

2011 Annual Report



Cover photo by Xabier Mikel Laburu

Photo 1: “Say NO to Violence Against Women!” poster created by HAWCA on IWD.

Photo 2: A girl in HAWCA’s primary school; photo by Steffer Scharagle.

Photo 3: Award received by HAWCA; photo by Nocem Collado.

Photo 4: A girl in HAWCA’s shelter; photo by Nocem Collado.

Photo 5: A woman receiving loan through JMCP; photo by HAWCA.

Photo 6: A woman seeking assistance through HAWCA’s LAC-Herat; photo by HAWCA.

Photo 7: A girl in HAWCA’s LAC-Kabul; photo by HAWCA.

Photo 8: Students in HAWCA’s peace building center; photo by HAWCA.

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Photo 10: Training of ICCO Afghan Partners on UNSCR 1325 in HAWCA’s main office; photo by HAWCA.

Photo 11: Students in HAWCA’s culture center; photo by HAWCA.

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Photo 13: Street child; photo by Steffen Scharagle.

Photo 14: Selay Ghaffar, Executive Director of HAWCA in Geneva – Switzerland; photo by HAWCA.

Photo 15: A girl in HAWCA’s literacy center in Kabul; photo by Steffer Scharagle.



Humanitarian Assistance for the Women and Children of Afghanistan (HAWCA)

Annual Report 2011

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به خشونت علیه زنان نه بگوئید! Say NO to Violence Against Women!



We reached to the twelfth year of establishment of HAWCA, amid the circumstances where the world has called Afghanistan the most dangerous place for women to live. Yes it is true, we are living in a country with the highest rate of self-immolation of women and girls in the world, highest mortality of women during birth, the culture of impunity is ruling for the rapists of women and children, more women are drifted into drug world. The situation is worst for the children, every day and night mobs of children, girls and boys, are cascading as street children in the main cities of Afghanistan. They are subjected to various crimes.

In the year 2011, I had the opportunity to represent the Afghan Civil Society Organizations in the Bonn Conference II on Afghanistan. This was a good opportunity for me learn and express our concern on the rights of women and girls in Afghanistan. I would like to thank all those organizations who trusted me and gave their valuable votes so I can represent them in the conference.

Last year, HAWCA produced a documentary called “Dark Flowers: The Story of Self-immolation in Afghanistan”. It depicts the story of two women, “Mariam” and “Skakila” who represent a large population of the country, alight themselves to protect. HAWCA created and distributed the documentary in three languages (Dari, Pashto and English) for vulnerable and abused women who may try to commit suicide by self-immolation. This documentary is essentially proactive in the sense that it will attempt to reach out to oppressed women who feel that they have no alternative but to put an end to their life, protesting against their awful conditions.

Taking this opportunity on behalf of HAWCA, I express my gratitude to our direct and indirect project beneficiaries, donors and partners without whom the successful implementation of projects would have been impossible.

We will continue to struggle for elimination of violence against women, gender equality and adequate facilities for youths and children.



Selay Ghaffar
Executive Director
HAWCA



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About HAWCA

A group of youths were active since 1992 doing volunteer work in Afghan refugee camps in Pakistan but after seven years of sporadic works they decided to get organized which resulted in foundation of a humanitarian organization. Humanitarian Assistance for the Women and Children of Afghanistan (HAWCA) was established in January 1999 by a group of youth Afghan women and men. HAWCA's

establishment was motivated by the despair and devastation suffered by Afghan women and children as victims of war and injustice in Afghanistan and as refugees in Pakistan. Living under the same conditions and experiencing the same misery as millions of Afghans in Afghanistan and in Pakistan during the civil war, the leading members of HAWCA committed to achieving their aims and objectives as volunteers, and devoted their efforts to improving the lives of Afghans under difficult circumstances, from the era of Taliban domination to today's insecure Afghanistan.

