



AFGHAN COMMUNICATOR
SERVING THE AFGHAN COMMUNITY

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The Asian Outreach Program of Queens Child Guidance Center now offers

COUNSELING SERVICES IN FARSI

For children and adults.

If you or someone you care about has been feeling worried or sad, having difficulty at work, school, or home, or would like support in adjusting to life in the U.S., we encourage you to contact Afghan Communicator or Sherry Shokouhi at 718.899.9810 x304 or x200



وزیر امور زنان افغانستان در نیویورک

داکتر محبوبه حقوقمل، وزیر امور زنان افغانستان بجهت اشتراک در کنفرانس "صلح به زنان، و زنان به عدالت ضرورت دارند" به شهر نیویورک تشریف آوردند. کنفرانس مذکور از طرف یونفم (UNFEM) و آیلک (ILAC)، از ۱۵ الی ۱۷ سپتمبر تنظیم شده و در ملل متحد برگزار شد.

داکتر حقوقمل در کنفرانس دایر شده از وضع زنان در افغانستان یادآور شده، و توجه جامعه بین المللی را در راه بهبودی زنان آنکشور خواستگار شد.

رئیس افغان کمیونیکیتور، بحیث ترجمان رسمی، داکتر حقوقمل را در دوایر رسمی همراهی کرد. افغان میشن در ملل متحد نیز اشخاصی را بهمراهی خانم حقوقمل فرستادن.

سرویس جدید

پروگرام اژیان اوتربییج حالا بزبان فارسی برای اطفال و بالغان کونسلینگ (Counseling) پیشکش مینماید.

اگر شما، یا یکی از دوستان تان، احسان غم و پریشانی دارید، و یا در خانه، مکتب، و یا محل کار مشکلات دارید با دفتر افغان کمیونیکیتور تماس شوید و یا با خانم شاری شکوهی: 718-899-9810 ext 200

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COMMUNITY BULLETIN

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 6

INTER AFGHAN YOUTH SUMMIT

The Sixth Inter Afghan Youth Summit (IAYS VI) was held on October 2-3, 2004 in Toronto, Canada. The summit provided a platform for young Afghans from the US and Canada to interact with each other, share their successes, and learn from one another. The summit was organized by Afghan Communicator and the Afghan Youth Organization (ACYO). The summit was a success, with many attendees reporting that it was a valuable experience. The summit was held in Toronto, Canada, and was attended by many young Afghans from the US and Canada. The summit was a success, with many attendees reporting that it was a valuable experience. The summit was held in Toronto, Canada, and was attended by many young Afghans from the US and Canada.

The IAYS is a two day conference of young Afghan activists from around the world. Over 50 young Afghans from the US and Canada attended this year's summit, which offered a wide range of workshops for every taste. The IAYS is the first and only of its kind in the Afghan community world. The summit was founded by Afghan Communicator in 1999, to encourage Afghans from around the US to get involved in their community. This year's summit, which offered a wide range of workshops for every taste. The IAYS is the first and only of its kind in the Afghan community world. The summit was founded by Afghan Communicator in 1999, to encourage Afghans from around the US to get involved in their community. This year's summit, which offered a wide range of workshops for every taste. The IAYS is the first and only of its kind in the Afghan community world.

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UN CONFERENCE

Afghanistan's State Minister for Women's Affairs, Dr. Mahbuba Hoquqmal attended a conference at the United Nations titled "Peace Needs Women, and Women Need Justice." The conference was on Gender Justice in Post-Conflict Situations.

Co-organized by the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNFEM) and the International Legal Assistance Consortium (ILAC), from September 15 to 17, 2004 in New York City, this conference was well attended by ministers, ambassadors, UN officials and many NGOs.

At the conference, Minister Hoquqmal spoke about the plight of Afghan women in the past few years and asked the world community not to forget them. The Minister was a Professor of Law at Kabul University and former Deputy Chairperson of the Special Independent Commission for the Convening of the Emergency Loya Jirga. She also heads one of the largest women's NGO in Kabul.

