



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WAW Receives Major Expo Sponsorships, Announces Panel Headliners

Abigail Disney and Kimberly Motley join the panels at WAW's [Expo 2018: #ByHerSide](#)

New York, NY, April 27, 2018—[WOMEN FOR AFGHAN WOMEN](#) (WAW) is proud to announce that filmmaker and philanthropist Abigail Disney will serve on the New York Panel at its [Expo 2018: #ByHerSide](#) on Thursday, May 10th, 2018 at 6pm at [Espace](#) in New York City at 635 W. 42nd St. New York, NY 10036.

WAW is launching [Expo 2018:#ByHerSide](#) to demonstrate the organization's commitment to stand with Afghan women and children around the world in light of the multitude of challenges they face to their basic security, human rights, livelihoods, and legal status. The Expo will feature live, interactive exhibits and panels with special guests talking about the successes and challenges of WAW's work, as well as the political climates in the United States (U.S.) and Afghanistan. The Silent Auction Marketplace will feature products made by WAW clients and other exquisite items, such as handmade artwork and jewelry from Afghanistan and exciting vacation packages.

Ms. Disney will join Professor Suzanne Strickland of Queens College, WAW's New York Program Director, Naheed Samadi Bahram, and WAW's Board Chair and co-founder, Sunita Viswanath, to discuss critical obstacles and opportunities for Afghan and Muslim women, children, and families in New York and the U.S. The panel on Afghanistan will feature WAW's General Counsel, Kimberley Motley, WAW's Afghanistan Country Director, Najia Nasim, and Masha Hamilton, a novelist and former Director of Communications and Public Diplomacy at the U.S. Embassy in Kabul, and explore the Afghan political and security situation, as well as the current climate for advancing the human rights and empowerment of women, girls, and children.

Ms. Disney and her husband, Pierre Hauser, who generously donated \$50,000, will serve as the Title Sponsor and presenter of WAW's Expo. WAW Board Member, Masuda Sultan, will serve as the Center Stage Sponsor of the New York and Afghanistan panels in recognition of her charitable \$25,000 donation. Sponsors also include Buckhead Dermatology, the Sunshine Lady Foundation, the Hegarty Family, and Eileen Fisher.

WAW began in 2001 as volunteer-run in the Afghan immigrant community in Queens to now employing over 750 local staff in Afghanistan and in the U.S. Today, the organization has 33 centers, which provide services in 14 of [Afghanistan's](#) 34 provinces, an advocacy office in Washington, DC, and is preparing to move into a larger [New York Community Center](#) to accommodate the growth of its programs.

In just 17 years, WAW has become the largest women's organization in Afghanistan and largest Afghan women's rights organization in the world. WAW has provided protection, safety, holistic care, advocacy, and empowerment programming to over 31,000 women and children, as well as 150,000 family members, and trained over 333,000 individuals from all walks of life on women's rights as human rights.

WAW's work will be presented to supporters at the [WAW EXPO 2018: #ByHerSide](#), an interactive, engaging, and experiential event to be held at Espace in New York City on May 10. WAW's EXPO 2018 aims to raise awareness about the extraordinary breadth and impact of WAW's programs, while expanding WAW's supporter base and raising much-needed funds. Tickets and media passes are available—please join us!

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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.