, Mission Goals and Objectives, and Management Objectives. [Click here to check it out.](#)



Second Doha Conference Coming Up

In February, Doha will play host to the second UN-hosted conference on Afghanistan, to be held February 18-19. The first was held in May 2023. Representatives of donor countries, Afghanistan's neighboring states, regional and international organizations, and others are expected to attend. The focus of this second conference will be on the recommendations of the UN's independent assessment report, by Feridoun Sinirloglu, the Special Coordinator of the United Nations for Afghanistan, as well as on increasing coordinated, coherent international engagement on Afghanistan.

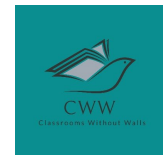
Findings of National Consultations With Women

UN Women has produced a summary of the findings from its country-wide women's consultations, presenting the perspectives of women across Afghanistan on their current situation and priorities. [Click here to read it.](#)

Coming Next!

In our next newsletter, we look forward to updating you on the activities of the Alliance's working tracks: Connectivity & Logistics; Mapping & Recognition; Bridging; Advocacy; Resources; Medical Education; and, Heritage Education. We will also introduce you to more new Alliance members, with profiles of the work of these new members of our growing community.

The deadline for submissions to the next newsletter will be: March 31, 2024.





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