In the final reception, conference attendees met with United Nations Secretary General, Mr. Kofi A. Annan. Afghan Communicator's Executive Director, Rameen Javid was the official translator for the Minister and accompanied the minister in her official engagements during the conference. Members of the Afghan Mission to the UN also met and greeted Minister Hoquqmal.

NOVEMBER 2004



Attendees of the Sixth Inter Afghan Youth Summit in Toronto



Left to Right- Haroon Mohsini, Hangama Ahmadzai, Khaleda Atta, Rameen Javid



Kofi Annan with conference attendees

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

AC AT GRACIE MAN- SION, THE BROOKLYN PEACE FAIR	2
EDITOR'S NOTES	2
ARTICLES IN DARI, CANDIDATES FORUM	3
NEW SERVICES PROVIDED	4

AC Workshops at Brooklyn Peace Fair

On October 16th, 2004 AC joined area grass roots organizations to participate in the 2nd Brooklyn Parents Peace Fair held at the Atlantic Avenue YWCA in Brooklyn. Classrooms were bustling with various workshops throughout the day, covering topics ranging from Button making for kids to Bias prevention, and from a Poetry workshop to a Youth led environmental justice workshop.

Afghan Communicator's own Rameen Javid had been invited to lead two workshops. The first was titled Islam & sciences, literature, philosophy and mysticism. In this workshop, he discussed the softer and largely unknown side of Islam and about Muslim contributions to humanity and even the English Language.

The second delved into Afghanistan: Past, Present, Future, in which Rameen explored issues that contributed to the creation of Afghanistan, why it is a troubled spot, it's meaning geographically, who Afghans are, as well as discussing Afghan literature and culture.

Both workshops were well attended and stimulated poignant discussions. Meanwhile, folks browsed through literature displayed at the booths of participating organizations, chatted with fellow attendees on the prospect of peace within the current climate and enjoyed the line-up of local musicians and guest speakers.

The crowd was diverse and in good spirits, enthusiastically discussing the political dilemma facing the US at this time and the obstacles to resolving global conflict. AC is proud to have collaborated in this peace festival and take advantage of the opportunity to share knowledge about Islam and Afghanistan with the community.

MAYOR'S SOUTH ASIAN HERITAGE EVENT

On November 3rd, Gracie Mansion was the setting for a reception honoring South Asian heritage, hosted by Mayor Mike Bloomberg. Along with other organizations and individuals actively working within and for the South Asian community, Afghan Communicator attended the event and had an opportunity to meet Mayor Bloomberg.

The reception also served as a venue for those activists to network with like-minded groups and begin building bridges within the community. Bloomberg addressed the reception and spoke with pride on New York City's diverse population, rich immigrant contributions, and exciting fusion of cultures. Bloomberg said he identified with the struggle of immigrants who are



AC Board & Staff with Mayor Bloomberg

able to fulfill the American dream through hard work and perseverance.

AC was honored to have been invited to the event alongside other distinguished guests and looks forward to collaborating with the Mayor's office to improve community relations and to continue to advocate on behalf of the Afghan/Muslim constituency.

EDITOR'S NOTES

By the time our Community Bulletin reaches you, *Eid al-Fitr* has marked the end of Ramadan, so belated *Eid Mubaarak!* I will be in Afghanistan till mid December, in search of new films and art for our upcoming film festival and art exhibition, as well as buying school and lab supplies for a co-ed school, establishing a new computer center and officially opening our Kabul office.

The Kabul office was initiated by AC's desire to help in the reconstruction of a war-torn Afghanistan, and reflecting our community's wishes. Through the Kabul office AC runs programs to help children, women, job training and other charitable efforts, while as a resource center, assisting other organizations accomplish similar efforts.

In the US, through our national voter education and voter registration campaign this summer, we have registered hundreds of new Afghan-American voters. It is important that we voted as a community. The results may not be immediate, but the impact is long lasting.

Our 2004 annual appeal letter was mailed last month, asking for your support of our programs. Thank you for your continuous and generous support. It is through your support that we grow stronger and better as a community-based organization.

