



## Seminar: Women, Security and Economic Development in Rural Afghanistan

April 30th, 2012, 8:30-13:00 at Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islandi Väljak 1, Tallinn Estonia

**Meet Palwasha Kakar, the Afghan Deputy Minister of Women's Affairs along with an inspiring panel of guest speakers representing a cross section of perspectives from government to research institutions and from civil society organizations to NATO.**

**The seminar is a unique opportunity to discuss the importance of women's full involvement in efforts to promote development and security by addressing the interconnectedness of Afghan women's human rights, security situation and empowerment process in the transition phase.**

Women are among the most vulnerable in Afghan society. Afghan women suffer discrimination and exclusion in economic, political and social terms, and many see their human rights compromised on a daily basis. Nevertheless, unleashing Afghan women's full potential is paramount for sustainable economic and social development in the country now and beyond 2014. The speakers on Panel 1 will share lessons learnt and discuss future challenges on organizing and empowering women in Afghan rural communities and how to link them to decision making processes at local and national levels.

A stable security environment and the implementation of human rights for women into civil society are essential to ensure the empowerment process. The UNSC Resolution 1325 reaffirms the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts. With point of departure in Resolution 1325 Panel 2 will revolve around best practice for ensuring women's rights in order to promote security and economic development in rural Afghanistan.

**Registration is required** by April 25<sup>th</sup> at <http://mondo.org.ee/seminar/>

The seminar is free of charge and will be held in English. The seminar is a result of a joint cooperation between ENNA, NGO Mondo and the Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and has been co-funded with support from the European Commission.



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European Network of NGOs in Afghanistan



**VÄLISMINISTEERIUM**  
ESTONIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS



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### Programme

08:30 *Registration*

09:00-9:30 Welcome by **Marta de la Cera**, *Coordinator, ENNA*  
Opening remarks by **Mati Raidma**, *Chair of Parliamentary Group on Afghanistan and Board Member of Mondo*, and **Margus Rava**, *Director General, 3<sup>rd</sup> Political Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

### 09:30-11:10 **Panel 1: Empowerment of women and Economic development in rural Afghanistan**

**Palwasha Kakar**, Deputy Minister of Women's Affairs

**Wazhma Frogh**, Executive Board Member, Afghan Women's Network (AWN)

**Adam Pain**, Research Fellow at the University of East Anglia, and Researcher at the Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit (AREU)

**Irshad Alamyar**, Manager, DACAAR

*Moderated by Maari Ross*, Expert on Afghanistan, NGO Mondo

11:10-11:40 *Coffee break*

### 11:40-13:50 **Panel 2: Women, Security and Human Rights in rural Afghanistan**

**Orzala Ashraf**, Ph.D student at SOAS, University of London and former Chairwomen of HAWCA

**Eva-Maria Liimets**, Director of the Division of International Organisations, Security Policy Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

**Charlotte Isaksson**, Allied Command Operations Gender Advisor, NATO.

**Malek Sitez**, Senior programme advisor at the Danish Institute for Human Rights.

*Moderated by Ahto Lobjakas*, Analyst, Estonian Foreign Policy Institute

13:00-14.00 **Buffet lunch**

14.00-15.00 Dialogue meeting with **Alar Streimann**, MFA Secretary General



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