



## Academic Conference: Looking towards Peace in Afghanistan after the US-NATO Withdrawal

Monday June 21, Tuesday June 22, and Wednesday June 23, 2021

### Speaker Bios

#### Distinguished Keynote Address

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**H.E. Dr. Ashraf Ghani**  
**President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan**

Ashraf Ghani grew up in Afghanistan before pursuing his education abroad. Like so many Afghans, foreign invasion and civil war led to the persecution of his family and forced him to remain in exile. Whilst abroad, he became a leading scholar of political science and anthropology and then worked at the World Bank where he learned the tools of international development. Following the fall of the Taliban in 2001, he returned to Afghanistan to devote his unique skills and knowledge to rebuilding the country. He advised interim President Karzai and served as the Finance Minister in the Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan until December 2004. During his tenure as Finance Minister, he designed a package of reforms and initiated several public investment programs that led to significant improvements in the livelihoods of ordinary Afghans across the country. He declined to join the newly elected government in December 2004. However, he remained an influential voice in political circles both in Afghanistan and abroad. He served as the chairman of the Transition Coordination Commission (TCC) in 2010 which was responsible for transferring authority from foreign to national troops. He resigned from TCC to run for president in October 2013. He was declared winner on September 22, 2014.

#### Opening Speakers

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**H.E. Dr. Mutlaq bin Majed Al-Qahtani**

Special Envoy of the State of Qatar for Counterterrorism and Mediation of Conflict Resolution

Dr. Mutlaq bin Majed Al-Qahtani currently serves as Special Envoy of the Foreign Minister of the State of Qatar for Counterterrorism and Mediation of Conflict Resolution and is the National Focal Point for the Responsibility to



Protect. Previously, he was Director of the Department of International Organizations and Conferences at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He also worked in several other key positions including as Chief De Cabinet of the Presidency of 66th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations (2011 - 2012); Legal advisor to the Minister of State of Foreign Affairs from 2010 - 2011; and Deputy Permanent Representative at Qatar's Mission to the United Nations (2005 - 2008). He has PhD, in Public International Law from the United Kingdom, and LLM from American University in Washington DC. He has written various articles relating to international law, international courts and tribunals, Law of Treaties, the law of international organizations. In 2015, he was awarded as the Ambassador of Peace.



**H.E. Fatima Gailani**

Negotiator for the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Fatima Gailani has been serving as the President of the Afghan Red Crescent Society since 2004. She is the daughter of Pir Sayed Ahmed Gailani, the leader of the National Islamic Front of Afghanistan who fought against the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan in the 1980s. After graduating from Malalai High School in Kabul, Ms. Gailani obtained a BA and subsequently an MA in Persian Literature and Sufism in 1978 from the National University of Iran. She also earned an MA in Islamic Studies from the Muslim College in London in 1994. She lived in exile during the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and acted as spokesperson in London for the Afghan Mujahideen. She attended the Bonn Conference on Afghanistan in 2001. After her return to Afghanistan, she was chosen as a delegate to the Emergency Loya Jirga - Grand Council - of June 2002 and was appointed as a constitution drafting and ratifying commissioner. Ms. Gailani is the author of two books (*Mosques of London* and a biography of Mohammed Mosa Shafi).



## Speakers from CHS and ACW

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### Sultan Barakat

Founding Director, Center for Conflict and Humanitarian Studies  
@BARAKAT\_Sultan

Sultan Barakat is the Director of the Center for Conflict and Humanitarian Studies (CHS), which he founded in 2016 and a Professor at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies. Professor Barakat has over 25 years of professional experience working on issues of conflict management, humanitarian response, and post-conflict recovery and transition. He is regularly engaged as a Senior Advisor and Consultant to the UN, the World Bank, EU, DFID, ILO, IFRC and a variety of governments and international nongovernmental organizations. In addition, he is a regular expert commentator in the international media, and his work has been widely published. Most recently, he co-led Track I and Track II mediation efforts in Yemen, Sudan, Syria and Afghanistan. Professor Barakat serves on the Advisory Board of the Humanitarian Policy Group at the Overseas Development Institute in London. He is a member of the joint Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) Commissioning Panel for research on poverty reduction. Prior to establishing CHS, Barakat was a Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution's Center for Middle East Policy and served as the Director of Research at the Brookings Doha Center. He is also an Honorary Professor in the Department of Politics at the University of York, where he founded and led the Post-war Reconstruction and Development Unit (PRDU) between 1993 and 2016 and received the University of York Vice-Chancellor's Gold Award for Excellence in 2011.



