

The Initiative for Inclusive Security

A Program of Hunt Alternatives Fund

Date: September 4, 2007
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SECURING AFGHANISTAN: WOMEN'S VITAL CONTRIBUTIONS

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN –[The Initiative for Inclusive Security](#) is scheduled to host a policy forum on increasing women's engagement in security in Afghanistan at the Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Kabul on Thursday.

The forum, co-hosted by the Canadian Embassy, follows a weeklong consultation with 25 proven Afghan women leaders from the government, the National Assembly, and civil society. The forum will provide an opportunity for leaders to both present their recommendations and to exchange perspectives with international civilian representatives, including military and civilian officers, and representatives from international non-governmental organizations.

The consultation, held in conjunction with the Karuna Center for Peacebuilding, has built upon the efforts of the Afghan Women's Network, an umbrella organization of more than 90 NGOs, to create a broad-based, sustainable coalition of women working in the security sector.

Afghan women have been part of Inclusive Security's [Women Waging Peace Network](#) since its inception in 1999. Most recently, in February 2007, the Initiative convened 13 Afghan women in Brussels, in coordination with NATO, to present their recommendations for rebuilding Afghanistan to policymakers from the European Union, NATO, Amnesty International, and Crisis Group.

"Women have vital contributions to make to discussions around security in Afghanistan," said Carla Koppell, director of The Initiative for Inclusive Security. "This forum is a unique opportunity for policymakers to broaden their perspectives and begin a dialog with extraordinary women leaders."

WHO: 25 Afghan women leaders, including representatives from the Afghan government, the National Assembly, and civil society
WHERE: Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Conference Room
WHEN: Thursday, September 6, 2:00 PM—5:00 PM
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Editor's Note: Media interested in interviewing Carla Koppell, Director of The Initiative for Inclusive Security, should call 617.995.1925.

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 500 women experts with over 5,000 policy shapers to collaborate on fresh, workable solutions to long-standing conflicts across the globe. For more information visit: www.InclusiveSecurity.org.