



Omid International

Newsletter :January to June , 2024



WELCOME TO OUR FIRST SIX MONTHS NEWSLETTER

What to expect...

- *Istanbul, Turkey: Pre-Peace Advocacy Conference*
- *International Peace Advocacy Conference, Dushanbe, Tajikistan*
- *Kazakhstan, Europe, Pakistan, Iran, and Afghanistan Peace Advocacy Dialogues / Awareness Raising Sessions*
- *The Omid International Peace Education Mentoring Program*
- *Post-Conference Dialogues: Initiating Ongoing Collaboration*

Istanbul, Turkey: Pre-Peace Advocacy Conference

The OI director embarked on her most challenging endeavor yet, rallying her entire team to organize a peace conference and dialogues. Managing these programs across different countries with participants from around the globe posed numerous logistical hurdles. This included selecting locations, venues, panelists, speakers, and participants from diverse backgrounds. Choosing the most impactful subjects was crucial for fostering peace, facilitating peace negotiations, and transferring knowledge to young women. Many articles were written on these topics, meticulously reviewed by the OI team, and presented by the authors during the conference and dialogues.



International Peace Advocacy Conference, Dushanbe, Tajikistan

Omid International concluded a pivotal conference in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, from December 4-6, 2023, aiming to empower Afghan women and advance peace in Afghanistan. In partnership with the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund, Cordaid, and support from the Centre for Afghanistan and Regional Studies (CARS), the conference was meticulously organized, incorporating extensive consultations with young Afghan women.

Conference Overview: Focused on enhancing young Afghan women's involvement in peace dialogues, the event highlighted four key pathways:

1. Gender-inclusive peace negotiations
2. Ensuring safety for Afghan women
3. Empowering through education
4. Promoting economic empowerment

Key Highlights: Approximately 70 participants, including Afghan asylum seekers and refugee women, participated both in-person and virtually. Notable figures from the EU Parliament, UN agencies, and high-level political leaders emphasized the conference's significance.



Call to Action:

Omid International urges international actors and the Afghan diaspora to:

1. Increase Afghan women's participation in peace processes.
2. Ensure safety and security for Afghan women.
3. Support access to education and peacebuilding efforts.
4. Promote economic empowerment through investments in women-led businesses.



A group of 223 young intellectual women from Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Europe, Pakistan, Iran, and Afghanistan, along with 45 women who participated in a preconference consultation, conducted mostly face-to-face and some hybrid meetings. The focus was on enhancing the role of young Afghan women in the peace process, advocating for policy changes through impactful awareness campaigns and policy dialogues. During these sessions, participants passionately shared their suggestions and insights, setting a strong agenda for current and future advocacy efforts.

Dushanbe, Tajikistan Peace Advocacy Dialogues

Dushanbe, February 29, 2024 – OI hosted a follow-up dialogue with Afghan women and UN representatives to advance the "Call for Action" from their December 2023 conference, featuring moderators Zakia Alizada and Malika Jurakulova, and speakers including Parvathy Ramaswami and Hanifa Sultani.

UNICEF: Document assistance and employment guidance.

UN Women: Empowerment projects for refugees.

UNFPA: Focus on women's issues and integration.

UNHCR: Support for education and domestic violence resources.

IOM: Project and planning support.

This event emphasized the UN's commitment to empowering Afghan women through education, economic opportunities, and leadership roles, vital for peace and a fairer future in Afghanistan.



Almaty, Kazakhstan Hosts Transformative Peace Advocacy Workshop

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On Sunday, March 17, 2024, participants from Omid International Dushanbe gathered in Almaty, Kazakhstan for a powerful workshop aimed at raising awareness and advocating for peace. Led by CEO Rahela Sediqi, the event took place at the Community Center and engaged a vibrant group of 35 participants, including intellectual women, mentors, and young Afghan women leaders. The workshop was dedicated to empowering Afghan women and driving positive change, marking a significant step in Omid International's mission. Special recognition goes to mentors Farahnaz Mahsheed, Shamsi Gul Gul Mir, Nikbakht Rezayee, and Zakia Noori, with heartfelt appreciation extended to Mrs. Rahela Sediqi for her exceptional mentorship and leadership.



