

# Afghan/Canadian Women's Symposium: Building a Better Future Together

September 26-27, 2022

SHAW CONFERENCE CENTER, ROOM 102 • 55 COLONEL BY DRIVE • OTTAWA, ONTARIO • CANADA

This symposium will convene global experts to analyze and bring light to the reality on the ground for women in Afghanistan, highlighting the needs of Afghan women both inside and outside of Afghanistan, and presenting the Government of Canada with a series of calls to action.

## SEPTEMBER 26

5:30 – 7:00 PM

### Reception

Valour Building, Ottawa

### Welcome

Patricia Cooper, Sen. McPhedran, MP Khalid

### Networking session for attendees

## SEPTEMBER 27TH

7:30 – 8:30 AM

### Registration and Coffee/Tea

Shaw Conference Center, Room 102,  
55 Colonel By Drive

### Opening Session

Zarqa Yaftali, Director of Women and Children Legal Research Foundation and Board member of WRN.

8:30 – 10:15 AM

### PANEL 1: Humanitarian Crisis in Afghanistan: Measuring Canada's Response

This panel will analyze the current human rights and humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan and its impact on women and girls. It will identify the policy changes needed to ensure humanitarian aid is reaching those who need it and that Canada's response is aligned with the Feminist Foreign Policy (FFP) and Feminist International Assistance Policy (FIAP).

### Participants:

- Wazhma Frogh (WPSO)
- Shinkai Karokhail, former Afghan Ambassador to Canada
- Lauryn Oates, Executive Director, Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan

**Moderator:** Sarah Keeler, Advocacy and Engagement Manager, Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan

10:15 – 10:30 AM

### Break

10:30 – 12:15 PM

### PANEL 2: Pathways to Safety, Resettlement and Integration for Afghan Women: Barriers and Opportunities

This panel will highlight obstacles to safe passage, including issues within IRCC and UNHCR, and discuss practices which could be adapted to address these issues, including the recommendations from the Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration. The panel will also share ideas on how integration into Canadian society can be facilitated, with a focus on youth, employment, cultural and language integration.

### Participants:

- MP Salma Zahid, Chair of the Parliamentary Committee on Immigration
- Adeena Niazi, Executive Director of Afghan Women's Organization Refugee & Immigrant Services
- Maryam Monsef, former Minister for Women and Gender Equality
- Raihana Azad, Afghan MP currently in Albania

**Moderator:** Sen. McPhedran

12:15 – 1:30 PM

### Lunch Break

1:30 – 3:15 PM

### PANEL 3: Mobilizing the International Community: The Future of Advocacy for Afghan Women

This panel will discuss Canada's leadership role among its allies in international advocacy for and with Afghan women, with reference to UN Resolution 1325 and Canada's Feminist Foreign Policy. It will look at the role of the UN Security Council and its member states in supporting the rights of women and girls.

### Participants:

- Rina Amiri, US Special Envoy for Afghan Women, Girls, and Human Rights
- Richard Bennett, UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Afghanistan
- Tomas Niklasson, EU Special Envoy to Afghanistan
- Alison Mairam Davidian, Country Director, UN Women, Afghanistan
- Bob Rae, Canadian Ambassador to the UN
- Shahla Aarifi, Human Rights Activist

**Co-moderators:** Nargis Nehan, former Acting Minister of Mines and Petroleum in Afghanistan

Iqra Khalid, MP for Erin Mills

3:15 – 3:30 PM

### Closing Remarks

Ambassador Jacqueline O'Neill, Ambassador for Women, Peace and Security

### Present Policy Recommendations/ Calls to Action

Take a joint photo

This event is made possible through the generous support of Senator Marilou McPhedran, Member of Parliament Iqra Khalid, and a coalition of supporting parliamentarians.

#Canada4AfghanWomen