FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#AllinPeace Campaign Holds Vigils for Peace in Afghanistan

Coalition of interfaith, women’s rights, veteran’s issues, and non-violence groups aim to urge support for the end of the longest conflict in United States history

New York, NY, April 25, 2019—#AllinPeace, a global peace movement seeking peace in Afghanistan, sponsored by Women for Afghan Women, the People’s Peace Movement of Afghanistan, 9/11 Families for Peaceful Tomorrows, and Common Defense, will hold its official launch with peace vigils in New York City (NYC), Bethesda, Maryland, Paris, and several cities across Afghanistan on Friday, April 26th.

The NYC “Interfaith Prayer Vigil for Peace in Afghanistan,” originally scheduled for Washington Square Park, will still take place promptly at 6pm at the following location due to potential inclement weather: 23 East 22nd Street, New York, NY 10010, located between Park Avenue and Broadway. Please bring ID to enter.

#AllinPeace seeks to procure a comprehensive, immediate ceasefire in Afghanistan and bring a responsible end to the longest war in United States (U.S.) history through the creation of a stable Afghanistan that protects and promotes human rights. After four decades of conflict, Afghans are war-weary. The movement, comprised of people from all walks of life, is committed to preserving the gains Afghans have made since 2001, while pursuing the realization of sustainable peace.

The #AllinPeace movement draws its inspiration from the People’s Peace Movement in Afghanistan, a group of men and women, ranging from ages 17 to 65, that walked from the Afghan province of Helmand to Kabul and then Balkh to call for a ceasefire in Afghanistan and demand efforts to bring about peace. One leader from the People’s Peace Movement said, “We are students, farmers, athletes, musicians, teachers, husbands, wives, fathers, mothers, sons, daughters—ordinary people of Afghanistan who want peace…. We are proud to be a part of #AllinPeace, and invite peacemakers around the world to join us.”

Friday’s New York peace vigil will include messages and prayers for peace from partner organizations and respected faith leaders, including the following speakers: Masuda Sultan, Founding Board Member of WAW, Sunita Viswanath, Co-Founder of WAW, Colleen Kelly, Co-Founder of 9/11 Families for Peaceful Tomorrows, and Alexander McCoy, U.S. Marine Corps Veteran and Political Director of Common Defense.

In the spirit of solidarity, Imam Sherzad of the Dar-Al-Taqwa Islamic Center will offer a Muslim prayer; Reverend Chloe Breyer, Executive Director of the Interfaith Center of New York will offer a Christian prayer; Pratima Doobay of Sadhana: Coalition of Progressive Hindus will offer a Hindu prayer; Barbara Becker of One Spirit Learning Alliance will offer a Buddhist prayer; and Jasmit Kaur Maini, Sikh community member.

In addition to several cities in the U.S. and Afghanistan, #AllinPeace will hold a vigil also in Paris on April 26th. The movement seeks to multiply and expand throughout the world through additional gatherings in the coming weeks in order to keep attention on the situation in Afghanistan.

Please join us, and light a candle for peace in Afghanistan and the world.
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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.