HAWCA encourages the active participation of Afghan women and youth in the reconstruction and development processes of their country, and works in partnership with institutions and organizations that focus on just development in Afghanistan.

HAWCA received following awards since its establishment in 1999:

Isabel Ferror's Award: On 8th of March 2000 which was given for those who work on women's education;

Amnesty International Award: Amnesty International title for working on human rights for children and women from Italian Section;

Medalla de Oro del Ayuntamiento de Arganda del Rey: On 6th December 2001 HAWCA received the "Medalla de Oro del Ayuntamiento de Arganda del Rey" award in Arganda, Spain for its humanitarian activities.

Amotinada Mayor: "Amotinada Mayor" from Madrid of Spain, an award dedicated for the women of Afghanistan and received it as real representative of them in Humanitarian Field, on 9th of September 2002.

Sabino Arana Foundation's Golden Shield: On 27th January-2002, Spain. The Award was given especially to HAWCA and The New York Fire Department.

Award of l'hospitalet, the city of Cooperation: On 27th January 2002, HAWCA received the "Award of l'Hospitalet", from the city hall of l'hospitalet in Barcelona, Spain.

Primo Donne Award: On 12th March 2002, HAWCA has been honored to receive an award from Italy called "Primo Donne" from an institution called ANRP.

Emma Humphreys Memorial Prize (EHMP): HAWCA received the first ever international award of Emma Humphreys Memorial Prize (EHMP) from UK on November 27, 2009.



Mission

HAWCA is an Afghan national NGO dedicated to working for the social well-being of all people with a particular focus on women and children.

Vision

HAWCA envisions a safe and just society where all Afghans (men, women, children, elders) regardless of their race, ethnicity, tribe, language, and religion receive equal benefit from development processes and work together for a safer and better world.

Goals

HAWCA aims to encourage the active participation of women in the reconstruction and development of Afghanistan.

Mandate

HAWCA is and intends to be, mainly but not exclusively, engaged in promoting the participation of Afghan women in the development process and improve the well-being of women and children in Afghanistan. Consequently HAWCA's mandates include:

1. Protection and Counseling
2. Education and Peace Building
3. Promoting Income-Generating and Micro-Credit Activities
4. Health and Child Care
5. Advocacy for Women and Children's Rights at National and International Level
6. Emergency Response Operations
7. Sponsorship Program

Membership

HAWCA is member of the following networks:

- Afghan Women's Network (AWN) – Member and Executive Board Member
- Civil Society and Human Rights Network (CSHRN) – Member and Executive Board Member
- South Asia Alliance for Grassroots NGOs (SAAGN Network) - Member

The Protection Project

Project Location: Kabul and Herat

Duration of Project: 2011

Donor of Project: UN Women

Status of Project: Ongoing

The Protection Project is composed of two parts: 1- Safe House for Women at Risk, 2- Legal Aid Center for Female Victims of Violence.

The safe house receives beneficiaries from different provinces and sometimes from Iran and Pakistan as well, HAWCA policy is to promote tolerance among the beneficiaries and tries to assist them to learn about the basic values of democracy and human rights while living in the same environment. The beneficiaries are related to different tribes, families and religious, but the management staffs of safe house are behaving with them equally and empower them with the sense of cooperation with each other at all time.

In this center, defense lawyers with the help of under-graduate law students/practicing lawyers provide legal advice and assistance for women and girls who are victims of domestic and sexual violence and harmful practices. This legal center also provides legal trainings to the recently graduated law students and other women and girls. The content of the trainings for the law students is more focused on how to deal with their clients to gain their trust and help them out. Other professional trainings are also provided to them. We also have trainings for other women and girls. These trainings include the women rights in Afghanistan Constitution; International Law and etc. The trainers of these trainings are law professionals and lecturers from Law Faculty of legal university. Besides this the aid center tries to establish a close coordination and relation with organizations that provide legal aid and advice to females. During this period 196 women benefited from the legal assistance and 54 women from the psycho-social counseling of the center.

