
MEDIA RELEASE

UNIFEM-supported MOWA Workshop Results in Task Force for Combating Violence Against Women

Karzai endorses a state committee to investigate cases of violence against women in accordance with recommendations arising from a joint MOWA/UNIFEM partnership on women's rights

Kabul, June 6 2005 – President Karzai signed a decree today that will authorize the creation of a new Inter-Ministerial Task Force to Eliminate Violence Against Women. This move enacts a major recommendation arising from a workshop led by the Ministry of Women's Affairs, and supported by UNIFEM and the Government of Italy in November, 2004.

The Task Force's mandate will be to work for the elimination of violence against women in Afghanistan under a common framework and plan. The task force members include high-ranking representatives from the Supreme Court, General Attorney's Office, Ministry of Endowment and Islamic Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior Affairs, Ministry of Information and Culture, Ministry of Health, Independent Human Rights Commission, and Ministry of Women's Affairs.

In signing the decree, President Karzai has confirmed his strong commitment to promoting women's rights at a national level. The creation of the Task Force was one of several recommendations arising from the one-day "Governmental Task Force: Combating Violence Against Women Workshop" coordinated by the Legal Department of the Ministry of Women's Affairs with the technical support of UNIFEM and financial sponsorship of the Government of Italy.

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