

Webinar: Women's role in the future of Afghanistan

Belquis Ahmadi



Belquis Ahmadi has over 20 years of experience working in Afghanistan on issues related to gender, human rights, civil society development, rule of law, governance and democracy. Ahmadi's extensive experience includes senior management positions under large USAID programs in Afghanistan, evaluation of USAID gender and democracy and governance programming, and analysis and design of gender and human rights programming, and training and mentoring Afghan civil society and government candidates. She has also published extensively on democracy, governance and women's

rights in Afghanistan.

From November 2010 to March 2014, Ahmadi worked on the USAID-funded Regional Afghan Municipalities Program for Urban Populations Regional Command East (RAMP UP), implemented in 14 provinces. In this role, Ahmadi managed the technical work of the program to ensure high quality results and deliverables. In addition, she developed core skills training modules to integrate and mainstream gender in all aspects of governance, service delivery, and leadership to over 200 municipal officials in fourteen provinces.

From 2006 to 2009, Ahmadi served as senior human rights advisor in Afghanistan. In this role, she provided leadership and management oversight of resources, including budget, planning, and program monitoring; designed and implemented activities promoting women's rights through the use of religious arguments, providing analysis of the Shiite Personal Status Law, as well as providing advice and guidance in drafting of the Law on Elimination of Violence Against Women; and oversaw the preparation of training materials for programs.

From 2000 to 2004, Ahmadi served as program coordinator for Global Rights Partners for Justice in Washington D.C., managing their Afghanistan program. From 1987 to 1999, Ahmadi worked for the International Committee of the Red Cross, CARE International, and the Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief (ACBAR) in Afghanistan. Ahmadi earned her LLM in International Human Rights Law from Georgetown University Law Center and her LLB of Law from Kabul University.

Amb. Shukria Barakzai



Shukria Barakzai is an Afghan politician, journalist, woman and human rights activist and prominent Muslim feminist.

She was born in Kabul on the 2nd of January, 1972. Her higher Bachelor's degree is in Hydro-Meteorology and Geophysics from Kabul University. A mother of five, she has had over 20 years of experience in legislation and lawmaking including the Constitution of I.R of Afghanistan.

She was the Ambassador of Afghanistan to Norway from 2016-2019. She was also an elected member of the Afghan Parliament from 2005-2016.

November 2001-2008: She was the founder of Afghan Female Journalists Association and director of Asian Women Organisation. She was also Chief Editor of Aina e Zan (Women's Mirror) a weekly publication which ran until 2008.

She was among the Foreign Policy magazines '100 Leading Global Thinkers' in 2015.

She has won a Prize for Human Rights in Italy in 2007.

She was awarded International Editor of the Year by the world press.org and Women of the Year by the BBC.

She is also among 2000 Outstanding Intellectuals of the 21st Century.

Her Twitter account is [@ShukriaBarakza2](https://twitter.com/ShukriaBarakza2).

Hosna Jalil



Ms. Hosna Jalil, born and grown up in Afghanistan, is the former Deputy Ministers of Women Affairs and Interior Affairs in Afghanistan. At the ministry of women affairs, she worked to transform the government policies for women from a victim-centric approach to developing Afghan women making 51% of the country's human capital. Her work at the ministry of interior affairs was to support civilian policing, institutional development, diversification and de-politicization of the Afghan police force, inclusion of women in the force and promoting human rights values. She has, also, served as the policy director at the ministry of mines and petroleum, consultant at the President economic advisory department. She has started her career working for the private sector in Afghanistan.

Miss Jalil holds her BSc in physics and has received her master's degree in business administration, majored in management. Currently, she is pursuing master's degree in strategic security studies concentrating on counterterrorism and irregular warfare.

Anita McBride



Anita McBride is Executive-in-Residence at the Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies in the School of Public Affairs at American University in Washington, DC. McBride previously served as assistant to President George W. Bush and chief of staff to First Lady Laura Bush from 2005 to 2009, directing the staff's work on the wide variety of the first lady's domestic and global initiatives. She had primary responsibility for Mrs. Bush's extensive work in supporting Afghan women including organizing Mrs. Bush's three visits to Afghanistan. Prior service includes Director of White House Personnel for Presidents Ronald Reagan and George HW Bush; Special Assistant to the President for Management and Administration for President George W. Bush; Director of the U.S. Speaker's Bureau at the United States Information Agency; Senior Advisor in the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of International Organizations; and the State Department's White House Liaison. As an outgrowth of her time with Mrs Bush, McBride co-founded the RAND African First Ladies Initiative and Fellowship program to support and expand their efforts as champions of change in their countries. McBride is member of the U.S.-Afghan Women's Council, the Advisory Council of the International Republican Institute's (IRI) Women's Democracy Network, and she served eleven years on the Fulbright Board (2009 -2020) overseeing and expanding the Afghan portfolio. She has participated in numerous IRI presidential and parliamentary election monitoring delegations including Afghanistan in 2009. She is a member of the Women's Initiative Policy Advisory Council at the George W. Bush Institute, the Sine Institute for Policy and Politics at American University and on the board of the White House Historical Association. McBride is a frequent speaker and media commentator on the operations, and history, of the White House and its occupants.

Muqaddesa Yourish



Muqaddesa Yourish is a J.B. and Maurice C. Shapiro Professor of International Affairs at George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs. Prior to the University, she has had broad government experience, including service as a

commissioner on Afghanistan's national civil service reform commission, and prior to that, as human resources director of the Municipality of Kabul. She was also country director for Lapis, a top strategic communication firm of MOBY Group, giving her private sector experience. She brings range of expertise across international trade and commerce, governance, economic development and reform, human capital and strategic communications—all with a perspective from Afghanistan.

Ms. Yourish received both of her degrees through scholarship programs abroad, earning her bachelor's degree of economics from University of Pune in India and obtaining a master's degree in business management in the United States from the University of Akron, which she attended as a Fulbright scholar. She has been a lecturer at American University of Afghanistan and has served as deputy head of the Association of Fulbrighters of Afghanistan.

Rina Amiri

Rina Amiri is currently the U.S. Special Envoy for Afghan Women, Girls, and Human Rights. Under the Obama Administration, she served as a senior advisor to the U.S. Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Ms. Amiri brings over two decades of political expertise, advising and working with governments in various conflict settings in West and the Horn of Africa, the Middle East, Central and South Asia, and Europe. Her areas of focus are peace and security, with a specialization in inclusion in mediation processes. Ms. Amiri has served in the United Nations in several capacities including as a Senior Mediation Expert and as a member of the United Nation's Special Representative of the Secretary General's political team in Afghanistan during the implementation of the Bonn Agreement. She has held senior and leadership positions in a variety of universities and think tanks, including the Women in Public Policy Program at Harvard's John F. Kennedy's School of Government; Princeton University's Innovations for Successful Societies; and New York University's Center for Global Affairs and The Center on International Cooperation where, as a Senior Fellow, she led the Afghanistan and Regional Policy Initiative. She has championed the rights of Afghan women and girls for decades and is a founding member of Inclusive Security, a global women's initiative advocating for the inclusion of women in peace processes.