### Khalil Jahshan

Executive Director, Arab Center Washington DC  
@KhalilEJahshan

Khalil E. Jahshan is a Palestinian American political analyst and media commentator. He serves as Executive Director of Arab Center Washington DC. Between 2004 and 2013, he was a Lecturer in International Studies and Languages at Pepperdine University and Executive Director of Pepperdine's Seaver College Washington DC Internship Program. Previously, Jahshan served as Executive Vice President of the American-Arab AntiDiscrimination Committee (ADC) and Director of its government affairs affiliate, National Association of Arab Americans (NAAA)-ADC. Throughout his career, he held numerous leadership positions in Arab American organizations, including Vice President of the American Committee on Jerusalem, President of the National Association of Arab Americans, National Director of the Association of Arab-American University Graduates, Assistant Director of the Palestine Research and Educational Center, and Lecturer in Arabic at the University of Chicago Extension and at Northwestern University. Jahshan also served on boards of directors



and advisory boards of several Middle East-oriented organizations including ANERA, MIFTAH, and Search for Common Ground. He appears regularly as a political commentator on Arab and American media outlets.



### **Sana Tariq**

Research Fellow, Center for Conflict and Humanitarian Studies

Sana Tariq is a Research Fellow at the Centre for Conflict and Humanitarian Studies. Her research focusses on peace negotiations, international mediation, and humanitarian diplomacy, particularly in the context of Afghanistan. She previously worked for UNESCO to design community-based peacebuilding programming in Yemen. Her research has been funded by Georgetown University and Phi Beta Kappa. She holds an MPhil in International Relations and Politics from the University of Cambridge.



### **Tamara Kharroub**

Assistant Director and Senior Fellow, Arab Center Washington DC  
@tamarakharroub1

Tamara Kharroub is the Assistant Executive Director and a Senior Middle East Fellow at Arab Center Washington DC (ACW), where her research work focuses on democracy and human rights in the Arab world. She publishes research and policy analysis papers and editorials exploring issues of democratization and transitions, US foreign policy in the Middle East, the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, identity politics, cyber geopolitics, and the role of media and communication technology in the political process. Prior to joining ACW, Dr. Kharroub was Associate Instructor at Indiana University and directed human rights and democracy programs and communications campaigns in the Middle East. She holds a PhD from Indiana University Bloomington and an MA from the University of Westminster and is the recipient of several awards and fellowships including Fulbright.



## Panelists

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### **Hogai Aryoubi**

Peace Education Research Group, University of Cambridge  
@DrHogaiAryoubi

Hogai Aryoubi is a researcher and consultant in peace education at the University of Cambridge where she obtained her PhD. Hogai has a Master's degree from Johns Hopkins University and a Bachelor's in Anthropology from The City University of New York.



### **Yaseen Ayobi**

Doctoral Researcher, Centre for Humanitarian Leadership, Deakin University  
@yaseenayobi

Yaseen is a PhD candidate at the Centre for Humanitarian Leadership at Deakin University in Melbourne. He has conducted research in Afghanistan and the South Pacific, including Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu. Over the past 15 years, Yaseen has worked with USAID, Australian Aid, DFID and in academia. He led the localisation research in the South Pacific and the GTS's grand bargain commitments in Afghanistan. At the conclusion of his displacement research in Afghanistan, he will be researching 10 local humanitarian networks in Asia, the Middle East and Africa.



