

Zohra Rasekh (Afghanistan)

Date and place of birth

7 February 1964, Kabul, Afghanistan

Working languages

English, Farsi/Dari

Current position/function

Leading the Office Human Rights & Women's International Affairs, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

Advising the Foreign Minister on issues related to gender and human rights.

Main professional activities

Advising the government in formulating its policies and actions on issues related to gender and human rights to the international and donor community.

Liaising with the Ministry of Women's Affairs, the Afghan Human Rights Commission, and international organizations in the areas of gender and human rights.

Monitoring and reporting on gender and human rights activities by local and international agencies and NGOs.

Mobilizing resources and technical expertise to advance needs in the area of gender and human rights in Afghanistan.

Leading the international human rights treaty reporting process for the Government of Afghanistan.

Reviewing and referring of individual cases of women victims of violence or injustice outside Afghanistan borders.

Educational background

Masters of Public Health, May 1994, The George Washington University, School of Medicine & Healthcare Sciences, Washington, D.C.

B.A. in Sociology — December 1989, The George Washington University, Columbian College, Washington, D.C.

Fellowship — January 2006, Women & Public Policy Program, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.

Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate of the treaty body concerned

Active member of the following: US-Afghan Women's Council, the Afghan Commission on the Elimination of Violence against Women, the human rights advisory group, the review board on CEDAW (government and SC group reviewing CEDAW against Afghanistan laws).

Leading: a capacity-building project for the international human rights treaty reporting, including CEDAW; women and girls trafficking projects, and seminars on women rights from the perspective of Islam.

List of most recent publications in the field

Women's Health and Human Rights in Afghanistan

Journal of American Medical Association (JAMA)

The Taliban's War on Women: A Health and Human Rights Crises in Afghanistan

Physicians for Human Rights

Education, A Health Imperative: The Case of Afghanistan

François-Xavier Bagnoud Center for Health & Human Rights, Harvard Publication

Health and Human Rights of Adolescent Girls in Afghanistan

Journal of American Medical Women's Association (JAMWA)

In this Generation: Sexual and Reproductive Health Policies for a Youthful World

PAI Publishing