During 2011, 550 women and girls benefited from both component of the project both in Kabul and Herat.



A Holistic Approach to Reduction of VAW in Afghanistan

Project Location: Herat

Duration of Project: 2011

Donor of Project: MAE Italy, ActionAid Italy and Afghanistan

Status of Project: Ongoing

The goal of this project is to contribute to the reduction of violence against women; facilitate their access to justice; facilitate awareness of gender rights; facilitate women's use of services and exercise of legal protection within the framework of the National Action Plan for Women in Afghanistan (NAPWA). It is implemented in the five districts of Herat Province.

This project started from September 2011 and will be implemented for three years to reach the following results:

The Community Development Council (CDCs) are sensitized on the issue of VAW and REFLECT circles are formed and serve as spaces for participation, mutual support and social mobilization.

MPs, opinion leaders and the general public are informed on the implementation of the NAPWA, sensitized on the responsibilities of their role in relation to the VAW and keep watch on the application of the laws and the policies in favour of the women.

Paralegal advisors are trained and their assistance to the women victims of violence is sustainable and aligned with the interventions by institutions and professionals.

assistance to the women victims the interventions by institutions



Legal Aid Center for Female Victims of Violence – Kabul

Project Location: Kabul, Afghanistan

Duration of Project: Since December 2009

Donor and Partner of Project: British Embassy Kabul

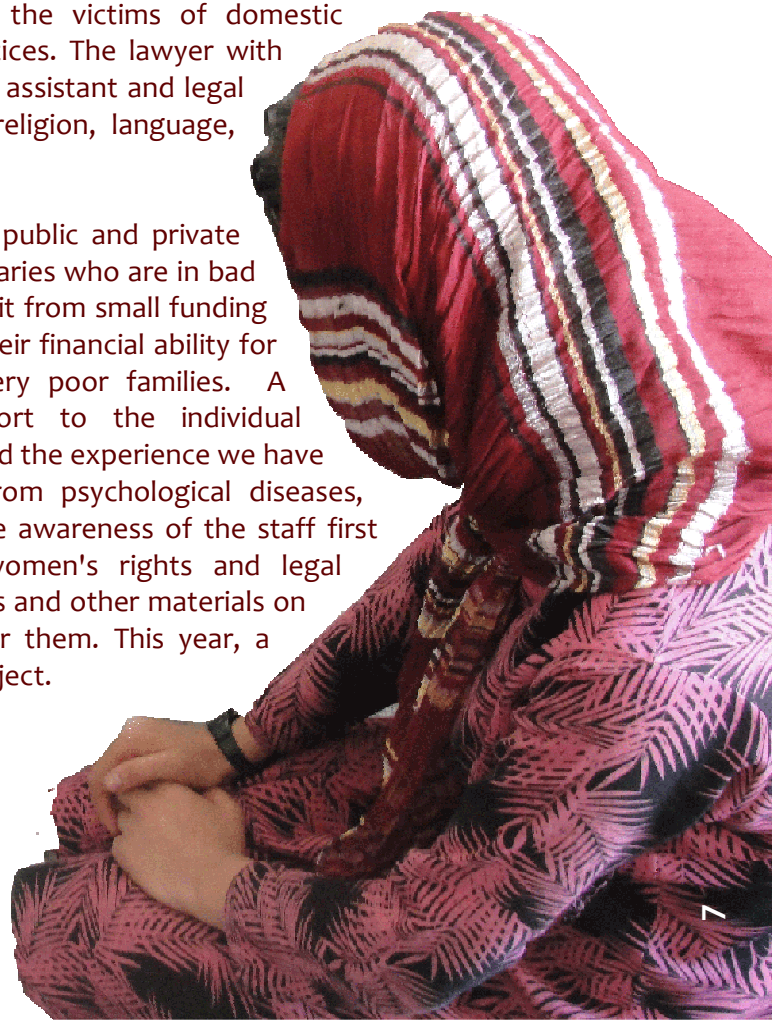
Status of Project: Ongoing

After the successful opening of "Legal Aid Center for Female Victims of Violence" in Herat City, HAWCA is opened another "Legal Aid Center for Female Victims of Violence" in Kabul City in December 2009. This project has been funded by Oxfam Novib, British Embassy in Kabul and NZAID with the help of an Afghan organization, Fayaz Foundation, based in Netherlands, active in lobbying and advocacy for human rights. This center works for the victims of domestic violence, sexual violence and harmful practices.

In this center, two lawyers with the help of under-graduate law students/practicing lawyers provide legal advice and assistance for women and girls who are victims of domestic and sexual violence. This legal center also provides legal trainings to the recently graduated law students and other women and girls. The content of the trainings for the law students is more focused on how to deal with their clients to gain their trust and help them out. Other professional trainings is also provided to them. We also have trainings for other women and girls. These trainings include the women rights in Afghanistan Constitution; International Law and etc. The trainers of these trainings are law professionals and professors from Law Faculty of Kabul University. Besides this the legal aid center tries to establish a close coordination and relation with organizations that provide legal aid and advice to females.

All beneficiaries of the project are women and girls who are facing violence and are in need of legal assistant. HAWCA provides help to the victims of domestic violence, sexual violence and harmful practices. The lawyer with help of practicing lawyer are providing legal assistant and legal advices for all beneficiaries regardless of religion, language, ethnicity, culture and others.

