Humanitarian Assistance for the Women and Children of Afghanistan (HAWCA)
Main Office: HAWCA
House No. 1137/P, Selo Oil Pump Street,
Khushal Khan Mina, District 5,
Kabul, Afghanistan
Contact No: 0202561491
Skype: hawca1999
YouTube: youtube.com/hawca1999
Facebook: facebook.com/hawca1999
Twitter: @hawca1999
Email: hawca@hawca.org
Web: www.hawca.org
Postal Address: P.O.Box No. 1261, Central Post Office, Kabul,
Afghanistan
Date of Establishment: January 1999
Legal Status: Ministry of Economics of Afghanistan: Reg. No.
224, Dated 04/12/2005
Ministry of Women affairs of Afghanistan: Reg. No
273, Dated 04/12/2007

Western Region Office: House No 5, street No 36 Ibnseena, opposite to provincial council.
Herat, Afghanistan
Contact Number: (+93) 705456267
Email:hawcaherat1@gmail.com

Eastern Region Office: House No. 202, Opposite Clay Pot Makers, East of
Rustam Trade market, NarengeBagh Road,
Jalalabad, Ningarhar, Afghanistan
Contact No: +93(0) 797326632, +93(0) 702838323
Email: lgharzai@hawca.org
Northern Region Office: District one, Municipality street,
GozarKhayerkha, Near Zia Amon Clinic
Contact Number: +93(0) 0787621332, +93(0) 0774000702
Email: qasim.hawca@gmail.com
Executive Director’s Message

We are proud to announce that HAWCA is reaching its 21st year from its foundation. During the past years despite critical security situation and hardships we continued our struggle and worked tirelessly to support suffering women and children of Afghanistan. By provision of legal aid services, we reached to a huge number of victims of violence. Our beneficiaries have found the strength to fight for themselves and say no to violence. They are no more victims but survivors of violence.

On behalf of HAWCA family I want to assure that we will never give up and will struggle to reach our main goals. We want to see afghan women empowered and educated which is an end to their plight and sufferings.

It’s worth mentioning that we could not succeed without the support of our committed partners and supporters. We get strength by their continuous support and back up.

Najia Karimi
Executive Director
HAWCA
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About HAWCA

After the Taliban came to power in Afghanistan the life of our people got worse. There were no jobs, security, and many people migrated to Iran and Pakistan in hopes of finding work and an income to feed their families, but even in the neighbouring countries they were not able to build a good life. They lived in inhuman conditions in refugee camps without food and shelter. The women and children used to beg on the streets to earn some money and not die of hunger.

Women and children were the first victims who suffered the most in those harsh conditions. It was then that a group of young men and women decided to work voluntarily to bring some changes to the lives of the people. The primary focus was put on providing free education to the children as they were the future of the country. Education was considered vital for the brighter future of Afghanistan and so primary schools were established in different parts of Peshawar. Afghan children then had easy access to schools. Food materials and stationary were also given to children on monthly bases to help them financially.

Working with women and children in Pakistan was not enough for HAWCA, so we started literacy courses all over Afghanistan. These were strictly secret, and though it was difficult and dangerous, it was essential for a better Afghanistan.

After Hamid Karzai took power, HAWCA moved its main office to Kabul and started its work here. Now that we were living in a legal environment it was time to start working in the legal fields. Afghanistan has one of the worst rates of violation of women rights in the world. To protect and defend the rights of women, HAWCA started legal aid centres for victims of violence, and also a safe house for those at risk.

Due to the hard work of the HAWCA personnel HAWCA was able to win more than fifty awards from all over the world. Some of them are mentioned below:

Isabel Ferror's Award: awarded on March 8, 2000 for HAWCA’s work in the field of education for women;
Amnesty International Award: Amnesty International title for working on rights of children and women from Italian Section;

Medalla de Oro del Ayuntamiento de Arganda del Rey: awarded on December 6, 2001 in Arganda, Spain for its humanitarian activities;

Amotinada Mayor: awarded in Madrid, Spain on September 9, 2002. Dedicated to the women of Afghanistan and HAWCA received it for representing women in the Humanitarian Field;

Sabino Arana Foundition’s Golden Shield: awarded on January 27, 2002 in Spain to HAWCA and The New York Fire Department especially;

Award of l’hospitalet, the city of Cooperation: awarded on January 27, 2002, from the city hall of l’hospitalet in Barcelona, Spain;

Primo Donne Award: awarded on March 12, 2002, by an institution called ANRP in Italy.

Emma Humphreys Memorial Prize (EHMP): HAWCA received the first ever international award of Emma Humphreys Memorial Prize (EHMP) from UK on November 27, 2009.

Mission

HAWCA is an Afghan national NGO dedicated to working for the social well-being of all people with a particular focus on women and children.