### **William Byrd**

Senior Expert (Afghanistan), United States Institute of Peace (USIP)

Dr. William Byrd is a development economist whose academic background includes a doctorate in economics from Harvard University and a master's degree in East Asian Regional Studies from the same institution. He joined USIP in April 2012 as a senior expert, working on Afghanistan. Dr. Byrd had long experience at the World Bank, where most of his work was country-focused, including China, India, Pakistan and Afghanistan. He lived for significant lengths of time in all of these countries and speaks Dari and Chinese, with some knowledge of other languages. During 2002-2006, he was stationed in Kabul, Afghanistan, where he served as the World Bank's country manager for Afghanistan and then as economic adviser. Dr. Byrd's publications include six books on China, other books, and numerous articles, among them several papers on Afghanistan, and several World Bank reports. Examples include reports on Afghanistan's economic development, public finance





management, economic cooperation in the wider Central Asia region, vulnerabilities to corruption assessments, Afghanistan's drug industry, and economic incentives and development initiatives to reduce opium production, as well as papers on these topics, security sector reform from a financial and development perspective, and on responding to Afghanistan's development challenge.



### **Malaiz Daud**

Project Director at the Peace Training and Research Organization (PTRO)

@MalaizDaud

Malaiz Daud is the Director of "Fostering a Culture of Nonviolence Project" at Peace Training and Research Organization (PTRO). He is also a Senior Research Fellow with Barcelona Center for International Affairs (CIDOB) and European Foundation for South Asian Studies (EFSAS).

Malaiz previously served in various capacities in government and civil society in Afghanistan before he moved to Berlin to pursue a PhD in Political Science from the Free University of Berlin. Malaiz's research interests are nonviolence, social action, temporality and social structures.



### **Antonio Donini**

Visiting Fellow, Feinstein International Center, Tufts University

Antonio Donini is Visiting Fellow at the Feinstein International Center at Tufts University and Research Associate at the Global Migration Centre at the Graduate Institute in Geneva. He works on issues relating to humanitarianism, the future of humanitarian action, and migration. He has worked for 26 years in the United Nations in research, evaluation, and humanitarian capacities. His last UN post was Head of

OCHA in Afghanistan 1999-2002. He has published widely on humanitarian, migration, and UN reform issues as well as on Afghanistan. He co-edited the volume *Nation-Building Unraveled? Aid, Peace, and Justice in Afghanistan* (Kumarian Press); and is the main author of *The Golden Fleece. Manipulation and Independence in Humanitarian Action* (Kumarian Press). He is co-author of *Planning from the Future: Is the humanitarian system fit for purpose?* a 2016 report that examines blockages in the humanitarian system and the potential for a major overhaul. He is co-founder and member of the Executive Committee of United Against Inhumanity (UAI), an emerging civil society movement that challenges the inhumanity of war and the erosion of asylum. As part of UAI, he is working on the establishment of an Independent Humanitarian Watch and a potential "Inhumanity Index."



### **Antonio Giustozzi**

Visiting Professor, King's College London

Dr. Antonio Giustozzi is a visiting professor at King's College London and holds a PhD from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). He is the author of several articles and papers on Afghanistan, as well as of four books: *War, Politics and Society in Afghanistan, 1978-1992* (Georgetown University Press), *Koran, Kalashnikov and Laptop: the Neo-Taliban Insurgency, 2002-7*

(Columbia University Press), *Empires of Mud: War and Warlords in Afghanistan* (Columbia University Press) and *Policing Afghanistan* (with M. Ishaqzada, Columbia University Press, 2013). He also authored a volume on the role of coercion and violence in state-building, *The Art of Coercion* (Columbia University Press, 2011), and edited a volume on the Taliban, *Decoding the New Taliban* (Columbia University Press, 2009), featuring contributions by specialists from different backgrounds, and one on DDR processes, *Post-Conflict Demobilisation, Disarmament and Reintegration: Bringing StateBuilding Back in* (Ashgate, 2012).