HAWCA established connection with some public and private hospitals for the treatment of some beneficiaries who are in bad condition. Some beneficiaries also get benefit from small funding through this project for their treatment if their financial ability for treatment was very low or belong to very poor families. A psychologist provides psychosocial support to the individual beneficiaries of the project. As a clear fact and the experience we have almost all victims of violence suffering from psychological diseases, depression and stress. HAWCA tries to raise awareness of the staff first and then the beneficiaries on human women's rights and legal awareness. All laws, convention, declarations and other materials on human women's right will be providing for them. This year, a number of 189 women and girls from this project.



Peace Building for New Generation

Project Location: Herat City, Afghanistan

Duration of Project: 2009

Donor of Project: ICCO

Status of Project: Ongoing

This project is aiming to promote peace building and conflict resolution among the children of the communities in suburbs of Herat City in the west of Afghanistan. The project has 200 direct beneficiaries including girls and boys and around 7000 indirect beneficiaries as families of students and staffs. The study program helps girls and boys children in an after school program. It accepts those children who are attending primary schools from 1st to 6th grade. Within 12 months the children are expected to learn about the methods of conflict resolution and promoting peace within their families as well as their communities. HAWCA has experience with this project in the last four years in Kabul, Nuristan and Samangan provinces. The local communities living in a deep poverty and on day-to-day work are not in the position to contribute materially to the project, however HAWCA will ensure to get their commitment as local community to protect and support the center's reputation in the location and collaborate in the overall management of the center.



UNSCR 1325/1820 Implementation in Afghanistan

Project Location: Kabul, Bamyan, Wardak and Herat.

Duration of Project: October 2010 to September 2012

Donor of Project: ICCO

Status of Project: Ongoing

Afghanistan comes in the top list of countries in conflict but nothing has been done when it comes to the implementation of the UNSCR 1325/1820 in more systematic way. Although the efforts of Afghan women groups and organizations are largely contributing to the implementation of UNSCR 1325/1820, but there has not been a systematic effort to ensure the full implementation through a comprehensive action plan.

On the occasion of 10th anniversary of UNSCR 1325/1820, HAWCA and AWEC decided to work for the implementation of this resolution in the country. HAWCA and AWEC have expertise on this resolution and have many years of experience in aid for women have taken the lead to this process, while it will engage the rest of ICCO Afghanistan Program Coalition to ensure that this action plan is comprehensive at national level for Afghanistan and more specifically at local level to areas where are the geographical focus of ICCO and its partners.

