

## Afghan-American Leaders from Women for Afghan Women and Diaspora Meet with the Taliban in Doha

*Board members express concerns of the Afghan people and press for peace*

(Doha, Qatar) April 20, 2019 – [Women for Afghan Women](#) (WAW) deployed to Doha, Qatar earlier this week to participate in an [intra-Afghan dialogue](#), which was [indefinitely postponed](#) on Friday. However, two of WAW’s Afghan-American board members took part in a lengthy meeting between representatives of the Afghan diaspora and the Taliban. Two other women participated in the meeting, which lasted nearly six-and-a-half hours and included about 45 men, half of whom were members of the Taliban.

The delegations discussed the current insecurity in Afghanistan, civilian casualties, previous attempts at brokering peace, and their visions for the future of the country, amongst other topics. The Taliban representatives reiterated the group’s belief in women’s rights according to Islam. WAW expressed [concerns](#) for women’s future role in society, noting the tremendous strides they have made since 2001. Amid the breakdown in the formal intra-Afghan talks, the delegations explored possible ways forward for the process and concluded the meeting with a woman-led prayer for peace. WAW is currently organizing prayer vigils in New York City, Kabul, Doha and other cities around the world on April 26th to launch its All in Peace campaign to bring a sense of urgency to the creation of a peace in Afghanistan that promotes stability and human rights.

According to one of the WAW participants, Masuda Sultan, “It has become clear that there is going to be no military resolution to this conflict and that diplomacy must be utilized to negotiate peace. WAW and other organizations will work together to ensure that women and their rights are at the center of all peace talks. Women are natural peacemakers, often preserving peace within their own families—they are peacemakers in the home, and should be peacemakers in the world.” WAW seeks to guarantee women’s meaningful participation, not as mere tokens, and in proportional numbers in all informal and formal initiatives moving forward. The peacemakers of Afghan families—the women—must be the peacemakers of Afghanistan.

### For Press Related Inquiries Contact:

**Megan Corrado**, WAW Director of Advocacy

Tel: +1 202-403-9223 | E-mail: [megan@womenforafghanwomen.org](mailto:megan@womenforafghanwomen.org)

Women for Afghan Women (WAW) is a grassroots, non-profit organization dedicated to securing and protecting the rights of disenfranchised Afghan women and girls in Afghanistan and New York, particularly their rights to develop their individual potential, to self-determination, and to be represented in all areas of life: political, social, cultural, and economic. WAW advocates for women’s rights and challenges the norms that underpin gender-based violence wherever opportunities arise to influence attitudes and bring about change.

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#### NEW YORK

158-24 73rd Avenue  
Fresh Meadows, NY 11366  
P +(1) 718-591-2434  
F +(1) 718-591-2430

#### WASHINGTON, D.C.

2200 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Suite 4066  
Washington, DC 20037  
P +(1) 202-255-9960

#### AFGHANISTAN

Noor Mohammad Taraki Street  
Police District #3  
Kabul, Afghanistan  
P +(93) 728-859-560