Vision

HAWCA envisions a country where men and women are treated equally in all fields of life and given equal opportunities in political and non-political activities; and where children benefit from educational services without any prejudice as to their race, ethnic background, religion or tribe.
Goals

HAWCA aims to encourage the active participation of women in the reconstruction and development of Afghanistan.

Mandate

HAWCA is and intends to be, mainly but not exclusively, engaged in promoting the participation of Afghan women in the development process and improving the well-being of women and children. Consequently, HAWCA’s mandates include:

1. Protection and Counselling
2. Education and Peace Building
3. Promoting Income-Generating and Micro-Credit Activities
4. Health and Child Care
5. Advocacy for Women and Children’s Rights at National and International level.
6. Emergency Response Operations
7. Sponsorship Program

**HAWCA is member of the following networks:**

1. Afghan Women’s Network (AWN) – Member and Executive Board Member
2. Civil Society and Human Rights Network (CSHRN) – Member and Executive Board Member

3. South Asia Alliance for Grassroots NGOs (SAAGN Network) – Member

Plea

Women Protection center

Women Protection Centre

Project Location: Kabul

Duration of the project: Jan 2015- Dec 2015

Donor of the Project: UN Women

Project status: Ongoing

The decades of conflict and culture of impunity in the country has left the women and girls as the very first victims of different forms of violence ranging from domestic to sexual violence and other bad practices. The fragile legal system without any protection mechanism in most parts of the country further victimizes the victims. Therefore, a safe place with different necessities of life is needed to urgently accommodate the victims and with most of the cases save their lives. Furthermore, to defend their rights and reintegrate them back to society, legal and psycho-social services, health care, vocational trainings, education and a peaceful environment is needed. Since 2004, the Safe House for Women at Risk is being implemented by HAWCA in Kabul. Being the capital of the country where most of the cases of violence against women and girls are referred to Kabul from the provinces, we see the crucial need to still continue with the implementation of the safe house in Kabul.
The women protection center provides all the necessities of life including health, educational and sport facilities. Empowering women legally and economically is another objective of the project. Due to the successful implementation of this project in 2015, HAWCA provided protection services to 199 women and 71 children. Out of these cases, 105 were resolved through court and mediation. The remaining cases are followed in 2016.
Precious Lives

Project Locations: Kabul and Herat

Duration of project: 2014-2017

Donor of the project: Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Project status: Ongoing.

During the past years’ violation of human rights has reached its peak, hundreds and thousands of lives were taken in conflict zones. Among the countries that suffer the most from the conflict is Afghanistan. Every year thousands of men, women and children are killed in suicide attacks, air strikes etc. but war is not the only means of violence in Afghanistan. The patriarchal system of the country has given extra privileges to men and has denied women from their basic and fundamental rights. Beatings, rape, child marriages, force marriages, baad and badal are some forms of the violence that women are facing in this country. To most of the men living in rural areas, women are just made to give birth to their children, cook food, wash cloths etc.

But this project believes that all lives are precious no matter what gender is it. The project seeks to empower women socially, economically and politically so that they become self-sufficient in the society and men do not look at them as a burden but as a supporter and coworker. In so
doing women will get the lost dignity and respect that they deserve. Through its legal aid centers for women victims of violence and community development committees of both men and women, the project seeks to fight violence against women and bring justice to all women. The project is a contribution to the process of eliminating violence against women.

The achievements of 2015 have been as follows:

1. Providing legal services to 155 women victims of violence.
2. Providing legal advice to 110 women
3. Providing psychosocial counseling to 218 Women
4. Providing 123 legal awareness programs to CDC members and local community
5. Providing English and computer courses to 140 girls and women
6. Providing vocational training and literacy course to 280 women
7. Starting the first phase of the research on Violence against women
Legal Aid centres for Women Victims of Violence
Mazar

Project Locations: Mazar-e-Sharif

Duration of project: 2014-2015 (extended up to 2017)

Donor of the project: FONDAZIONE ADIUVARE AND ANTESSA BANCA

Project status: Ongoing

despite military and economic commitment of the international community, Afghanistan is a non-pacified country, it is still insecure and as shown by UN resolution 1325, women are the first and most serious victims of conflicts and resulting instability. In this context, to support democratic development in the country it is fundamental to introduce concrete actions to promote gender equality and, at the same time, culture of legality and rule of law.

