This symposium will convene global experts to analyze and bring light to the reality on the ground for women in Afghanistan, highlighting the needs of Afghan women both inside and outside of Afghanistan, and presenting the Government of Canada with a series of calls to action.

SEPTEMBER 26

5:30 – 7:00 PM
Reception
Valour Building, Ottawa
Welcome
Patricia Cooper, Sen. McPhedran, MP Khalid
Networking session for attendees

SEPTEMBER 27TH

7:30 – 8:30 AM
Registration and Coffee/Tea
Shaw Conference Center, Room 102, 55 Colonel By Drive
Opening Session
Zarqa Yaftali, Director of Women and Children Legal Research Foundation and Board member of WRN.

8:30 – 10:15 AM

PANEL 1: Humanitarian Crisis in Afghanistan: Measuring Canada’s Response
This panel will analyze the current human rights and humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan and its impact on women and girls. It will identify the policy changes needed to ensure humanitarian aid is reaching those who need it and that Canada’s response is aligned with the Feminist Foreign Policy (FFP) and Feminist International Assistance Policy (FIAP).

Participants:
• MP Salma Zahid, Chair of the Parliamentary Committee on Immigration
• Adeena Niazi, Executive Director of Afghan Women’s Organization Refugee & Immigrant Services
• Maryam Monsef, former Minister for Women and Gender Equality
• Raihana Azad, Afghan MP currently in Albania

Moderator: Sen. McPhedran

10:15 – 10:30 AM
Break

10:30 – 12:15 PM

PANEL 2: Pathways to Safety, Resettlement and Integration for Afghan Women: Barriers and Opportunities
This panel will highlight obstacles to safe passage, including issues within IRCC and UNHCR, and discuss practices which could be adapted to address these issues, including the recommendations from the Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration. The panel will also share ideas on how integration into Canadian society can be facilitated, with a focus on youth, employment, cultural and language integration.

Participants:
• Rina Amiri, US Special Envoy for Afghan Women, Girls, and Human Rights
• Richard Bennett, UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Afghanistan
• Tomas Niklasson, EU Special Envoy to Afghanistan
• Alison Mairam Davidian, Country Director, UN Women, Afghanistan
• Bob Rae, Canadian Ambassador to the UN
• Shahla Aarifi, Human Rights Activist

Co-moderators: Nargis Nehan, former Acting Minister of Mines and Petroleum in Afghanistan
Iqra Khalid, MP for Erin Mills

3:15 – 3:30 PM
Closing Remarks
Ambassador Jacqueline O’Neill, Ambassador for Women, Peace and Security

Take a joint photo

This event is made possible through the generous support of Senator Marilou McPhedran, Member of Parliament Iqra Khalid, and a coalition of supporting parliamentarians.

#Canada4AfghanWomen