

# 2011

**Changing the Base-Legal Framework Affecting Women & Policy Advocacy**

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## List of ACRONYMS AND abbreviation

AWN	Afghan Women Network
MOJ	Ministry of Justice
HAWCA	Humanitarian Assistant for Women and Children Of Afghanistan
AWSDC	Afghan Women Skills Development Center
SOPWC	Supportive Organization for Poor Women Children
WAW	Afghanistan Women for Afghan Women
AIHC	Afghan Independent Human Commission
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
MAS	Movement of Afghan Sisters
VWO	Vice Of Women Organization
OAD	Organization for Afghanistan an Development
UNAMA	United Nation Assistance Mission in Afghanistan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Afghanistan is a war torn country that has suffered damage to all aspects of society. For over two decades, continuous political upheavals have resulted in economic, physical, and psychological suffering for all Afghans. The particular struggles facing Afghan women are indicative of the systematic denial of women's rights to the detriment of their active participation in society. The violation of such rights over the last two decades reveals a lack of awareness and insensitivity to gender amongst both Afghan men and women. Despite Afghanistan's past and present obstacles, women across the country risk their lives to fight for the betterment of their country...

Despite the hopes expressed nearly eight years ago, the rights and aspirations of Afghan women, and the men who support them, remain largely unfulfilled. The vast majority of Afghan women suffer a significant human rights deficit", poverty and economic problems.

Though there are many improvement and changes in the women life but still there is need to spread out these improvements and work further.

The legal department of AWN which started its activities since 2007 is responsible to take measures in order to bring changes at the base level– legal framework affecting women. The areas of working concerned on legal consulting, empowering women by raising legal awareness , conducting programs to increase awareness of rules and laws and to build up rich laws by brainstorming with civil societies and governmental organizations

AWN through the implementation of this project was working on two major areas amendment of two laws (Safe house policy and Marriage law) meanwhile raising awareness on Elimination violence against women Law (EVAW) through organizing six workshops and publishing 7000 brochures regarding Regulation on Elimination of Violence against Women.

## Project Beneficiaries:

Planned Beneficiaries Reach out during Project Date Line

The project over all targeted the ratio of 40% men and 60% women. Indirect beneficiaries were 1050(family members of direct beneficiaries) and these individuals were reached through

awareness sessions of six workshops and overall people of Afghanistan through the amendment of two laws.

## **Implementation of the planned activities:**

### **General Goal of the project**

The general goal of the action was to protect the community women from the legal, political, social and economical un justification through suggesting amendments in the legal framework, regarding the safe house policy and marriage policy to the Parliament and empowering women by raising legal awareness in civil society organizations and community regarding new amendment law and changes in the legal framework of Afghanistan through six workshops and distribution of 7000 brochures in Kabul province.

### **Objective achieved:**

AWN conducted research study and lobbying for legal changes by focusing on two laws, regulation of safe houses and marriage law through professional legal research consultant to find the flaws and loopholes.

During the implementation period of the project 100% of the objective was achieved by conducting research and advocacy for the amendment Safe House policy and 65% objective of Marriage Law was achieved.

### **During the first quarter of the project, the followings took place:**

On 13/11/1389 there was a meeting held in AWN Office the participants were governmental and non-governmental organizations' representatives (MOJ, HAWCA, AWSDC, SOPWC, WAW, GLOBAL RIGHTS).The meeting objective was collecting the participants' comments regarding the Regulation of Save House.

The second meeting was held on 19/11/1389 in AWN Office and this meeting was about Regulation of Save House. The participants were Representatives of governmental and non-governmental organizations (Medica Afghanistan, WAW, HAWCA, Supreme Court, AWSDC, AIHC, CIDA, Global Rights, MAS, INDEPENDENT, VWO, OAD and AWN)

The third meeting was held on 01/12/1389 in AWN Office and it was about the Regulation of Save House and the participants were members of Lawyers Committee.

Forth meeting was about Prohibiting the Exorbitant Cost of Marriage Ceremonies and it was held on 16/03/2011 in AWN Office.the Participations were representatives from (MOJ, WAW,

Rights and Democracy, UNAMA, Global Rights, Da Qanoon Ghoshtonki, Supreme Court, UNWOMEN)

**During the second quarter period the followings took place:**

AWN organized a number of meetings with Civil Society Organizations to collect all the representatives' recommendations regarding the regulation of Safe Houses and Marriage Law. Then all the recommended points were once again reviewed and analyzed by members of the lawyers committee. AWN legal department on behalf of the civil society submitted a copy of the recommendations to the Ministry of Women Affairs and Ministry of Justice. A number of meetings were organized with both ministries in order to justify the recommended points. AWN participated the final meeting held by Ministry of Justice. Also AWN did advocacy with Deputy to Minister of Justice and shared the recommended points regarding the mentioned laws. Besides AWN organized a workshop for Afghan citizens regarding the regulation of Elimination of Violence against Women dated 21, 22, and 23 of June 2011. In this workshop 25 men and women participated. The following topics were trained. definition of violence, history of violence before Islam and after Islam, violence in Arabic societies, violence in Egypt, violence in Rome, violence in Jewish societies, violence in Christians societies, violence in Arab societies before Islam, violence in khurasan societies before Islam. Kinds of violence, causes of violence, the influence of violence, solutions of violence, history of the regulation of elimination of violence against women and regulation of elimination of violence against women.