In our 2004 Partial Events Calendar, which was included in our appeal letter, we listed many of our major activities for the year. We are proud that with a modest budget and small staff, AC can organize such major activities. Thus your financial support goes a long way with AC.

Through our Needs Assessment Survey, many of you expressed interest in a wide range of services covering youth, immigration, professional networking, and senior citizens. All of these services are essential, considering that there were virtually no established support groups for the Afghan community, when mass Afghan immigration to the US began in the early 1980's.

It is important to note that community support of organizations is directly linked to the community's vitality and sustainability. Therefore, an investment in a community-based organization such as Afghan Communicator, is an investment in the Afghan community itself. Just imagine if each community member donates \$1 per month; considering Afghan Communicator's mission and work ethics, we would be stronger and more active as a result.

کانفرانس جوانان

ششمین کانفرانس جوانان فعال افغان، بتاريخ ۲ الی ۳ اکتوبر ۲۰۰۴ در شهر تورنتو، توسط ACYO و ACPO دایر گردید. اضافه‌تر از ۵۰ تن جوان از سرتاسر امریکا و کانادا در آن شرکت کردند.

ضمیمه این کانفرانس ورکشاپ‌های گوناگون بود، همراه با یک شب موسیقی و یک روز شهرگشت. هر دو موسسه با مهماننوازی زیاد از حاضرین استقبال کردند.

تعدادبگزار این کانفرانس افغان کمیونیکیتور است که در سال ۱۹۹۹ برای اولین بار هم‌چنین کانفرانسی را دایر نمود. در سال ۲۰۰۳، افغان کمیونیکیتور یک جایزه، فعالترین جوان افغان را معرفی کرد تا جوانان در فعال بودن در جامعه افغانی تشویق شوند. اینسال آن جایزه که عبارت از یک سرتیفیکیت و مبلغ نقد \$400 امریکایی است به آقای تمیم سلیم از ACYO تورتو بجایزه داد شد.



Afghan State Minister, Mahuba Hoquqmal, with AC's Executive Director at UN Conference, September 2004

Candidates Forum

"The difference between the candidates is very easy," said Evergreen Chou, candidate for New York State Assembly from district 22. "One of my opponents is like a restaurant owner. The other is a restaurant manager, and I represent the restaurant workers."

A candidates forum, co-sponsored by Afghan Communicator, on October 23, brought Mr. Chou and his major party opponents at the Sheraton Hotel Flushing face to face with residents and community activists.

After the moderated portion of the program, the audience members had a chance to address the candidates directly with questions and comments. The mood of the questioners ranged from concerned to hostile. Many chose to ask about housing, healthcare and transportation issues.

Including the Republican candidate Meilin Tan, the major candidates in this election are of ethnic Chinese origin. In the case either one is elected, he or she will be the first Chinese-American to represent the pre-dominantly Chinese immigrant district.

AC Staff contributed questions presented to the candidates at the forum, focusing on issues important to the South Asian and Muslim communities in Flushing. AC was excited to have an opportunity to collaborate with other local community based organizations and to be able to represent the Muslim and South Asian constituents of Flushing. In the future we hope to continue voter education outreach and encourage voter turnout in important local elections.

DONATE AND HELP AFGHANS REBUILD

Afghan Communicator is a community based, grass-roots organization that was founded in 1997. Our programs are local, national and international in scope. We organize a number of cultural, educational and humanitarian projects and events throughout the year. Working towards the reconstruction of Afghanistan, AC is proud to announce the opening of its new office in Kabul.

PLEASE PRINT:

Yes, I would like to help Afghans rebuild their community here and abroad.

Full Name: _____ Tel: _____

Email: _____ Address: _____ Date _____

I am donating: Patron: \$500 Friend: \$250 Benefactor: \$100
 Supporter: \$50 Helper: \$25 Other _____

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ _____ payable to **Afghan Communicator**.

* AC is a 501(c)3 not-for profit organization. All contributions of cash or in kind are tax deductible.

To learn more about our work, please visit us at www.afghancommunicator.com.