



DRC DANISH
REFUGEE
COUNCIL

Diaspora
Programme

EUROPEAN 20 #DIASPORA
CONFERENCE 22 ACTION FOR
AFGHANISTAN

PROGRAMME | 15-16 May 2022 | BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

The President Brussels Hotel, Boulevard du Roi Albert II 44, 1000 Brussels, Belgium

DAY ONE

GETTING TOGETHER

08:30 **Registration** Participant registration

09:00	Opening	EVENT MODERATOR Sana Safi, Journalist, BBC	WELCOME ADDRESS Adrien Bory, Project Coordinator, Afghan Diaspora Engagement in Europe, DRC Diaspora Programme	Dr. Asef Hossaini, Director, Abad, speaking on behalf of the DRC Afghan Diaspora Advisory Board	OPENING REMARKS Dr. Songül Kayabasi, Adviser, Migration Governance & Programme Migration and Diaspora, German International Cooperation (GIZ)
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09:20	Keynote speaker 1 - Responding to the needs of women in Afghanistan	Mahbouba Seraj , Afghan women's rights activist and journalist, Founder and Chairwoman, Afghan Women's Network
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09:30	Keynote speaker 2 - Diaspora adapting to Taliban takeover of Afghanistan	Bashir Eskandari , President, European-Global Civil Society Organization & Afghans and Catalans Cultural Association
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09:40	Panel & discussion: The situation in Afghanistan and its impact on women & girls	MR
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10:20 **Coffee break**

10:50	Panel & discussion: The situation in Afghanistan and its impact on marginalized communities	MR
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11:30	Presentation & discussion Afghan diaspora call to action	Ali Ahmad Safi, Afghan diaspora researcher
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12:00 **Lunch**

13:00	Discussion I: Building effective networks & alliances	MR
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13:00	Discussion II: Integrating recently arrived Afghans into diaspora's efforts	R2
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14:30 **Coffee break**

15:00	Discussion III: Mechanisms for increased coordination and collaboration between the diaspora and civil society inside Afghanistan.	MR
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15:00	Discussion IV: Diaspora's role as information provider to Afghans at risk	R2
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16:30	Brief presentation of results	Sana Safi, Journalist, BBC
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17:15	Closure of day one	Sana Safi, Journalist, BBC
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19:00	Dinner	Music Javed Zafar
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MR MAIN ROOM access to interpretation

R2 ROOM2 English only

PROGRAMME | 15 May 2022

09:40 **Panel & discussion:** **The situation in Afghanistan and its impact on women & girls**

Facilitator Mursal Sayas
Writer, journalist, human rights defender and women's rights activist, Afghanistan Human Rights Commission

Panelists Fereshta Abbasi
Spouzhmai Akberzai
Tahmina Salik
Human rights lawyer and advocate. Researcher at Human Rights Watch
Deputy head of women's commission, Voices over Violence
Chairperson, Danish Afghan Women Diaspora Forum (DAKDIF)

Women and girls are disproportionately impacted by the current crises in Afghanistan with unacceptable restrictions to their rights to freedom of movement, education, work, and participation in public life. This panel will reflect on the current situation of women and girls in Afghanistan and what diaspora can do to improve it.

10:50 **Panel & discussion:** **The situation in Afghanistan and its impact on marginalized communities**

Facilitator Sana Safi
Journalist, BBC

Panelists Zaman Sultani
Homira May Rezaei
Morteza Akbary
South Asia Researcher, Amnesty International
Chairperson, Hazara Committee in UK
Founder and Director, Afghan LGBTQ Organization

Certain marginalized groups, such as ethnic and religious minorities or LGBTQI face ongoing discrimination, violence and persecution. This panel will discuss life under the *de facto* Taliban government and what the diaspora can do to support those the most at risk.

13:00 **Discussion I:** **Building effective networks & alliances**

Moderator Sajjad Akbary
Vice Chair, Asia Pacific Refugee Network (APRN)

Panelists Heela Najibullah
Mustafa Paaksimaa
Shagofah Ghafari
Dr Khesrow Sangarwal
PhD researcher, inter-generational narratives of the Afghans diaspora in DE and CH
Vice-chair AFGHAN e.V., Member of the Union of Afghan Organizations in DE (VAFO)
Project Manager, Network of Afghan Diaspora Organizations in Europe (NADOE)
Chair, Afghan Professional Network (APN) / Board member, Global Diaspora Council (GDC)

Networking and cooperation can offer members of the diaspora the chance to strengthen their influence and visibility and facilitate access to resources. This discussion will look at different ways to get organized and reflect on past and ongoing efforts in order to recommend ways to promote spaces for coordination, reflection, and joint action.

