



DELEGATION OF AFGHANISTAN

Ambassador Khojesta Fana Ebrahimkhel

BMEIA - Event on Culturally Conditioned Violence and Right to Self-Determination of Women

"16 DAYS IN THE MARK OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN"

FOR DISCUSSION WITH EXPERT ISSUES ON: "CULTURAL CONDITIONAL VIOLENCE AND THE SELF-PROVISIONAL LAW OF WOMEN"

On Friday, 7 December 2018, at 15:00

BMEIA,
Alois-Mock Hall,
Minoritenplatz 8, 1010 Vienna

H.E. Minister Karin Kneissl, [Federal Minister for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs]

Ambassador Désirée Schweitzer, [Head of the Development Section]

Dr. Susanne Raab, [Moderator]

Mag. Hilde Wolf, [Director of the Women's Health Center FEM South]

Ms. Susanne Pusch, [Landeskriminalamt Wien, group leader in the area of victim protection]

Mag. Larissa Lassmann, [Head of Unit for International Women's Issues and other cross-cutting human rights issues]

Ladies and Gentlemen a good afternoon,

First of all let me thank H.E. Minister Karin Kneissl for this excellent initiative on a very important topic that is very dear and near to me.

On the 16 days of activism in the mark of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, we see a remarkable unity among women across the globe, speaking with one voice and demanding our rights. Most importantly, we also watch many men joining us.

In Afghanistan, despite considerable progress over the past sixteen years, women are still facing many and serious challenges. Our Constitution stipulates equal rights and duties for men and women. The Government of Afghanistan has developed important measures in the areas of legislation, policy making and institution building, such as: the approval of law on violence against women, National Action Plan for Women of Afghanistan (NAPWA), Convention to Eliminate all Form of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), regulations for the prevention of sexual harassment, National strategy on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (EVAW) and the creation of special courts, special prosecution office, commission and assistance centers for the elimination of violence against women.

Nonetheless, Afghanistan still ranks among the worst countries when it comes to the rights and security of women and this is of course a great matter of concern. We realize that much more needs to be done to substantially improve the situation of women in my country.

We recommend maintaining and promoting the culture of peace, with special attention to women's role and their achievements in building social peace, through media outlets and other governmental and non-governmental institutions.

I and the entire delegation of Afghanistan in Vienna will contribute to the empowerment of women, addressing existing disparities and working towards gender equality. We will seize each and every opportunity to closely co-operate with colleagues, men and women, to advance women's rights and to tackle violence against women.

In closing, let me express my hope that we all can use these days of activism to generate momentum towards realization of what should be normalcy: an equal status of men and women.

Thank you!