

ZEDx Women in Afghanistan Forum
Thursday 8 September 2022
Q&A

1. What is a ZEDx?

- The Zonta Club of Melbourne on Yarra (ZMoY) ZEDx is an interactive face-to-face OR online forum to share knowledge, expertise, and information. Similar to a TEDx or TED Talk
- ZEDx enables everyone to have a Zonta Educational/ Enlightening/ Entertaining/ Enthralling etc. Dialogue/ Discussion/ Demonstration and is an X-citing, X-clusive, X-factor X-perience.

2. Why a Women in Afghanistan Forum?

- This forum will discuss the history of women in Afghanistan, their traditional position in the Afghan Constitution and the realities of their existence now. It will offer insights into how women are trying to continue education.

3. Forum speakers

- **Forum Chair - Jessie Taylor.** Jessie is a barrister and former President of the Victorian Council for Civil Liberties (Liberty Victoria) (2016-2019). Jessie holds Honours degrees in Law and Arts (Monash University) and a Master of Science (Humanitarian Action). Jessie is a well-known advocate for human rights.
- **Forum Panel** comprises:
 - **Farkhondeh Akbari** - Farkhondeh fled Afghanistan with her family when she was seven; she grew up as a refugee in Pakistan and Iran before arriving in Australia in 2003. Farkhondeh now has a PhD in Diplomacy and International Relations from the Australian National University and two master's degrees. She has expertise in diplomatic negotiations and peace settlements. Farkhondeh is an advocate for the rights of women and girls and vulnerable ethnic groups in Afghanistan. Farkhondeh had work experience at the UN in New York and Afghanistan.
 - **Azadah Raz Mohammad** - Azadah holds LL.Ms. in International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights and International Criminal Law. In September 2021, Azadah co-founded the Ham Diley Campaign assisting vulnerable Afghans at the risk of persecution and advocating accountability for victims of atrocity crimes in Afghanistan. She has worked on humanitarian and human rights related projects in close collaboration with Afghanistan's justice institutions.
 - **Khoshbo Ebrahimi** – Khoshbo is a lawyer who worked in the Department of Justice in Kabul Afghanistan up until the Taliban takeover last year and is now in Australia. Khoshbo has always encouraged other women to seek greater independence and education in Afghanistan.

4. How do I register for the ZEDx?

- Book online via Humanitix <https://events.humanitix.com/women-in-afghanistan-forum> – a registered charity where booking fees cover only their costs, everything else goes to children's education projects in developing countries.
- You will receive a confirmation email within 24 hours of registration and a reminder the day before.

5. What projects does the Zonta Club of Melbourne on Yarra support?

- Since 1966 ZMoY has raised funds to deliver a vast range of projects to empower women and girls worldwide. Currently, we:
 - make breast care cushions for women recovering from breast cancer surgery in five local hospitals
 - provide educational grants for women who demonstrate leadership qualities in local community service
 - provide a Women Taking Climate Action annual award
 - assemble and distribute birthing kits for women in developing countries
 - put together 'pamper packs' of toiletries for women receiving help from family violence service providers
 - award grants to local not-for-profit agencies serving the interests of women and girls
 - support Zonta International projects in conjunction with the United Nations, to strengthen responses to gender-based violence in PNG and Timor Leste, engaging girls on climate change in Madagascar, adolescent girls health and protection in Peru and support the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage.

6. If I am unable to attend this ZEDx, can I make a donation to support women's education in Afghanistan?

- Yes – a donation can be made:
 - online through Humanitix <https://events.humanitix.com/women-in-afghanistan-forum> or
 - transfer an amount into our Club's Bendigo Bank account
 - BSB 633-000
 - A/c 162221642
 - Reference: 'WIA' & your surname.

Thank you for your support to help build a better world for women and girls.