13:00 **Discussion II:** **Integrating recently arrived Afghans into diaspora's efforts.**

Moderator Najib Obaid Babakerkhail
Founding Director, French Refugee Council (FRC)

Panelists Mohammad Musa Aziz
Manizha Isaar
Abdul Ali Forugh
Masomah Regl
Project Coordinator and Board Member at Secular Refugee Relief (SCI)
Project Manager, Afghanistan Civil Society Forum organization - (ACSFo)
Coordinator, Voice of People of Afghanistan (VAP)
Founder and member of Fivestones, Migration and Integration Advisor for the city of Graz

This discussion will look at how the established diaspora can support the integration of newcomers in Europe and how recently arrived persons from Afghanistan can support diaspora relief efforts towards Afghanistan.

15:00 **Discussion III:** **Mechanisms for increased coordination and collaboration between the diaspora and civil society inside Afghanistan.**

Facilitator Evan Jones
Manager, Asia Displacement Solutions Platform

Panelists Zia Moballegh
Mahbouba Seraj
Aziz Rahman Rafie
Khan Agha Dawoodzai
Director, YAAR
Afghan women's rights activist and journalist, Founder & Chairwoman, Afghan Women's Network
Director, Afghanistan Civil Society Forum (ACSOs)
Executive Director, Bureau for Rights Based Development (BRD)

This discussion will bring together diaspora and civil society actors from Afghanistan to exchange on how diaspora can support civil society efforts in Afghanistan. It will look at models for human rights monitoring, humanitarian response and coordinated advocacy and recommend pathways for increased coordination & collaboration moving forward.

15:00 **Discussion IV:** **Diaspora's role as information provider to Afghans at risk**

Facilitator Maina Abbasi
Project Officer, DRC Diaspora Programme

Panelists Abdullah Mohammadi
Zala Pamir
Sarah Osman
Regional Coordinator, Mixed Migration Centre Asia
Chairwoman, Keihan Foundation
Founder & CEO, Osman Advisory Services

This panel discussion will bring perspectives on the Afghan Diaspora's role as provider of protection information to Afghans seeking protection while in Afghanistan, on the move, or arriving in Europe.

DAY TWO

A CALL TO ACTION

09:00	Welcome addresses	CONFERENCE HOST Sana Safi, Journalist, BBC	WELCOME NOTE Birte Hald, Brussels Representative, DRC Brussels	OPENING REMARKS Nils Warner, Deputy Head, Policy Issues of Displacement and Migration, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
09:20	Keynote speaker 1 - Women rights in Afghanistan			Suraya Pakzad, Director, Voice of Women Organization (VWO), Germany
09:30	Keynote speaker 2 - EU Response towards Afghanistan			Tomas Niklasson, EU Special Envoy for Afghanistan, European External Action Service (EEAS)
09:40	Day 2: Launch of the Diaspora Call to Action			Zohreh Yusna Faizi, Chairperson, Afghan Lawyers Association (ALA)
10:00	Panel & discussion: A mobilized diaspora advocating for Afghanistan			MR
10:45	Group Picture			Sana Safi, Journalist, BBC
11:00	Coffee Break			
11:30	Discussion V: Diaspora access to funding and capacity development			R2
11:30	Discussion VI: Diaspora and development			MR
13:00	Lunch			
14:00	Discussion VII: Treatment of Afghan asylum seekers and access to legal and safe pathways for Afghans in Europe			MR
14:00	Discussion VIII: Diaspora's contribution to the humanitarian response			R2
15.30	Coffee Break			
16:00	Brief presentation of results			Sana Safi, Journalist, BBC
16:40	Closure of the conference			M&E Closure (By Anders & Sana)

