The Ministry of Women’s Affairs (MOWA) is the lead ministry of government for promoting women’s empowerment and gender equality in Afghanistan. MoWA had embraced gender mainstreaming as its core strategy to ensure that government policies and programs would reflect the specific concerns of women and men in the design, implementation, monitoring in order to achieve equality between women and men. MOWA aims to support the gender mainstreaming process through inter-ministerial collaboration and collaboration with non-governmental organizations, academic institutions and civil society with maximum participation and contribution from the whole population. This collaboration includes capacity building, joint research, training, policy development and outreach.

MoWA in collaboration with Afghan Women’s Network (AWN) has facilitated gender trainings for over 400 participants from eleven ministries and NGOs and DoWA representatives from five provinces (Kandahar, Herat, Ghazni, Logar, Parwan) since 2003.

A year long experience in gender training provided a solid foundation to assess the need for development of effective and efficient human resources and training materials both in terms of quality and quantity. The knowledge and experience generated from grassroots and national level through gender trainings, is required to be linked to research, training, advocacy efforts at the academic level, in order to give credibility to women’s issues and priorities and promote them systematically.

In this regard MoWA to initiate a process of developing an gender training institute recognized by Higher Education and international academic institutions. MoWA in first consultation with Kabul University has laid the foundation of the gender training institute with the agreement of both parties and support of UNDP with funding from Luxembourg Government. The second consultation took place in July 2004 between MoWA Minister and officials, Kabul University President and Professors and UNDP and UNIFEM representatives. This consultation meeting resulted with the formation of advisory and working committees, tasked to prepare a concept paper for the review and approval of the advisory committee, in order to initiate the formal process of establishment of a Gender Training Institute in November 2004.

**Vision**
Facilitating the realization of gender equality in all spheres of life.

**Mission Statement**
Establishment and application of educational and academic opportunities in order to train specialists and develop capacities related to issues of gender and women’s problems, based on the Ministry of Women’s Affairs and Kabul University’s strategic goals.

**Objectives**
- Institutionalizing the training of trainers (women and men) program in the area of gender with Kabul University certificate.
- Developing the capacity of those women and men, who are civil servants policy makers and activists.
- Developing gender related educational, training and advocacy materials.
- Establishing and maintaining a resource centre in the areas of research, training and advocacy.
- Developing the educational level of the Institutions equivalent to academic standards of Kabul University.
- Establishing partnerships with academic and other related institutions at the national and international levels in the area of internship programs, scholarships, research and curriculum development.

**A. PROGRAM FRAMEWORK**
- Certificate in Gender Training
- MA in Gender and Development
- Diploma in Gender Management

**B. ACTIVITIES**
- Short-term informational activities: (Workshops, Symposiums, Seminars)
- Educational and Academic activities
- Student Exchange and Internship
- Partnership with international organizations and academic institutions

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Ministry of Women’s Affairs**
Training and Advocacy Department
Nasiba Amir, Director, Gender Training Office
Phone: (079) 322204
E-mail: nasibaamiri@yahoo.com

**Kabul University**
National Center for Policy Research
Nasrine Gross
Phone: 070281694
E-mail: kabultec@erols.com

**United Nations Development Program (UNDP)**
Fulya Vekiloglu, Program Manager
Phone: (070) 296293
Email: fulya.vekiloglu@undp.org