HAWCA being one of the most active human rights defender, and particularly women’s rights defenders have been working in the legal field for many years. The legal aid center in Mazar is one of our centers that help women victims of violence. The center has provided the following services in 2015:

1. A number of 120 Women victims of violence have received legal and medical services
2. A number of 65 Women has received legal advices
3. A number of 100 women have received literacy course service
4. A number of 6 graduates of law faculty have received legal internship
5. A number of 2 CDC committees were established to defend the rights of women.
6. Legal public awareness to 200 people
7. Legal training to police officer
8. Training to 124 law students
Women and Government working in unison to eliminate violence against women

Project Locations: Nangarhar
Duration of project: 2012-2015
Donor of the project: EC via Womankind Worldwide
Project status: completed

In third world countries including Afghanistan, women have very little involvement in policy-making and decision-making. The laws that were made to prevent violence against women were made without a thorough research on the situation of women in Afghanistan and the customs that prevail in different areas. That is why even though the EVAW law was enacted in 2009, it is still not fully in force in all parts of Afghanistan.
Through this project we try to influence the local authorities to start using this law in full. For this purpose, we have created groups of women who are human rights defenders in four districts of Nangarhar.

Each group consists of twenty educated and active women who have the duty to monitor cases of violence in an area. Special workshops are held for them on quarterly bases to enhance their awareness on the rights of women and children. Other sessions are also held regularly to update their information. These groups have been very effective and have been able to resolve a lot of cases in their areas. As they do not have the license to follow the cases in courts, they refer them to the local authorities and civil society bodies to follow them in the court of law. The first thing they do is register the case with the local police so they can arrest the accused.

Providing training and awareness sessions for schoolgirls and local community is another part of this project. The goal is to enhance the awareness of girls and women in these areas so that they learn about their rights and how to defend them.

At the end of the project a program was organized to evaluate the outcome of the project. Members of Ministry of Women Affairs, Directorate of Justice, General attorney, Independent Human right commission, University Lecturers and Active NGOs were present from
many provinces. They put their views on the work of HAWCA and praised HAWCA for its hard working and achievements.

**Peace Building for the New Generation**

Project Locations: Kabul

Duration of project: 2012-2016

Donor of the project: Kinder Not Hilfe (KNH)

Project status: Ongoing

The year 2015 was another successful year for the project Peace Building. HAWCA since 2003 has the experience of running a number of peace building centers for children aged 7 to 14 in different provinces especially for marginalized and street working children. Many years of implementing peace building project have given us the skill to experience new methods for better way of reaching our objectives.
The year 2015 was another successful year for the project Peace Building. 335 students were enrolled in our peace building centre out of which 146 were boys and 189 were girls. At the end of 2015 a number of 20 students graduated from this centre with flying colours.

The peace building center has provided the following services in 2015:

1. A peaceful environment for the children to come and study peacefully.
2. Provided psychosocial counseling to the children and their families.
3. Provided awareness on child rights and human rights to the local community, parents and other involved person
4. Provided English and computer classes for the students
5. Provided a well- resourced library for children at the center
6. Provided a well-equipped theater room where the students were able to watch cartoons and educative documentaries
Afghanistan Human Rights Action and Mobilization (AHRAM)

The project Afghanistan Human Rights Action and Mobilization (AHRAM) started in March of 2015 and will continue up to September 2017. This project is implemented in all 34 provinces of Afghanistan trying to identify the right human right defenders, mobilize them and providing protection to them if needed. The project contributes to the process of reducing Human right violation cases through public awareness, capacity building of Human right activists and government personnel, identifying, reporting and follow-ups of Human right violation cases and finally creating a culture that respects Human rights. The project has created a network between the Human right defenders in the provinces as well as with other Human right defenders around the globe, identifying the proper and usable way of preventing and combating human right violations.
The project has many objectives but the major objectives are:

1. Developing the capacities of afghan human rights defenders.
2. Creating committees of Human right defenders to monitor, report and follow Human right violation cases
3. Improving coordination and co-operations between the Afghan human rights organizations.
4. Public awareness through human rights defenders
5. Public awareness through local radio programs
6. Establishment of a Platform to support the National and international Campaigns on identifying human right violation, disseminate information on Human right and Human rights defenders in Afghanistan etc.
7. Increasing public discourse and dialogue on human rights and political debate
8. Creation of safe spaces for human rights defenders in each province.
9. Linking resource centers to international structure through IT.
10. Strengthening of coordination with independent media
11. Networking between afghan and European rights defender’s organization
12. Creation of protocols and referral mechanism for defenders under threat.

The target of this project is to identify at least 120 human rights defenders that operate in all 34 provinces of Afghanistan, providing public awareness to 5000 community members, work with 200 Journalist to promote Human rights in Afghanistan.
Other activities

1. Precious Life “Sponsorship”: from the beginning of establishment of HAWCA, we have been carrying out this project. It started in Peshawar, Pakistan and as HAWCA moved to Afghanistan it continued its project here. Through this project we find a family or individual from other countries who are willing to sponsor suffering women or a poor family in Afghanistan so that they could do their treatment and send their children to school.

2. Providing emergency support to Human right defenders through Afghanistan Human Rights Action and Mobilization project.

3. Providing public awareness on women rights and Human rights

4. Providing child right awareness to the public and school teachers