



PRESS RELEASE

Enforcing Rule of Law to End Family Violence - with Special Emphasis on Women and Girls

Kabul, April 04, 2009— UNDP Law and Order Trust Fund for Afghanistan (LOTFA) in partnership with Ministry of Interior and International Police Coordination Board Secretariat (IPCB-S) organised the first "Training of Trainers" programme for Afghan police personnel to support ending family violence, especially against women and girls. The training programme will enable the Afghan National Police (ANP) to encounter family violence in a professional and effective manner.

This programme aims to develop capacity and raise awareness of ANP on gender and security issues. It is hoped that such ToTs will create gender consciousness and vigilance within the police force to become inclined to monitor violence against women and advocate gender sensitivity within the police. Financial support was rendered by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the German Federal Foreign Office. The training manual and capsules were developed by the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) under the overall leadership and oversight of Ministry of Interior (Mol).

These educational materials will also be used in the preparedness training for the upcoming presidential elections as it is needed for the police to be appropriately trained on gender issues in the elections. This part of the training will be delivered by LOTFA-IPCB with participation of European Police Mission in Afghanistan (EUPOL).

The training programme will be delivered by seven trainers over a six-week period, training 300 professional and experienced police officers from the six regional command zones, at training venues in Kabul and Mazar-e-Sharif. Thereafter, the trained police officers will conduct regular gender training courses for their colleagues in all the provinces of their jurisdiction, under international oversight.

Elimination of violence against women's rights is one of the major challenges confronting the stakeholders working on police reform and police development in Afghanistan. The UNDP LOTFA project is an important supporter of the police reform process in Afghanistan. The ongoing work on sensitizing and making the police aware of women's rights is premised on the ground that women's rights to live without fear and violence, as well as their rights to protection and justice from the police and the criminal justice system have to become real entitlements. Given the cultural and traditional backdrop, women for the most part, do not have adequate access to these systems. When they do, they often complain of gender insensitive legal and institutional provisions and procedures while there sometimes are complaints of violations perpetrated by the custodians of law themselves.

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