

# PRESS RELEASE

United Nations Development Programme

Afghanistan Country Office, Shah Mahmood Ghazi Watt, Kabul



## Islamic Scholars from Region Lead Workshop on Role of Women in Islam

**Kabul, May 6, 2009** – Over 300 Islamic scholars, academics and researchers from all parts of Afghanistan are participating in a major conference aimed at sharing of learnings on the role of women in Islam. The two-day conference is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA) and the Martyr Balkhi University with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The conference was inaugurated by the Honorable Second Vice President Mohammad Karim Khalili, today.

The deliberations for the workshop were led by eminent Islamic scholars and leading voices from the region on the seminal interpretations of the Qu'ran and the injunctions of the Hadith, the teachings of the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) in the context of the role and position of women in the social and public sphere.

Leading religious intellectuals from Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan and India shared vignettes from their recent research to establish and reinforce the far-reaching message of Islam about the role, rights and responsibilities of women for the advancement of society as a whole.



The religious scholars conference focusing on the subject of women and Islam is the first of its kind hosted by the Government of Afghanistan in recent years. The initiative is part of the series of efforts mounted by MoWA to build a consensus on finding opportunities and new approaches for securing social, economic and political rights for Afghan women, as well as improving their human development indicators. MoWA will publish a book on the conference discussions and outcomes.

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