



### Seminar: Women, Security and Economic Development in Rural Afghanistan

April 27th, 2012, 9:00-15:00 at Ministry of Foreign Affairs,  
Eigtveds Pakhus, sal III, Asiatisk Plads 2G, 1448 Copenhagen, Denmark

**Meet Wais Barmak, the Afghan Minister of Rehabilitation and Rural Development and Christian Friis Bach, the Danish Minister for Development Co-operation, along with an inspiring panel of guest speakers representing a cross section of perspectives from government to research institutions and from civil society organizations to NATO.**

**The seminar is a unique opportunity to discuss the importance of women's full involvement in efforts to promote development and security by addressing the interconnectedness of Afghan women's human rights, security situation and empowerment process in the transition phase.**

Women are among the most vulnerable in Afghan society. Afghan women suffer discrimination and exclusion in economic, political and social terms, and many see their human rights compromised on a daily basis. Nevertheless, unleashing Afghan women's full potential is paramount for sustainable economic and social development in the country now and beyond 2014. The speakers on Panel 1 will share lessons learnt and discuss future challenges on organizing and empowering women in Afghan rural communities and how to link them to decision making processes at local and national levels.

A stable security environment and the implementation of human rights for women into civil society are essential to ensure the empowerment process. The UNSC Resolution 1325 reaffirms the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts. With point of departure in Resolution 1325 Panel 2 will revolve around best practice for ensuring women's rights in order to promote security and economic development in rural Afghanistan.

**Registration** is required by email to: [dacaar.seminar@drc.dk](mailto:dacaar.seminar@drc.dk). Deadline for registration is April 24th. The seminar is free of charge and will be held in English. The seminar is a result of a joint cooperation between DACAAR, ENNA, the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and The Danish Institute of Human Rights and has been co-funded with support from the European Commission.



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### Programme

- 08:45–9:00 *Registration*
- 09:00-9:35 Welcome by **Marta de la Cera**, *Coordinator, ENNA*  
Opening remarks by **Jonas Christoffersen**, *Director, Danish Institute for Human Rights*, **Shanna Jensen**, *Governing Board, DACAAR* and **Christian Friis Bach**, *Minister for Development Co-operation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Denmark*
- 09:35-12:00 Panel 1: Empowerment of women and Economic development in rural Afghanistan**
- 09:35-09:45 Introduction to Panel 1 by moderator **Michael Jarlner**, *Foreign Affairs editor Politiken*
- 09:45-10:05 **Wais Ahmad Barmak**, *Minister, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, Afghanistan*
- 10:05-10:25 **Adam Pain**, *Research Fellow at the University of East Anglia, visiting Professor at the Swedish University of Agricultural Science and Researcher at the Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit (AREU)*
- 10:25-10:55 *Coffee break*
- 10:55-11:10 **Wazhma Frogh**, *Gender and development specialist and human rights activist, Afghan Women's Network (AWN)*
- 11:10-11:25 **Irshad Alamyar**, *Manager, DACAAR, a non-governmental organization working to improve the lives of people in rural areas of Afghanistan, in particular the social and economic conditions of Afghan women*
- 11:25-12:00 **Debate: Empowerment of women and Economic development in rural Afghanistan**  
Moderated by: Michael Jarlner
- 12:00 -12:40 *Lunch*
- 12:40-14:50 Panel 2: Women, Security and Human Rights in rural Afghanistan**
- 12:40-12:50 Introduction to panel 2 by - *tbc*
- 12:50-13:10 **Palwasha Kakar**, *Deputy Minister of Women's Affairs, Afghanistan*
- 13:10-13:25 **Charlotte Isaksson**, *Allied Command Operations Gender Advisor, NATO*
- 13:25-13:40 **Malek Sitez**, *Senior programme advisor at the Danish Institute for Human Rights and the founder of Afghanistan Civil Society and Human Rights Network*
- 13:40-14:10 *Coffee break*
- 14:10-14:50 Debate: Women, Security and Human Rights in rural Afghanistan**  
Moderated by: *tbc*
- 14:50-15:00** Concluding remarks
- 15:15-15:40** Press conference