MR MAIN ROOM access to interpretation

R2 ROOM2 English only

10:00	Panel & discussion	A mobilized diaspora advocating for Afghanistan
Facilitator	Sana Safi	Journalist, BBC
Panelists	Sitarah Muhammadi	Vice Chair, Asia Pacific Refugee Network (APRN) - Action for Afghanistan Campaign
	Khalidha Nasiri	Executive Director, Afghan Youth Engagement and Development Initiative (AYEDI), Chair of AYEDI's Canadian Campaign for Afghan Peace
	Omar Haidari	Human Rights Advocate, Aseelapp

This panel will present strong examples of diaspora advocacy at the national level and discuss how we can keep Afghanistan high on the agenda and push key stakeholders to do more to respond to needs on the ground.

11:30	Discussion V	Diaspora access to funding and capacity development
Facilitator	Anders Helge Knudsen	Senior Advisor, DRC Diaspora Programme
Panelists	Aurelie Sgro	Senior Project Manager, International Centre for Migration Policy Development - European Union Global Diaspora Facility (EUDiF)
	Rahela Sidiqi	Founding Director, Rahela Trust & Omid International
	Zoya Hassib	Project Coordinator, YAAR

This discussion looks at challenges & opportunities for diaspora to access funding and capacity development support and discuss models to strengthen the role of diaspora in Europe towards Afghanistan.

11:30	Discussion VI	Diaspora and development
Facilitator	Michael Fanizadeh	Project Manager, Vienna Institute for Dialogue and Cooperation (VIDC)
	Ali Ahmad Safi	Consultant, VIDC
Panelists	Ron Hendrix	Program Manager Migration, European Commission, International Partnerships (DG INTPA) (TBC)
	Homa Abass	Deputy Chair, Afghanischer Frauenverein e.V.
	Ahmad Khalid Fahim	Senior Strategic Development Advisor, Swedish Committee for Afghanistan
	Samla da Rosa	Executive Director – Operations, ADEPT - Africa-Europe Diaspora Development Platform

This discussion will look at the potential and obstacles for diaspora development engagement under *de facto* Taliban authorities in Afghanistan. This discussion is organized with support from the Austrian Development Agency.

14:00	Discussion VII	Treatment of Afghan asylum seekers and access to legal and safe pathways for Afghans in Europe
Facilitator	Reshad Jalali	Policy Officer, European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE)
Panelists	Malin Björk	Member of European Parliament (MEP), The Left (Sweden)
	Amaury Gillier	Operations Officer, The European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA)
	Olivia Sundberg	Policy and Advocacy Advisor, International Rescue Committee (IRC)
	Younus Muhammadi	President, Greek Refugee Forum (GRF)

This discussion will look at the situation of Afghan asylum seekers in Europe, provide an analysis of European countries as well as recent policies concerning the treatment of Afghan asylum seekers in Europe. It will also explore the existing safe and legal channels for protection in Europe. This session will end with a discussion about the role and importance of Afghan diaspora advocacy and raising awareness campaigns about the above-mentioned issues.

14:00	Discussion VIII	Diaspora's contribution to the humanitarian response
Facilitator	Sahar Nasiri	Policy Advisor, European Parliament
Panelists	Beatrice Mauconduit	Project Coordinator, Diaspora Emergency Action & Coordination (DEMAC)
	Dr. Hamidullah Jubran	Project Manager and Board Member, Medical Association for Afghan Refugees (AFAF)
	Angela Barez	Chairwoman, Nawien Foundation.

This discussion will look at the role of the diaspora humanitarian contribution through emergency remittances and fundraising; emergency projects; and humanitarian advocacy. It will explore current challenges & solutions for diaspora to engage in humanitarian response in Afghanistan.



Danish Refugees Council's Diaspora Programme

Since 2010, Danish Refugee Council (DRC) has been working with diaspora groups as transnational civil society actors. Engagement with diaspora is based on a recognition of the significant role they play for people and communities in countries of origin (or heritage), for refugees and migrants in transit, and for newly arrived refugees and migrants in countries of residence, and, consequently, their potential for improving the situation for many of those affected by conflict and displacement. For more information please visit our website: www.drc.ngo/diaspora

Link to Facebook Livestreaming:
<https://bit.ly/Afghanconference>

STRATEGIC PARTNERS



SUPPORTED BY

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