

Projects and Fundraising

Education will empower Afghan women and girls.

Hence raising scholarship funds for young women studying at the Gawharshad Institute of Higher Education in Kabul is our chief mission. GIHE was founded by our Afghan mentor, Dr. Samar to ensure a pool of educated women was available to take leadership roles in future Afghan governments. Classes are co-ed and human rights and democracy are part of the curriculum.



NAC Musical Dinner and Silent Auction



Summer Evening Garden Reception

Awards

UWHAW has received special CFUW and GWI recognition for its work provincially, nationally and internationally.

Going Forward

With the withdrawal of international forces in 2014 and the resulting switch in media focus, our support is more crucial than ever.

UWHAW will continue its work with Afghan women and girls as they struggle courageously and creatively to help themselves.

Getting Involved

- Join us at our monthly meetings to hear informed speakers. Join in and grow with the discussion that follows.
- Learn about Dr. Samar's Gawharshad Institute and the students.
- Consider your particular area of interest and how you might like to get involved
- Add your name to our growing network as we work coast to coast and now internationally to support courageous Afghan girls and women at this crucial time in their history

Meet other CFUW members and have fun and good times in the process!



Some of our current scholarship students

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UNIVERSITY WOMEN HELPING AFGHAN WOMEN



Graduation Day for "Our Girls", January 2015

Giving Afghan Girls A Future

*A Study and Interest Group
CFUW-Ottawa*



*Meets 1st Thursday afternoon of month
1:00 to 3:00 pm*

Who are We?

UWHAW is a Study and Project Group of CFUW-Ottawa, formed following the Ottawa 2010 CFUW AGM and Conference where the perils facing Afghan women and girls were centre stage.

What are our Goals?

Our goals are to continue to learn about the realities of life in Afghanistan, to raise awareness in our community and beyond about ongoing challenges that face women and girls in their fragile country, to advocate for their rights, to raise funds for their tertiary education, and to have fun in the process.



Gawharshad Institute of Higher Education, Kabul



Monthly Sessions with Speakers, Business, & Social Times

Learning

Speakers on many aspects of the Afghan story are featured at monthly meetings and at special events.

Ambassadors from the Afghan and Canadian Embassies: Canadian government and NGO officials who have served in Afghanistan: journalists who post the news from both Afghan and western viewpoints: members of the Canadian military of all ranks: a teenage translator for our forces in Kandahar: the story of Afghan rugs in the tribal areas: Afghan graduate students at Ottawa universities: members of the Canadian Senate: Afghans in Canada dealing with our western culture, and leaders of the inspiring Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan who bring the light of literacy to Afghan girls.



Some of our Speakers and Events

Advocacy



National and International Focus



Left, Hally Siddons with Dr. Sima Samar, Chair of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission at the IFUW Triennial Conference in Istanbul. Right, Hally Siddons and Leila Metcalf at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in New York City.

International doors were opened for UWHAW through IFUW (GWI) and the potential for further involvement here is enormous. Working through CFUW in 2013 we were instrumental in placing Afghan Women on the agenda at IFUW's leading girls' and women's global conference in Istanbul, attended by some 500 women from 58 nations. We continue to network with GWI NFAs and in September spoke at the WG-USA AGM in Salt Lake City. As CFUW delegates we presented a Parallel Session at the UN Commission on the Status of Women in New York. Closer to home we speak at local clubs and service groups, when invited, and most recently at the Quebec City CFUW AGM. Canada's Ambassador to Afghanistan, Deborah Lyons, values our work and invited us to meet with her once again during her fleeting visit to Ottawa in July.

