



Speech of Rahela Sidiqi
Founder & Director of the Farkhunda Trust
Afghan Diaspora Academic Conference - 01 Sept 2019

- ❖ Good morning Ladies and gentlemen. It is a pleasure to see so many people working across different fields around the room. I want to give a special thanks to our great Deputy Ambassador Yaser Sadiq for his time and attendance.
- ❖ As many of you know, I run the Farkhunda Trust, which plays its small part for Afghanistan's development process. At the Trust, we are trying to promote social integration between Afghan diaspora, other diaspora community and our British community through conferences and events like these in the UK.
- ❖ We are also providing Higher education scholarship and mentorship to talented girls from disadvantages background in Afghanistan. We are currently active in Kabul, Kandahar and Ghazni; and to date we have supported 19 scholars 17 during studies and two graduated by end 2018. Both of our graduated scholars have got job in government based on merit; and also provide voluntary mentorship to our exist students using the Farkhunda Trust mentoring strategy. We hope to extend our conferences to other countries and increase scholarship support in Afghanistan.
- ❖ I would like to extend my thanks to our entire Afghan British community donation and to our donors for their support to this beautiful cause "educating future mothers".
- ❖ Today's Afghan Diaspora Conference is the initial step to engage Afghan intellectuals to contribute toward Afghanistan socio economic development process. It is a collective effort of the diaspora, which we believe should increase its engagement and provide practical contributions.
- ❖ So a key goal of today's conference is to build a stronger diaspora community, who can meaningfully contribute through research, debate and engagement on the most pressing issues facing Afghanistan today.
- ❖ From peace building to socio-economic development to women

empowerment and to education, 'We aim to create a new generation of change makers.' RS

- ❖ Throughout the day, we will have the opportunity to explore and highlight the role of the diaspora in peace building, in civic engagement, in state-building, in development – and also think through what the future of Afghanistan can look like if we all do our part.
- ❖ We have speakers from across disciplines and we will discuss and examine many issues including the relationship between state-building and taxation, the difficult issue of ethnicity, and the complexity of diaspora and its role in promoting education for girls and women empowerment in Afghanistan. We will also examine some of the contemporary obstacles in terms of religion, culture, and underdevelopment - the three prominent social factors that affect Afghan women's development and their active participation in the socio-political affairs of the country. Likewise, the assessment of diabetes impact on pregnant women will be heard. And finally the conference will look to compare the recruitment process between United Kingdom and Afghanistan.
- ❖ The conference will bring together activists, journalists, and academics to tackle some of the toughest challenges facing Afghanistan today. Please get engaged, ask questions after each panel presentation and keep powerful group instruction!
- ❖ We have been a country in conflict for over four decades. And despite this, we have made some progress – progress that is fragile but one we should build upon. It is important to highlight how Afghan people have realized significant, tangible developments in their own lives and in society more broadly. Let me mention just a few. Today, we have:
 - 3126 women in police and 1179 in Army
 - 101,150 girls are university students.
 - 2700 women are lecturers & 66067 are female teachers
 - 3755 are at least doctor & 85177 are civil servants & 240 are judge
 - 10 Deputy Ministers & 4 Ambassadors and 3 Ministers
 - There are 800 businesswomen, and 77M\$ through 1700 Private Sectors are invested for women economic empowerment.

- ❖ While we are grateful for foreign aid and humanitarian assistance, these victories are hard-won by the Afghan people.
- ❖ At the same time, as we all know, there is great uncertainty today of where the future will take Afghanistan. And we see the number of civilians being killed in attacks increases daily. We have lost too many people – some estimates suggest nearly 150,000 people between 2001 and 2018.
- ❖ Among those 38480 was civilian. This year, we have already lost 4000 Afghan civilians.
- ❖ And there are over 600,000 widows in the country. What we call for is unity and support for all Afghan mothers and their desire to educate all their children, including their daughters.
- ❖ · We hope our Afghan diaspora annual conference can do its part to help bring this unity among the diaspora to celebrate our diversity and to support all Afghans - our mothers, our daughters, and our population to increase strong education path for our nations.
- ❖ We hope this path to peace will be sustainable. We hope Afghanistan Islamic republic government protects the right of women’s education based on Afghanistan constitution. We hope they protect the right of all Afghanistan citizens to live in sustainable peace and all peace builders’ players and international political leaders who are allies for Afghanistan peace building process protect democratic environment.

“We aim to create a new generation of change maker”

Mahatma Gandhi said “we must become the change we wish to see”

Thank you!

- ❖ Before leaving the floor, I would like to share with you our successful partnership for holding this conference. This conference would not be happening without our great community contribution, our partners, our sponsors and more importantly our speakers and our professors.

- ❖ I would like to thank to all our researchers/speakers for giving their time for writing research papers. Especially to Shinkai Jaan Karokhail one of the prominent Afghanistan MP and to Mariam jaan Safi Director of Drop and Academic researcher for taking time and sending their vedio speech from Afghanistan. Great thanks to our Academia professors for taking time to support our researchers with proof reading and editing.
- ❖ I would also like to extend our special thanks to our great supporters Afghanistan Now and Time for Real Peace for their partly financial contribution and media support.
- ❖ Great thanks to our moderators and to our Social Media supporters Gharghasht jaan, & Ziarmal jaan Gharghast, Sahar jaan Halamzai, Sana jaan Safi and Lynn Colleen, Gulwali Jaan Pesarlai Bashir jaan Gharwal, Samsor jaan Faiz, Meral jaan Alizada, Sodaba jaan Kamraw for their social Media support.
- ❖ Especial thanks to Mobilize, Fatimi Solicitors, Sear Sadat Account and Zohra,s Afghan Boutique for their sponsor and community contribution.
- ❖ Finally and more importantly my heartfelt thanks to our partners Afghan Voice Radio to Afghan professional Network, British Afghan Coordination Council and Inex Studio for their tangible contribution and partnership.
- ❖ Thank you to all our great Ambassadors of support who played vital role in implementation of FT vision and mission in multiple ways. Many of them are around the room. May thanks to our first Ambassadors of support Asif Noorzia we very much missed him in this conference.
- ❖ Thanks to our great operation and publicity team team. Safia jaan Nasrat Gul Akber jaan, Ameen jaan Mangal, Farid jaan Helimi Hogai jaan Aryoubi and Royan jaan Khairi for their great support.
- ❖ I would like to leave the floor with story of Japan nation when they got their independence and the Poem of Alama Iqbal Lahori
- ❖ The Nation needs the coach to train the citizens to hold carefully

the glass not to be broken because it belongs to Japan. After a decade 80% of nation were looking after every things belong to Japan. I hope that day is going to be bringing at least by our new generation.

- ❖ The poem that I love to repeat in my life
Alama Iqbal says: Khuda An Melaty ra sarwari dad ke taqdeerash
ba dasti khwuish benwesh – Badan Melat Saru Kari nadarad ke
dehqanash braai deegran kesht.

Thank you.