

PRESS RELEASE



United Nations Development Programme

Afghanistan Country Office, Shah Mehmood Ghazi Watt, Kabul

Gender Topics Enshrined in Higher Education Curriculum of Afghanistan

Nov 23rd, 2004-The Intercontinental Hotel in Kabul hosted a ceremony for the signing of a MOU between the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA), Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE) and UNDP, establishing a new Gender Training Institute at Kabul University.

Proposed to open in July 2005, the Gender Training Institute will offer Diploma and Certificate courses on Gender. In two years, the programme intends to offer Graduate (Master's) level courses and research programmes, and to initiate student exchanges with partner universities.

The Minister of Women's Affairs, HE Dr Habiba Sorabi expressed her appreciation of all organizations working towards a better understanding of women's issues. Dr Sarabi emphasized the importance of the Gender Training Institute as an Afghan initiative to empower women as a gender group within society. She pointed to the absence of any such initiative during the period of Transnational Islamic State of Afghanistan, when most of national and international organizations and NGOs were delivering services.

MoWA is mandated to ensure that legal, economic, social, political, and civil rights of Afghan women are respected, promoted and fulfilled, including their right to be free from all forms of violence and discrimination.

Minister of Higher Education, HE Professor Sharif Faiyz also highlighted the importance an Afghan learning institution that reflects Afghan culture. Professor Faiyz emphasized the need to place gender research and the study of women's issues within the context of Afghan folklore and history.

UNDP Country Director, Mr Ercan Murat pointed to the importance of the gender institute to establish sustainable gender mainstreaming in government as well as in the curriculum of higher education.

For more information on the Gender Training Institute, please [click here](#).

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