This program will include the capacity building of Afghan coalition partners, AWN and concerned governmental department at province level (Bamyan, Herat and Wardak); establishment of a Steering Committee and a Working Group to prepare the national action plan for implementation of UNSCR 1325/1820. While this program will have developing a national and international level advocacy strategy for a core group on the progress Afghan women make in this field, it will also have specific inputs at the three provinces to start with which can later expand further by ICCO partners and beyond.



Afghanistan: Identity, Training, Work – Phase 2

Project Type: Education and Training

Project Location: Kabul

Duration of Project: Since 2007

Donor of Project: MAE Italy, Italian Cooperation, ICS and CISDA.

Status of Project: Ongoing

Officially the name of this project is "Afghanistan ITW (Identity, Training, Work)", which is a cultural center where public especially women and girls can take advantage of it. This cultural center has library, internet point, historic archive, English and computer courses, movie archive, music class, training/conference/exhibition hall. The other aim of this project is to co-finance a part of safe house activities and empowerment of HAWCA management by organizing training for HAWCA managers and operators on project cycle management, micro-credit and fair trade.

To make the project economically sustainable, one of the components of the project is to establish a print house. The profit earned from the print house will be utilized to run the activities of the project once duration ends.



Capacity Building of Defense Lawyers on Family Law

Project Type: Education and Awareness Raising

Project Location: Kabul

Duration of Project: 2011

Donor of Project: AWE Grants

Status of Project: Ended

Women of Afghanistan is experiencing different kind of violence and discrimination either in the family or work place. Based on the reports 1 in every 3 Afghan women experience physical, psychological or sexual violence and 70 to 80 percent of women face forced marriages in Afghanistan. Weak judiciary system due to the lack of staff professionalism is another obstacle. HAWCA runs legal aid centers in the 3 zones of Afghanistan that provides legal aid, counselling and psychosocial support to the victims of violence. To protect the rights of women and make sure they access fair justice and their awareness on women's rights are increased; there is need to train the lawyers, practicing lawyers and judges on constitutional rights of women, women's rights as human rights and also to be trained on national and international laws and treaties in order to defend the case in the favor of a woman. The center lawyers will conduct every month awareness training for women beneficiaries and their family members where they can share these awareness with them and make them aware of their legal and constitutional rights. Beside that the lawyer every two months has to conduct a meeting with community leaders and councils where they can also aware the community about the rights of women and how to protect them considering the formal justice system. The practicing lawyers after 3 months working in the center will conduct a session in their respective class for their class mate and a seminar in the university which will be targeted to all students from different faculty. This will help to decrease in practicing of harmful cultural practices like bad and badal, early forced marriages etc meanwhile it support the strengthening of formal justice system. Judges of family and juvenile courts need to be trained to build their capacity so they could take the decision in the favor of women based on their rights that has been guaranteed in the Afghanistan constitution and national laws.



