



Photo by Steve McCurry

Canadians in Support of Afghan Women

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Canadians in Support of Afghan Women
An Affiliate Group of Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan



Nazoo Anna Schools Founder Visits Oakville



Nazaneen speaks to CSAW members and supporters of her schools at the Open House.

On October 11, 2004, the founder of the Nazoo Anna Education Centres, Ms. Nazaneen Majeed arrived in the Halton area and stayed with CSAW member, Linda Middaugh. On October 12, Ms. Majeed visited with members of *Canadians in Support of Afghan Women* at the home of Sherry Ardell. This marked the first time that Mrs. Majeed was able to obtain a Visa to Canada to meet with the group that has been her main supporter since 1999. This was a very personal and emotional time for our members and Ms. Majeed. We were finally able to talk to the woman we so admire for her dedication to the education of Afghan girls. For Nazaneen it was her opportunity to personally thank the women who have been supporting her efforts. Nazaneen presented CSAW with a map of Afghanistan cross-stitched by students that thanked our organization for their support. An Open House allowed other members of the community and past supporters to meet Nazaneen. She captivated all who came. Her stature may be small, but her dedication is immense. She talked at length with people about her concerns for children; trafficking for sale of organs, 17 year old widows with several children and her work in the Nazoo Anna Education Centres. Nazaneen's visit inspired us to continue with our work; speaking to groups about conditions for women and girls in Afghanistan and fundraising for the Nazoo Anna Education Centres.

Ms. Majeed addressed the entire staff and students of St. Vincent's Elementary School in Oakville. The parent group at St. Vincent's had fundraised over \$7,000 for the Nazoo Anna Education Centre in 2004. Ms. Majeed was

pleased to be able to meet these students, staff and parents not only to personally thank them but also to let them know their money was used to pay teachers' salaries, purchase tents for classrooms and buy supplies. Representative students of each division presented books to Mrs. Majeed for her schools. The story was featured in the Oakville Beaver and the school board Director's letter.



Libraries for Afghanistan

This project launched in 2002 is the brainchild of Deb Ellis, author of the *Parvana* series in collaboration with CSAW. CW4WA manages the fund. Since it's launch, more than \$26,500 has been donated for books and resources for Afghan women and girls. To **obtain a tax receipt** for \$25 or more, cheques should be made out to **Rights and Democracy**. If no tax receipt is required, cheques should be made out to **Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan**. On the memo line write: **W4W Afghan Library** and mail to: **CW4WA, P.O. Box 32014 Bankview, Calgary, AB T2T 5X6**. Locally, call CSAW at 905 825 3622.

NEW IN 2004 AND 2005

1. ANNOUNCING for September 2005

New CSAW Website

www.canadianssupportafghanwomen.ca

2. AFGHANISTAN TODAY- 2004 Calgary *Canadians in Support of Afghan Women* delegates joined other volunteer members at this **National Conference**. They strengthened the network by sharing stories and experiences and by listening to such an impressive array of international guest speakers as; Sally Armstrong, (UNICEF's special Representative in Afghanistan), The Honorable Flora MacDonald, [CARE Canada Program Advisor-Afghanistan, Ariane Brunet, (Director of Rights & Democracy Women's Rights



Afghanistan Today - Calgary 2004 Bev LeFrancois, Linda Middaugh, Liz Watson and Nazaneen Majeed

Program) and Nazaneen Majeed, (Director and Founder of the Nazoo Anna Education Centre). *The overall goal of the conference was to provide delegates with a deeper understanding of the difficulties faced by Afghan women and their families and to discuss what we, as Canadians, can do to help.* Dr. Sima Samar, chair of the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission sent special remarks to delegates at the conference since she was unable to attend due to the Presidential election in Afghanistan. CSAW delegates learned much from sharing with other groups and from the guest speakers.

3. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM KIT

*Understanding Human Rights in Afghanistan
Canadian Students as Global Citizens*

This kit includes a compelling power point presentation, a teaching script, and interactive follow up activities that will enable students and audiences to better understand the concept of human rights highlighting Afghanistan. Members of CSAW and Ontario CW4WA member groups will ensure that this presentation matches Ontario curriculum.

4. SHARIA LAW

CSAW has become actively involved in lobbying against the adoption of Sharia Law into the Arbitration Act in Ontario. During the last year, we worked with The Canadian Council of Muslim Women and many concerned citizens of all faiths in the International Campaign against Sharia Law. We believe that religious law of any kind should not be legislated into family law decisions such as property, child custody, divorce, inheritance and estates. If Sharia Law were used in Canada, decisions would be unfair to women and against the equality clause in The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Many women of Islamic countries who have fled oppression in such countries have told us that they came to Canada hoping to have the equal rights that Canadians enjoy. Already, Quebec has vetoed the use of any religious laws in their family courts there.

WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU

THANK YOU! CSAW was invited to present and/or set up a storefront and sell Afghan needlecraft at over 26 venues in 2004! 100% of all donations or

purchases of needlecrafts are sent to our partners in Afghanistan - The Nazoo Anna Education Centre, the Afghan Women's Resource Centre and to the Library Fund in 2005.

In 2004, we received approximately \$7,800 for AWRC and \$60,000 for NAEC. The school received \$15,000 US in grants through a new partnership with CW4WA. Since our formation in 1999, your support has enabled CSAW to send over \$32,000 to AWRC and \$133,000 to NAEC. Thank you to the following individuals and groups for their ongoing support; Breaking Bread, Deborah Ellis, Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario, Men Walking Against Male Violence, Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association, Sexual Assault and Violence Intervention Services of Halton – SAVIS, The Unitarian Congregation of South Peel, Voice of Women for Peace, Guelph and the Women of Halton Action Movement. Thank you also to the numerous churches in the Halton-Hamilton area that have given us support. Thanks also to students who have contributed to CSAW. Sincere thanks to WHAM for their donation from the I.W.D. Dinner Party of \$6,600 and to the St. Vincent's Parent Group for their donation of \$7,000. With your help, we predict another successful year in 2005.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- **Invite us to speak** at your service club, church, community group, interest group or school
- **Donate to CSAW** which supports the **Library Fund**, the **Nazoo Anna Schools** and **AWRC**
- **Make a special occasion gift donation**
- **Buy beautiful handmade Afghan goods**
- **Buy books in the recommended reading section**
- **Write a letter to your MP or sign a postcard to be sent to the Prime Minister of Canada.** Cards, available at CSAW/SAVIS, are to encourage Canada's ongoing participation in Afghanistan.
- **Host a Potluck Dinner** through Breaking Bread for Afghan Women. Funds will pay teachers' salaries in Afghanistan. For more information call 416-366-2516 or check www.breakingbreadforwomen.com

WHAT'S NEW IN BOOKS & MEDIA?



Books to Read

Veiled Threat by Sally Armstrong
The Breadwinner, Parvana's Journey,
Mud City by Deborah Ellis
The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini
A Bed of Flowers by Nelofar Pazira

Websites to Visit

www.w4wafghan.ca - Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan
www.ichrrd.ca - Human Rights and Democracy
www.wapha.org - Women's Alliance for Peace and Human Rights in Afghanistan



Videos/DVDs to Watch

Daughters of Afghanistan [DVD] Documentary CBC Chapters/ Indigo & Blockbuster