### **Hameed Hakimi**

Research Associate, Asia-Pacific Programme and Europe Programme, Chatham House  
@hameedhakimi

Hameed Hakimi is a Research Associate at the Asia-Pacific Programme and Europe Programme at Chatham House (The Royal Institute of International Affairs) in London. Hameed's policy research interests include, among others, migration, the politics and society of Afghanistan and Pakistan, regional connectivity between South and Central Asia, and Muslims in Europe. Prior to joining Chatham House in 2013, he worked as a researcher at various institutions including the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) and the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). Between 2014 and 2015, Hameed was an International Advisor for policy and capacity development working under a USAID-funded programme in Kabul to support international efforts during Afghanistan's political transition. Hameed has extensive experience in policy advice and analysis, and strategic communication. He has designed and led policy research projects, presented at high level policy conferences, briefed governments and senior officials, and has published for policy and academia. He recently provided evidence as an expert witness at the UK parliamentary inquiry on UK-Afghanistan relations, held by the International Relations and Defence Committee at the House of Lords. His policy research paper on the drivers of migration to Europe (published 2016) contributed to the findings that were presented to the UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, at the Vision Europe Summit 2016 in Lisbon. Hameed is a member of Magdalene College and the Department of Sociology at the University of Cambridge where he is a doctoral candidate.



### **Palash Kamruzzaman**

Senior Lecturer of Social Policy, University of South Wales  
@PKamruzzaman

Dr. Palash Kamruzzaman is a Senior Lecturer in Social Policy at the University of South Wales. He combines degrees in Sociology and Social Policy (PhD), and Anthropology (MA, BA (Hon.)). Before joining the USW, he taught international development, sociology and social policy at the University of Bath, University of Leicester, University of Nottingham, and University of Liverpool. He has over seventeen years of research experience on various aspects of global development, as demonstrated through his wide-ranging publications, including *Poverty Reduction Strategy in Bangladesh rethinking participation in policymaking* (Policy Press), *Dollarisation of Poverty: Re-thinking Poverty Beyond 2015* (Palgrave Macmillan) and *Civil Society in the Global South* (Routledge). Palash's main research interests revolve around the areas of approaches to development, participation in policymaking, aid ethnographies, displacement, global development goals (e.g. SDGs, MDGs), civil society and extreme poverty. His current research projects include i) exploring the experience of violence and loss of dignity among Rohingyas in Bangladesh and internally displaced people in Afghanistan, and ii) exploring the roles of national development experts in global development. He has presented his work at major international conferences and for a range of audiences and has been interviewed by international media on several occasions. Palash is passionate about diversity and inclusivity in the HE sector, and can be contacted via [palash.kamruzzaman@southwales.ac.uk](mailto:palash.kamruzzaman@southwales.ac.uk)



### **Amina Khan**

Director, Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East & Africa, Institute of Strategic Studies (ISSI)  
@aminabm

Amina Khan is the Director of the Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East & Africa (CAMEA) at the Institute of Strategic Studies (ISSI) Islamabad, where she oversees research and advocacy-related work on all facets of CAMEA. Prior to this, she served as a Research Fellow and a Senior Research Fellow at the ISSI, focusing on Afghanistan and FATA. Over a period of almost fourteen years, she has published extensively on Afghanistan, and has presented her research at multiple national and international forums. A recipient of OSI/FCO/Chevening Scholarship 2009-2010, Amina has a Master's degree in Democracy, Politics and Governance (DPG) from Royal Holloway University of London. She also has a Master's degree in Defense and Strategic Studies (DSS) from the Quaid-e-Azam University Islamabad (2005). Amina was previously a Visiting Fellow at the SWP Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik - German Institute for International and Security Affairs (2011) and is currently pursuing her doctoral degree from Quaid-e-Azam University.





### **Sayed Madadi**

Director of Foreign Relations, State Ministry for Peace, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan  
@MadadiSaeid

Sayed Madadi is the Director of Foreign Relations at Afghanistan's State Ministry for Peace. He was previously Director General of Afghanistan Civil Service Institute and a Legislative Advisor for the Afghanistan Independent Elections Commission. He has also worked in the United States with the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies and the Middle East Institute. Madadi has been a Graduate Fellow at the Center for International Conflict and Negotiations at Stanford Law School and a Hurford Fellow at the National Endowment for Democracy. His writings have appeared in academic journals such as the *Stanford International Policy Review* and the *Journal of Security and Strategic Studies* as well as in international publications such as *The Atlantic*, *War on the Rocks*, *Foreign Policy*, *National Interest*, *Al-Jazeera*, *Diplomat* and *BBC*. Madadi holds a MA in International Political Economy from Stanford University, a MA in International Relations from New York University through a Fulbright Scholarship and a BA in Political Science and Public Administration with a minor in Law from the American University of Afghanistan.



