Keeping the World’s Attention on Afghanistan

As the world turned its attention to the war in Ukraine, we never stopped advocating for the people of Afghanistan.

On the heels of the Taliban’s brutal takeover of Afghanistan in August 2021, the country continued to descend into a historic humanitarian crisis in 2022. We implored the international community not to look away even as new crises unfolded elsewhere.

From submissions to the UN Human Rights Council to calls for action shared loud and clear with our global audience, we urged the immediate flow of humanitarian aid to the people of Afghanistan and demanded that the voices of Afghan women and girls — those most impacted by the crisis — be at the front and centre of humanitarian missions, negotiations, and peace talks.

To advance these efforts in 2023 and beyond, we convened over 32 Afghan activists and lay the foundations for the Umbrella of Afghan Women Leaders - an initiative dedicated to coordinating women’s networks and coalitions inside Afghanistan and around the world. The Umbrella initiative was launched in 2023.

We also continued to work side-by-side with the staff, volunteers, and members of WILPF Afghanistan as the Section worked to address the critical needs of Afghan women and girls from exile.

“In the long-term, I’m definitely hopeful. Afghanistan is our country, our responsibility, and we have to ensure Afghanistan can stand on its feet again.”

— Jamila Afghani, President of WILPF Afghanistan and Vice President of WILPF
Celebrating WILPF’s Vice President Jamila Afghani, Winner of the 2022 Aurora Prize for Awakening Humanity

In October, we were proud to celebrate the tireless efforts and impact of one of our own when Jamila Afghani, President of WILPF Afghanistan and Vice President of WILPF, was named the 2022 winner of the Aurora Prize for Awakening Humanity.

Jamila, who was forced to flee Afghanistan during the Taliban takeover and recently settled in Canada, received the honour in recognition of her work with WILPF in Afghanistan and the Noor Educational and Capacity Development Organization (NECDO).

Read our interview with Jamila Afghani to learn more about her work on behalf of the people of Afghanistan and why she’s optimistic about the future.

Visit our dedicated page on Afghanistan to access all recent stories, statements, submissions, policy briefs, and open letters.