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## **WAW Announces the Resignation of Executive Director**

*Women for Afghan Women's Executive Director Manizha Naderi will transition from her current role by the end of 2018 after nearly 17 years of unwavering, passionate service.*

New York, NY, February 12, 2018—The Executive Director of [Women for Afghan Women](#) (WAW), Manizha Naderi, will step down by the end of 2018 after 17 years of dedicated service to the organization.

Manizha started out as a volunteer with WAW upon its founding in April of 2001 before eventually rising to Executive Director in 2006. She has since played a critical role in the development, expansion, and success of the organization, which has grown from a grassroots initiative employing two staff members into the largest and premiere organization focused on the promotion of Afghan women's and children's rights and empowerment in the world. Under Manizha's leadership, WAW has achieved significant accomplishments, including:

- The provision of services to over 31,000 clients in the United States and Afghanistan since 2001, and now consistently serving at least 5,000 clients per year;
- The training of more than 330,000 individuals on women's rights as human rights;
- The expansion of operations in Afghanistan wherein nearly 800 staff members provide services and training in 32 facilities, and programming across 14 provinces;
- The virtual elimination of children over the age of five living with their mothers in Afghan prisons in the four provinces in which WAW operates Children's Support Centers;
- The diversification of organizational funding to include government, foundations, individual donors, multilateral institutions, and philanthropic consortium sources; and
- The establishment of WAW as the largest human rights organization in Afghanistan and the largest organization in the United States dedicated to promoting the rights of Afghan women and children.

Immediately after WAW's Board of Directors accepted Manizha's resignation, a Search Committee was formed to seek a dynamic successor that will effectively serve WAW's mission and ensure a seamless transition.

Manizha was widely recognized throughout the organization for the passion, strength, and enthusiasm to which she brought to WAW throughout her tenure. Co-founder and Chair of WAW's Board of Directors, Sunita Viswanath, said, "While she will be greatly missed by WAW's clients, staff, board, partners, and stakeholders, we look forward to the next chapter in WAW's history and to building upon the strong foundation we have laid together over the past 17 years."

WAW will be celebrating the organization's successes and Manizha's legacy at [WAW's Expo 2018: #ByHerSide](#) on the evening of May 10th at [Espace](#), located at 635 West 42nd Street, NYC. The Expo aims to be an experiential event that highlights the transformative power of WAW's programs in the United States and Afghanistan under Manizha's leadership.



**For Press Related Inquiries Contact:**

**Mona Abu Rayyan**, WAW Communications Manager  
158-24 73<sup>rd</sup> Avenue | Fresh Meadows, New York 11366  
Tel: 718-591-2434 | E-mail [mona@womenforafghanwomen.org](mailto:mona@womenforafghanwomen.org)

**WOMEN FOR AFGHAN WOMEN (WAW)** is a grassroots civil society organization dedicated to protecting and promoting the rights of disenfranchised Afghan women and girls in Afghanistan and New York. In particular, WAW works to help Afghan women and girls exercise their rights to pursue their individual potential, to self-determination, and to representation in all areas of life—political, social, cultural, and economic. WAW relentlessly advocates for women’s rights and challenges the norms that underpin gender-based violence wherever opportunities arise to influence attitudes and bring about change.