### **Amb. Janan Mosazai**

Executive Committee Member, Heart of Asia Society  
@JananMosazai

Janan Mosazai is a former Afghan diplomat who left government service in 2018 to join the private sector. He is Co-Founder and Vice President of the Heart of Asia Society. Janan Mosazai was ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to the People's Republic of China (2016-2018) and to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan (2014-2016). Prior to his ambassadorial postings, Mosazai served as Spokesman and Director General of Communications at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan in Kabul, where he also spent several years as a freelance journalist and civil society activist. Mosazai was a researcher and producer with BBC World TV for a year before and after the tumultuous events that followed the attacks of 11 September 2001 in the US, working in both Pakistan and Afghanistan. He also worked with the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) focusing mainly on political affairs and human rights issues. Ambassador Mosazai studied medicine at Kabul Medical University and international relations at the American University of Central Asia in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. He holds a Master of Journalism (MJ) degree from the School of Journalism and Communication at Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada.



### **Dipali Mukhopadhyay**

Associate Professor, University of Minnesota  
Senior Expert, United States Institute of Peace (USIP)  
@DipaliM80

Dipali Mukhopadhyay is an Associate Professor in global policy at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota. Her research focuses on the relationships between political violence, state building, and governance during and after war. She is currently also serving as senior expert on the Afghanistan peace process for the U.S. Institute of Peace. She is the author of *Good Rebel Governance: Revolutionary Politics and Western Intervention in Syria* (Cambridge University Press, forthcoming) with Kimberly Howe, and *Warlords, Strongman Governors and State Building in Afghanistan* (Cambridge University Press, 2014). Her scholarly publications also include articles in *Conflict, Security and Development*, *International Negotiation*, *Perspectives on Politics*, as well as a series of book chapters in edited volumes. Her policy-oriented writing has been published by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, *Foreign Policy*, *Lawfare*, the U.S. Institute of Peace, and *The Washington Post*. Mukhopadhyay's research has been funded by the Carnegie Corporation, the Eisenhower Institute, the Smith Richardson Foundation, the U.S. Institute of Peace, Harvard Law School, the U.S. Agency for International Development, and the U.S. Department of Education. She is vice president of the American Institute of Afghan Studies and a term member of the Council on Foreign Relations. Prior to joining the Humphrey School, Mukhopadhyay was on the faculty at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs from 2012 to 2020. In 2016, she was a visiting scholar at New York University's Center on International Cooperation.



### **Jennifer Murtazashvili**

Associate Professor, University of Pittsburgh  
@jurmurtazashvili

Jennifer Brick Murtazashvili is Director of the Center for Governance and Markets and Associate Professor at the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Pittsburgh. Her research focuses on issues of governance, security, political economy, and public sector reform in the developing world. Murtazashvili is the author of *Informal Order and the State in Afghanistan* (Cambridge University Press), which received the Best Book Award in Social Sciences by the Central Eurasian Studies Society and received honorable mention from the International Development Section of the International Studies Association. Her second book *Land, the State, and War: Property Institutions and Political Order in Afghanistan* (with Ilia Murtazashvili) is forthcoming from Cambridge University Press. Murtazashvili has advised the United States Agency for International Development, the Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit, World Bank, the US Department of Defense, the United Nations Development Program,



and UNICEF. She served as a US Peace Corps Volunteer in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. She is the President-elect of the Central Eurasian Studies Society and an elected board member of the Section for International and Comparative Public Administration of the American Society of Public Administration, as well as a board member of CEDOS, a Kyiv-based think tank. She is also a nonresident senior fellow at the Atlantic Council as well as a member of PONARS Eurasia, a research organization focused on security issues in Eurasia.