**During the third quarter period the followings took place:**

AWN contacted Ministry of Women Affairs and Ministry of Justice regarding the Regulation of Safe Houses due to AWN advocacy and effort this regulation was approved with all the Civil Society Organizations comments by the council of Ministers and then it was adorned by President Karzai. AWN collected the comments of Civil Society Organizations regarding Marriage Law and submitted all the comments to Ministry of Justice, but Ministry of Justice Without considering all the comments sent this law to council of Ministers, but again AWN did advocacy for this law and fortunately this law was rejected by Council of Ministers and they give a chance to Civil Society Organizations to review this law and send their comments. So AWN Held a meeting with Civil Society Organizations and collected their comments and shared them with Ministry of Women Affairs and then send the comments to Ministry of Justice. Besides AWN organized three workshops, regarding the regulation of Elimination of Violence against Women, the first workshop was held for FRUs (Family Response Unit of Ministry Interior) dated 24, 25 and 26 July 2011. In this workshop 25 men and women participated. The second workshop was held for Civil Society Staff date 24, 25 and 26 August 2011 and in this workshop 35 men and women participated. The third workshop was held for Government Administration

Departments Officials dated 20, 21 and 22 September 2011 and in this workshop 30 men and women participated. The following topics were trained in the workshops:

definition of violence, history of violence before Islam and after Islam, violence in Arabic societies, violence in Egypt, violence in Rome, violence in Jewish societies, violence in Christians societies, violence in Arab societies before Islam, violence in khurasan societies before Islam. Kinds of violence, causes of violence, the influence of violence, solutions of violence, history of the regulation of elimination of violence against women and regulation of elimination of violence against women.



**During the fourth quarter period of the project the followings took place:**

Fortunately the Marriage Law was rejected by Council of Ministers and they give a chance to Civil Society Organizations to review this law and send their comments. Then AWN organized a meeting with civil society Organizations regarding collecting their comments about the Marriage Law. After collecting the comments of the Civil Society Organizations, AWN analyzed the comments and sent them to Ministry of Women Affairs and then Ministry of Women Affairs

sent the comments to Ministry of Justice. AWN contacted Ministry of Justice and it was said that the comments were sent to Council of Ministers and still this law is in Council of Ministers.

Besides AWN organized two workshops, regarding the Regulation of Elimination of Violence against Women. The first workshop was held for Community Authorities dated 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of November 2011 and in this workshop 25 men participated. The second workshop was held for Community Shuras dated 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of December 2011 and in this workshop 28 women participated. The following topics were trained in the workshops:

definition of violence, history of violence before Islam and after Islam, violence in Arabic societies, violence in Egypt, violence in Rome, violence in Jewish societies, violence in Christians societies, violence in Arab societies before Islam, violence in khurasan societies before Islam. Kinds of violence, causes of violence, the influence of violence, solutions of violence, history of the regulation of elimination of violence against women and regulation of elimination of violence against women.





## **Change In Policy:**

The authority of Regulation of Safe Houses was given to Ministry of Women Affairs and the Safe Houses that belonged to Civil Society Organization had to be shifted to Ministry of Women Affairs, but AWN did advocacy and due to this advocacy there were changes brought in this regulation.

## **People's View Regarding The Project:**

People were very happy about the workshops of Regulation on the Elimination of Violence against Women and they requested for increasing the number of workshops and they said that six workshops is not enough during one year and these workshops should be held for different classes people for their information as lots of people don't know anything about these laws and regulations. Also they requested some changed that should be brought in Regulation on the Elimination of Violence against Women because this regulation is not yet approved so these points should be considered.

## **Challenges Faced:**

1. Security was a challenge and a barrier to spread out the activities.
2. To reach women on time in one location was difficult
3. To reach to the High Official Government Authorities is time consuming as it is difficult to properly get their attention and bring major changes.
4. The organs for which we wanted to deliver workshops accepted the documents with difficulties.
5. Some difficulties in contacting Ministry of Justice.
6. There were some problems with the Law Directorate of Ministry of Women Affairs in getting information and organizing meeting.

## **Future Plan:**

In the year 2012 AWN works on two laws ( )