Sponsorship

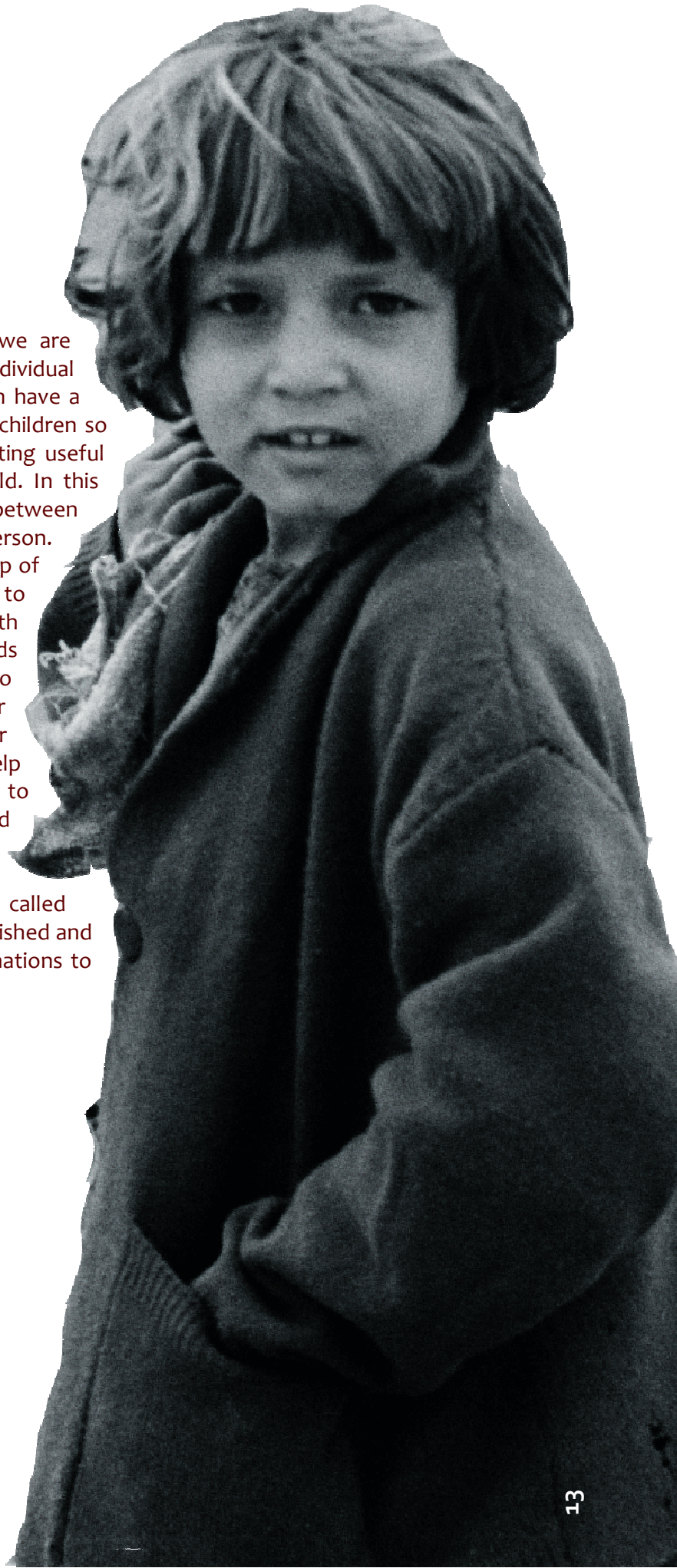
Project Type: Sponsorship

Project Location: Kabul

Donor of Project: Individual Supporters

Status of Project: Ongoing

Since HAWCA's establishment in 1999, we are running this project in order to support individual families, children and women so they can have a normal. For example, we are supporting children so they go back to school instead of collecting useful stuff from garbage or being a labor child. In this program, HAWCA is acting as a bridge between the sponsoring person and sponsored person. During the year 2011, HAWCA with the help of individuals and supporters managed to sponsor several girls and boys. Each month a fixed amount of money is given to the kids in the condition that they have to go to school and score good grades in their exams. There some special cases in our sponsorship project that HAWCA with help of its foreign supporters has helped them to be operated in Europe or being treated here in Afghanistan. This year HAWCA with the support an Italian newspaper called l'Unita started to joint project called Precious Life, in which the stories are published and readers of this newspaper send their donations to these individuals.



Other Activities

In the year 2011, HAWCA representative participated in many national and international workshops, conferences and other events. Some of the important ones are as following:

- Selay Ghaffar represented the Afghan civil society in Kazakhstan Conference on Afghanistan.
- Selay Ghaffar represented the Afghan civil society in Bonn Conference II on Afghanistan.

