

PRESS RELEASE

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Launch

Of

**Women and Public Policy Journal
(Vol. 5)**

**“Towards Security and Stability in Afghanistan:
Fostering Regional Consensus.”**

By

**Organization for Policy Research and
Development Studies**

Held on

September 15, 2019, from 09:30-11:30 am

At

**The Government Media and Information Center
(GMIC)**

Keynote Address

By

H.E. Mr. Idrees Zaman
Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs

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For Immediate Release

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DROPS

ORGANIZATION FOR POLICY RESEARCH
& DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

نهاد پژوهش و توسعه

On 15th September 2019, the Organization for Policy Research and Development Studies (DROPS), launched the Fifth Vol. of its Annual Peer-Reviewed Women and Public Policy Journal (WPPJ), co-hosted with the German Embassy.

This year's journal is titled, “Towards Security and Stability in Afghanistan: Fostering Regional Consensus,” the preface of the journal has been written by H.E. Dr. Rangin Dadfar Spanta Former Minister of Foreign Affairs and former National Security Advisor of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, and each journal article was peer reviewed by Dr. Nazif Shahrani and Dr. Bashir Mobasher.

Deputy Minister Idrees Zaman Deputy delivered the keynote address at the launch while other speakers included Mariam Safi, Executive Director of DROPS who described the theme and relevance of this year's journal and H. E. Peter Prugel, German Ambassador to Afghanistan touched upon the importance of providing spaces for Afghan women to think critically and engage in policy discourse.

The journal contains **eleven (11) essays** and **one (1) book review** authored by Afghan women. The essays in this volume will explore regional security dynamics; provide insights on prevailing and emerging challenges and opportunities; and offer policy recommendations towards building regional consensus to combat terrorism in Afghanistan.

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Key Remarks by Speakers:

Mariam Safi

Founder and Executive Director of DROPS

- The 5th Vol. of the Journal is focused on building regional consensus to foster stability and security in Afghanistan. I also hope that this journal plays a role in provoking constructive debate on security and stability in Afghanistan.
- I hope the Afghan Government, International Community, Civil Society, and Academicians working on building a lasting peace in Afghanistan will consider the findings and recommendations of the journal which has been thoroughly researched by the authors.
- Women and Public Policy Journal is the first peer-reviewed journal of its kind that is published annually by DROPS and provides critical insights and policy recommendations on key national issues that are hotly debated amongst policy-makers, academia and the public.
- The Journal provides a platform for women to engage in the policy debates and discourse by utilizing research tools and capabilities. This journal helps amplify women's voices, and provides them with the opportunity to influence the policy making process by providing critical, insightful and sound policy recommendations through research.

Ambassador Peter Prugel

German Ambassador to Afghanistan

- It is not just the topics and ideas that make the journal so special, rather it is the platform that DROPS provides to female academicians, writers, and researchers to participate in formulating and leading narratives on vital national issues.
- The Women and Public Policy Journal also serves as a witness to the achievements Afghanistan has been able to accomplish throughout the past 18 years of international intervention.
- The Journal also proves that Afghan Women have valid perspectives & should be taken seriously by decision-makers leading the current peace process, and the Afghan Women to take ownership of their fate and the fate of their people.
- The common narrative has been that Afghan Women are not capable to be involved in public debate and discussion on the future of the country, but this journal proves the contrary.

Idrees Zaman

Deputy Foreign Minister of Afghanistan

- The publication of the 5th Vol. of the Women & Public Policy Journal is not only an achievement for its writers, rather it is a great achievement for all of us. We at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs welcome this journal and will incorporate its findings in our policy.
- This Journal will play a very important role in providing the platform for young Afghan writers to conduct analysis, research, and to think critically on issues that matters to the whole country.
- I also want to remind you all that until 2005, Afghanistan was an under-research country. After that lots of research was conducted, but its nature was very narrow and low quality. Most of them were funded by the Provincial Reconstruction Teams & International Organizations but when these institutions left the country, lots of research organizations who were producing low-quality research were closed, and fortunately we do not have them now. But research organizations, like DROPS & some others who are producing high-quality research remained.
- Based on the foreign policy roadmap of the president, regional countries play the most important role in our foreign policy. This journal is the study of regional countries, as such it will help us to understand the region and formulate appropriate policies.
- I am also asking the Directorate of Regional Studies and other relevant directorates at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to conduct analysis and discussions on the findings of this journal with its writers.
- In the past few months, we at Ministry of Foreign Affairs are working to formulate our foreign policy based on research. Here I would like to announce that, very soon we will establish the Ghazi Amanullah Khan Center for Regional Studies at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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Authors of 5th Vol. of WPPJ:

- 1. Afghanistan and Central Asia: A Regional Approach to Counter Radical Islam**
By ANNE JASIM-FALHER
- 2. Pakistan's Role in Shaping the Character of Security in Afghanistan**
By: NASEMA ZEERAK
- 3. Addressing Saudi Arabia's Concerns to Facilitate Security in Afghanistan**
By KHADIJA HUSSAINI
- 4. China's Engagement with Afghan Security**
By GULSOM MIRZADA
- 5. Contextualizing Qatar's Role and Relevance in Afghanistan's Quest for Peace**
By NASRIA PASHTUN
- 6. Russia's Concerns and Engagement in Afghanistan**
By FARAH ELYASKHIL
- 7. Kabul-New Delhi Relations and the Future of Security in Afghanistan**
By SUGHRA AZIZI
- 8. Invigorating Tehran-Kabul Relations**
By ZAHRA ROSTAMI
- 9. Harnessing Pakistan's Priorities to Encourage Constructive Engagement with Afghanistan**
By SHUGHNIA RAMZJO
- 10. The Need and Relevance of Enhanced Security Cooperation Between Turkmenistan and Afghanistan**
By SADAF MOHMAND
- 11. Turkey's Potential for Facilitating Regional Cooperation and Peace in Afghanistan**
By: MARZIA AZIZI
- 12. Book Review | 'An Essential Primer on the Afghan War Post 9 September 2001'**
BY SAMINA ANSARI

Key Facts 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.** The journal breaks the limitations and stereotypes placed on women to write, discuss and engage only on gender-related issues. Our journal empowers women to explore a variety of policy related topics, from gender-lens and not a gendered discourse.
- 3.** The WPPJ has created the 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.** Each Vol. of the WPPJ offers recommendations targeting national policymakers, international community, local think-tanks and CSOs.