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AFGHANISTAN

SUCCESS STORY

Capacity building helps young activist find her voice to combat violence against women



Fakhria Karimi, a 24 year old from Badakhshan, Musharikat coalition member, and newly confident public speaker now able to positively improve her community's perceptions of women.

Find out more about Musharikat here:
<https://www.musharikat.com>

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At 24 years old, Ms. Fakhria Karimi is on her way to becoming a change maker in her home province of Badakhshan.

She first learned about Musharikat at an event organized by coalition members in Badakhshan in the fall of 2019, where she was encouraged to apply for membership. She registered with the Women in the Peace Process, and the Anti-Harassment of Women and Girls coalitions and has since become a familiar face at coalition-led events in the province.

In 2019, Musharikat awarded a grant to the civil society organization and coalition member, Nature Educational, Research & Development Organization (NERDO) to strengthen stakeholders' knowledge of the Law on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, including the sub-articles related to child and forced marriages. The training provided also included building stakeholders' capacities for public speaking to enhance their involvement in awareness raising activities. The activity was designed to enhance the skills of both coalition member and government stakeholders to raise awareness about the negative consequences of child and forced marriage among their communities and to advocate for the enforcement of the law preventing them throughout their networks. Ms. Karimi was selected to participate in these trainings because of her observed influence within her community, which would help to reach the project's intended objectives to dissuade families from engaging in harmful practices like child and forced marriages.

"Before I attended the training from NERDO I didn't know that child and forced marriages were a crime under Afghan law. It was through these trainings that I also learned how to talk about these issues at events in my community. Before, it was really hard for me to talk clearly about these issues, but through this workshop, I'm now able to speak confidently to large groups of people,"

Since attending the trainings, Ms. Karimi has been able to hone and practice her public speaking skills to raise awareness on the harmful impacts of child and forced marriages. With NERDO, she now gives lectures on this topic at girls' high schools in her home city of Faizabad in Badakhshan, and also organizes community gatherings and campaigns to educate women about the EVAW Law and to persuade them not to force their daughters into marriage but rather, to let them choose who they want to marry themselves.

Ms. Karimi is an active and dedicated coalition member. She is still very much a part of awareness raising activities about gender-based violence and women's rights in communities

Telling Our Story

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