

The Initiative for Inclusive Security

A Program of Hunt Alternatives Fund

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Women Leaders from Afghanistan Team Up with NATO and EP

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM – February 22, 2007 – The future of Afghanistan depends upon recognizing and enhancing the critical role women play in ensuring security and building democracy. Despite progress over the last five years, Afghan women continue to face significant obstacles to their full participation in reconstruction. Additionally, escalating violence, especially in the south, threatens to undermine advances.

From Saturday, February 24 through Friday, March 2, [The Initiative for Inclusive Security](#) and the [North Atlantic Treaty Organization](#) (NATO) Public Diplomacy Division will host 13 distinguished Afghan women leaders in government and civil society for a weeklong workshop, *Inclusive Security: A Roadmap for Afghanistan*, in hopes of reversing this trend. This program will be led in part by **Ambassador Swanee Hunt**, chair, The Initiative for Inclusive Security, and **Dr. Stefanie Babst**, Deputy Assistant Secretary General for Communications Coordination, Public Diplomacy Division, NATO. This unprecedented workshop convening Afghan women leaders and high-level NATO civilian and military personnel will reinforce the participation of Afghan women at every level of the political process and empower them in rebuilding with the support and cooperation of NATO.

Furthermore, on **Monday, February 26**, MEP Veronique de Keyser and the Women's Rights Commission of the European Parliament will welcome the delegation and Ambassador Hunt for a **press conference and public hearing at the European Parliament** where they will outline specific ways women can help consolidate peace and lead reconstruction.

Don't miss this exceptional opportunity to develop a relationship with important leaders who can assist you in evaluating Afghanistan's rebuilding and the importance of including women in the peace building process.

Afghan women leaders have been part of Inclusive Security's [Women Waging Peace Network](#) since its creation in 1999. Inclusive Security convened diverse groups of women government and civil society leaders for consultations in Afghanistan in 2005 and 2006 and will build on these workshops by returning to Kabul in 2007. For more information about Afghan Women Waging Peace Network members, journalists can visit Inclusive Security's website [www.inclusivesecurity.org] for a directory of experts.

The Initiative for Inclusive Security, a program of Hunt Alternatives Fund, advocates for the full participation of all stakeholders, especially women, in peace processes. Creating sustainable peace is achieved best by a diverse, citizen-driven approach. Of the many sectors of society currently excluded from peace processes, none is larger—or more critical to success—than women. Since 1999, Inclusive Security has connected more than 450 women experts with over 3,000 policy shapers to collaborate on fresh, workable solutions to long-standing conflicts across the globe. For more information visit www.InclusiveSecurity.org.

“INCLUSIVE SECURITY: A ROADMAP FOR AFGHANISTAN”
BRUSSELS, BELGIUM
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24 – FRIDAY, MARCH 2

Participant List

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Jamila Aman | Ministry of Foreign Affairs |
| 2. Shakila Afzalyar | Ministry of Women Affairs |
| 3. Zahra Hafizi | Ministry of Women Affairs |
| 4. Parwana Sherzad | Ministry of Commerce and Industry |
| 5. Rahela Noori | Ministry of Commerce and Industry |
| 6. Parwin Momand Talwasa | Member of National Assembly |
| 7. Parwin Durrani | Member of National Assembly |
| 8. Saadat Fatahi | Member of National Assembly |
| 9. Shukria Paikan Ahmadi | Member of National Assembly |
| 10. Fatima Nazri | Member of National Assembly |
| 11. Shah Gul Rezaie | Member of National Assembly |
| 12. Shanaz Hemati | Member of National Assembly |
| 13. Afifa Nazir | Afghan Women’s Network |

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