Afghan Women Leaders Speak:  
Conflict Mitigation and Social Reconstruction  
November 17-19, 2005

In November 2005, the Mershon Center at Ohio State University will host the first research-oriented conference in the United States on Afghan women's role in their country's social reconstruction. The conference, entitled “Afghan Women Leaders Speak: Conflict Mitigation and Social Reconstruction,” brings together a substantial representation of Afghan women leaders with U.S.-based scholars and students who share expertise and interests relevant to the experiences of women working for social change in Afghanistan. From November 17-19, eleven Afghan women currently performing key roles in government, education, and NGO projects will express their views and share their strategies for Afghanistan's Future.

Conference sessions are free and open to the public, but registration is firmly requested. University faculty and students, the Columbus community, and are most welcome. Preregistration and prepayment by Nov. 7 are required for those who wish to join the speakers for meals.

Speakers include Dr. Massouda Jalal, Minister for Women's Affairs and former candidate for President of Afghanistan, and Dr. Habiba Sarabi, Afghanistan's first woman provincial governor. Panel discussions will address such topics as: conditions for Afghan Women since the fall of the Taliban; current government and NGO projects working to benefit Afghan women; on-going needs for women of different ethnicities, economic status, and geographic locations within Afghanistan; prospects and plans for women's future empowerment; gender issues raised by the new Afghan Constitution; and women's leadership and religion.

For additional information on the conference including registration information and forms, directions, and the conference agenda, please visit our website at

http://www.mershon.ohio-state.edu/Events/05-06events/afghanwomen/afghanhome.htm

For queries beyond the information at the website, please contact the organizers:

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