



FEMINIST MAJORITY

Working for Women's Equality

Peace Action

May 20, 2009

Dear Senator/Representative:

Afghan women desperately need our help. As you consider the FY09 supplemental funding bill, aid for critically needed educational, occupational and health programs for Afghan women and girls must be included.

We urge you to include funding in the supplemental funding bill that will go directly to Afghan women-led non-profit organizations providing programs for Afghan women and girls, the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission and the Ministry of Women's Affairs.

We also urge you to cosponsor the Afghan Women Empowerment Act (S229/HR2214), legislation that will help strengthen and empower women and girls in Afghanistan by providing critical resources to non-governmental organizations that work to promote literacy, job training programs and health care services.

The Afghan Women Empowerment Act will specifically focus on providing services directly to Afghan women such as adult literacy education, technical and vocational training and health care services, including mental health treatment. It also provides assistance to especially vulnerable populations, including widows and orphans.

Afghan women need our help. They have shown over and over again that they are willing to risk their lives for education, health care, and basic human rights. Please lend your support to them.

Sincerely,

Alliance of Faith and Feminism
American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)
Afghanistan Advocacy Group
Coalition of Labor Union Women
Commonwell International, Inc.
Equality Now
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Feminist Majority
Institute for Policy Studies
Just Foreign Policy
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns
National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW)
National Council of Women's Organizations (NCWO)
National Organization for Women (NOW)
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health (NPWH)
NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby
Peace Action
True Majority.org/USAction
Turning Anger into Change
Peace with Justice Program, United Methodist General Board of Church & Society
Veteran Feminists of America
Women's Action for New Directions (WAND)
Women's Environment & Development Organization (WEDO)
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, US (WILPF)
Women's Research and Education Institute (WREI)
3D Security Initiative