### **Orzala Ashraf Nemat**

Research Associate, SOAS, University of London  
@Orzala

Dr. Orzala Nemat is an internationally known Afghan scholar and think tank leader. She is an expert in political ethnography, holding a PhD in Development Studies from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) and MSc in Development Planning from the University College London (UCL). Dr. Nemat has firsthand experience with what it is like to

be a war refugee, having spent fourteen years as a refugee in Pakistan. She channeled her experience and

chose to rise above the situation by putting the focus on helping women and girls in her community and developing her career. Dr. Nemat supported marginalized members of society through educational programs, building schools, protection of female victims of violence, peacebuilding for children, and leading advocacy for legal reform.

Dr. Nemat founded an organization, led and worked with various grassroots, national and international organizations in over 20 years of her professional life. She served on various development organizations' governance boards and attended numerous international and national conferences representing voices from Afghanistan and the Afghan women. Dr. Nemat currently chairs Open Society Foundation's Afghanistan Advisory board and serves on the board of Afghanaid, a British Charity working in Afghanistan as a trustee. Dr. Nemat was selected as a Young Global Leader at the World Forum in 2009, Yale Greenberg World Fellows in 2008 and is a recipient of the Isabel Ferrer Award for Women's Education and the Amnesty International Award for Humanitarian Aid to Children and Women in the year 2000. Upon completion of her studies and after teaching international development courses at SOAS for two years, Dr. Nemat returned to Kabul where she worked as the Afghan president's advisor on sub-national governance briefly before joining Afghanistan's top research think tank Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit (AREU) as its director in 2016. Nemat publishes regularly on various development issues and appears frequently on international media platforms to discuss the plight of Afghanistan and latest developments.



### **Meredith Preston McGhie**

Secretary General, Global Centre for Pluralism  
@MeredithGCP

Meredith Preston McGhie has devoted more than 20 years to addressing conflict and instability in Africa and Asia in some of the most troubled situations. From working with the Naga in Northeast India and indigenous communities on the Thai-Myanmar border, to supporting UN efforts in Kosovo, Northern Iraq and several African countries, her work has straddled frontline negotiation, policy and diplomacy. She became the Global Centre for Pluralism's Secretary General on October 1, 2019. Most recently, as Africa Regional Director with the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, she oversaw the HD Centre's complex mediation and dialogue efforts in Nigeria, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Sudan, Somalia and South Sudan, among other places. In the Kenyan National Dialogue and Reconciliation Process in 2007-08, she advised the Panel of Eminent African Personalities led by the late Kofi Annan. She has contributed annually to the Oslo Forum, a gathering of the world's leading experts and policymakers in conflict resolution and teaches mediation practice internationally. Ms. Preston McGhie studied military and international history at the University of British Columbia before pursuing graduate studies in global security at Keele University in the United Kingdom.

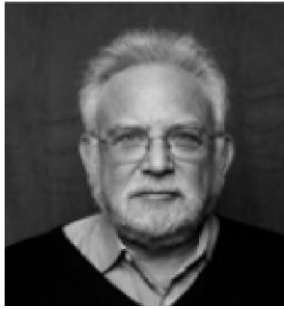


### **Masooma Rahmaty**

Policy Analyst, International Peace Institute (IPI)  
@MasoomaR\_

Masooma Rahmaty is a Policy Analyst at the International Peace Institute (IPI) for Women, Peace and Security (WPS) and Peace and Sustainable Development programs. Her research focuses on women's participation in the peace process, youth inclusion in peacebuilding and climate action as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. She is also a board member and the United Nations NGO Youth Representative at RiverTides organization based in Hudson Valley. Masooma graduated from SUNY New Paltz with a bachelor's degree in International Relations where she focused on Middle Eastern studies. Previously, she worked as an intern at the Permanent Mission of Afghanistan to the UN, and various other UN organizations. She also studied at the American University in Cairo.