Leading Online Europe Peace Advocacy Dialogue

The OI Peace Advocacy Dialogue, held on March 25, 2024 and moderated by Manizha Isaar, featured distinguished panelists including Mrs. Rahela Sediqi, Richard Bennett, Maliha Shirzay, and Mitra Tanomand. This dynamic event united stakeholders such as the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Afghanistan, representatives from the Women's Peace & Humanitarian Fund, and resilient young Afghan women.

Key discussions centered on elevating Afghan women's voices and addressing critical issues of safety, education, and well-being. Richard Bennett's commitment to recognizing intersectional issues and fostering international collaboration underscored a collective push for meaningful change.

Peace Advocacy and Awareness Session in Islamabad, Pakistan

OI's workshop in Islamabad on March 31, 2024, was a significant step in our mission to advocate for peace and prosperity for Afghan women. Facilitated by key moderators Roqia Rezaie, Lida Saidhkily, and Farahnaz Mahsheed, the event brought together 32 participants, including young Afghan women leaders, human rights activists, and peace promoters.

This session empowered Afghan women, fostered public support, and advanced the vision of a peaceful and prosperous Afghanistan. We appreciate the participants' enthusiastic involvement and commitment.



Update Peace Advocacy and Awareness Session in Tehran, Iran

April 15, 2024-OI organized a regional dialogue in Tehran, Iran, dedicated to empowering Afghan women in advancing peace efforts. Managed by Nadeya Sediqi, the event saw the active participation of 25 bright young Afghan women.

Prioritizing peace education, incorporating gender equality into legal frameworks, and establishing safe working environments for women. Participants focused on the transformative impact of technology, emphasizing its role in amplifying Afghan women's voices through increased internet access. They highlighted the importance of supporting women to access remote work opportunities, thereby fostering economic independence and resilience.

Peace Advocacy and Awareness Session Held in Kabul

April 28, 2024 –OI organized a pivotal peace advocacy awareness program in Kabul, Afghanistan. Moderated by OI's dedicated peace advocates and mentors, the event gathered 50 young women to actively shape a narrative of peace and progress.

Despite the hardships faced in Afghanistan, women continue to demonstrate a steadfast commitment to fostering peace and improving their own lives. This session highlighted their resilience and determination to make a positive impact amidst challenging circumstances.

OI remains steadfast in its dedication to empowering Afghan women and fostering a brighter, inclusive future through collaboration and meaningful dialogue.

The Omid International Peace Education Mentoring Program With Rahela Trust

Mentoring took center stage following the landmark peace justice milestone at the OI international conference. In collaboration with Rahela Trust, Omid International has initiated an impactful peer mentoring program aimed at enabling young women. Currently, 18 dynamic WhatsApp groups, comprising 180 young women from diverse backgrounds, actively participate in this transformative initiative.

Under the coordination of Rahela Trust, peer mentoring sessions are tailored to each group's needs, covering essential topics such as English proficiency, international relations, human rights advocacy, leadership, web design, and marketing. Bi-weekly sessions are designed to accommodate mentees across different time zones, focusing on peace education, advanced English skills, and management techniques.



Post-Conference Dialogues Initiate Ongoing Collaboration

Following a successful conference, stakeholders have launched dialogues to deepen discussions and foster ongoing collaboration. Strategic responsibilities and action plans have been outlined to enable Afghan women and advance peace goals.

Next Steps Strategies:

- **Financial and logistical support:** Donors are urged to provide vital support for sustainability.
- **Leadership in initiatives:** Omid International will guide post-conference efforts and engage stakeholders with an organic project approach.
- **Active engagement and knowledge sharing:** Participants are encouraged to apply skills, share knowledge, and commit to continuous learning.
- **International support:** Stakeholders globally will engage in diplomacy, enact policy changes, and offer technical aid to sustain initiatives.



These steps aim for strategic fund allocation, continuous engagement, and organic action plans to ensure lasting peace and empowerment for Afghan women.



About Omid International

Omid International, founded by Rahela Sediqi, empowers Afghan women and youth by promoting peace, women's rights, and countering extremism. We provide job opportunities, peace advocacy, leadership, and mentoring to underprivileged Afghan women, while also supporting engagement of the Afghan diaspora worldwide with Afghanistan's social landscape.



Thank you.



A United Nations & Civil Society Partnership



Take action now to ensure their vital role in shaping a lasting and inclusive future. Together, let's ensure a more inclusive and sustainable peace for all.

Join Us!



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