

PRESS RELEASE

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Launch

Of

**Women and Public Policy Journal
(Vol. 3)**

**Afghanistan's Peace Process
Evolution, Impact and Gaps**

By

**Organization for Policy Research and
Development Studies**

Held on

19 December 2017, from 10:00-11:00 am

At

The Government Media and Information

Keynote Address

By

H.E. Ms. Habiba Sarobi

Deputy Head, High Peace Council, Afghanistan

Center

On 19th December 2017, the Organization for Policy Research and Development Studies (DROPS), supported by the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), launched the third edition of its Annual Peer-Reviewed Women and Public Policy Journal (WPPJ).

H.E. Ms. Habiba Sarobi, Deputy Head, High Peace Council, Afghanistan, delivered the **keynote address** and launched this edition of the Journal. **Other speakers** included **Mariam Safi**, Executive Director, DROPS; and **Scott Smith**, Director, Political Affairs Division, United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan.

The 2017 Edition of the WPPJ is titled 'Afghanistan's Peace Process: Evolution, Impact and Gaps'.

The volume contains **eleven (11) essays** and **one (1) book review** authored by Afghan women. These essays **review** and **evaluate** different aspects and components of the **Afghan peace process**; **compare the Afghan peace process** with **other peace processes**; identify **successes, failures, and gaps**; and **provide recommendations** for policymakers towards making the Afghan peace process more viable, sustainable, and eventually, successful.

Click here for the full video: <https://www.facebook.com/gmicafghanistan/videos/1619035994843231/>

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DROPS

ORGANIZATION FOR POLICY RESEARCH
& DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

نهاد پښتو و نوسعه

This press release contains:

*Note on the Launch | Remarks by
the Speakers | Table of Contents of
the Vol. 3 | Overview of the WPPJ*

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REMARKS BY THE SPEAKERS

Dr Habiba Sarobi

Deputy Head, High Peace Council

- "As Ms. Safi mentioned, the journal is a timely effort on the peace process in Afghanistan."
- "I am sure the papers in this journal offer particular approaches for the peace process in Afghanistan."
- "Together with DROPS, we will translate this journal into Dari and Pashto to circulate it across the country."
- "Although the peace agreement with Hezb-e-Islami a breakthrough, the people of Afghanistan expect more from the peace process in Afghanistan and more needs to be achieved."
- "At the High Peace Council, we are focused more on the internal aspect of the peace process in Afghanistan and on bringing about a national consensus with regards to peace. To this end, over the past two months, we have held meetings with various communities in over 15 to 16 provinces."

Scott Smith

Director, Political Affairs Division, United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan

- As you all know, the UNSCR 1325 calls for women to be involved in all stages and at all levels of peace processes. In some cases, and nearly in many cases, women may choose to focus exclusively on protecting women's rights in an eventual peace settlement. This itself is widely important. I noted it while reading the thought-provoking ideas on women's participation outlined by Farhat Popal and Mona Hussaini.
- What is important is that this volume presents women's perspective on much wider range of issues including consensus building, state legitimacy and regional security regimes among other issues. Therefore, it represents a valuable contribution to a much more inclusive public discourse about peace in Afghanistan.
- At UNAMA we believe that initiating soon a real and practical peace process has never been more crucial than now. Every day that the peace process is delayed, it is another day of war.
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Mariam Safi

Executive Director, DROPS

- The Women and Public Policy Journal is the first journal of its kind in Afghanistan focusing on women's role in policymaking in the country and is written solely by Afghan women.
- Given the increase in insecurity and rising civilian casualty, a thorough debate around the peace process is needed now more than any time before.
- This volume of the journal contains nine analytical papers, each focused on one of the fundamental indexes of peace including transitional justice, legitimacy of the peace process, citizens' perception of the peace process, and top-down and bottom-up approaches to peace.

WPPJ 2017

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1. Political and Economic Inclusion: An Assessment of Women's Participation in the Afghan Peace Process **by Farhat Popal**
2. Afghan Peace Process: How to Improve the Chances for Success? **by Shahgul Rezaie**
3. Peace Talks with the Taliban: Role of International Community **by Fawzia Fazil**
4. Legitimacy, Peace Processes, and the Role of Civil Society **by Zarghoona Aslami**
5. Compromise, Consensus-building and Trust: Missing Ingredients in Afghanistan's Peace Negotiations **by Marzia Meena**
6. Transitional Justice: A Prerequisite for Sustainable Peace? **by Nazi Karim**
7. Insecurity in Afghanistan: A Destructive 'Regional Security Systems' Approach **by Naheed Farid**

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8. The Afghan Government's Failures in Empowering Women in the Peace Process by **Mona Hossaini**
9. A Key Gap in the Afghan Peace-building Process: Absence of Neuroscientific Techniques and Human Psychology by **Nahid Shahalimi**
10. Colombia's Peace Process: Lessons for Afghanistan by **Najiba Madadi**
11. Northern Ireland's Peace Process: Lessons for Afghanistan by **Farida Ghanizada**
12. Book Review: *Talking to Terrorists: How to End Armed Conflicts* by **Tahmina Rassoli**

ABOUT DROPS' WOMEN AND PUBLIC POLICY JOURNAL (WPPJ)

1. The WPPJ is the first peer-reviewed public policy journal completely authored and managed by Afghan women in Afghanistan.
2. It breaks the stereotype that women write only on gender-related issues because this Journal includes analyses by women on a variety of important issues.
3. The WPPJ has created the much-needed space for women to engage in policy discourse via policy research in Afghanistan.
4. The WPPJ provides a platform that ensures that women's perspectives are incorporated in policy debates and strategies.
5. The 2017 Edition is the 3rd Edition of the WPPJ.
6. This Edition of the WPPJ offers recommendations for the Afghan government, policymakers, and the international community towards improving the Afghan peace process strategy.