**Barnett Rubin**

Senior Fellow, Center on International Cooperation, New York University  
@BRRubin

Dr. Barnett R. Rubin is a Senior Fellow at CIC, where he previously directed the Afghanistan Pakistan Regional Program. From 1994-2000 he was Director of the Center for Preventive Action, and Director, Peace and Conflict Studies, at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York.

Rubin was Associate Professor of Political Science and Director of the Center for the Study of Central Asia at Columbia University from 1990 to 1996. Previously, he was a Jennings Randolph Peace Fellow at the United States Institute of Peace and Assistant Professor of Political Science at Yale University. He has served in several other key leadership and advisory positions, including as Senior Adviser to the Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan in the U.S. Department of State (2009-2013); Special advisor to the UN Special Representative of the Secretary General for Afghanistan (2001); member of the Secretary of State's Advisory Committee on Religious Freedom Abroad; and Advisor to the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan on the drafting of the constitution of Afghanistan, the Afghanistan Compact, and the Afghanistan National Development Strategy. He is founder and chair of the Conflict Prevention and Peace Forum (a program of the Social Science Research Council) and was a founding member of the Executive Board of Asia Watch, now Human Rights Watch/Asia. Dr. Rubin received a Ph.D. (1982) and M.A. (1976) from the University of Chicago and a B.A. (1972) from Yale University. He also received a Fulbright Fellowship to study at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales in Paris in 1977-1978. Dr. Rubin is the author of *Afghanistan from the Cold War through the War on Terror* (2013), *Blood on the Doorstep: the Politics of Preventing Violent Conflict* (2002). He is also the author of *The Fragmentation of Afghanistan: State Formation and Collapse in the International System* (2002; first edition 1995), *Calming the Fergana Valley: Development and Dialogue in the Heart of Central Asia* (1999), *Stabilizing Nigeria: Sanctions, Incentives, and Support for Civil Society* (1998); *Post-Soviet Political Order: Conflict and State Building* (1998); *Cases and Strategies for Preventive Action* (1998); *Toward Comprehensive Peace in Southeast Europe: Conflict Prevention in the South Balkans* (1996), and *The Search for Peace in Afghanistan: From Buffer State to Failed State* (1995). Dr. Rubin has written numerous articles and book reviews on Afghanistan, South and Central Asia, U.S. foreign policy, conflict prevention, state formation, and human rights. His articles have appeared in *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, *The New Yorker*, *Survival*, *International Affairs*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and *The New York Review of Books*, as well as academic journals.





### **Huma Saeed**

Affiliated Researcher, Leuven Institute of Criminology (KU Leuven)  
@humasaheed78

Dr. Huma Saeed is an affiliated senior researcher at the Leuven Institute of Criminology (KU Leuven) and an independent research consultant with national and international human rights and development organizations, including the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, GIZ, ECHO (European Commission), Alert International and other institutions. Her research area is human rights (with focus on women's rights and housing, land and property rights) and transitional justice with extensive fieldwork in Afghanistan. Previously she has worked with the UN Development Programme (UNDP) in Kabul as well as human rights and women's rights organizations in Afghanistan, Pakistan and internationally. She has a PhD in criminology (KU Leuven), MA in human rights (LSE) and BA in political science (UMBC). She is the recipient of numerous academic awards, including the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation scholarship, and is a published author in a number of peer-reviewed international academic journals.



### **Amin Saikal**

Adjunct Professor of Social Sciences at University of Western Australia  
@AminSaikal

Amin Saikal, AM, FASSA is Adjunct Professor of Social Sciences at the University of Western Australia, and former Distinguished Professor of Political Science, Public Policy Fellow and Director of the Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies (the Middle East and Central Asia) at the Australian National University. He is an awardee of the Order of Australia (AM), an elected Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia (FASSA), and Non-Resident Fellow of the Liechtenstein Institute on Self-Determination at Princeton University. His latest books include: *Iran Rising: The Survival and Future of the Islamic Republic* (Princeton University Press, 2019); *Islam Beyond Borders: The Umma in World Politics* (Cambridge University Press, 2019) - co-author; *The Afghanistan Spectre: The Security of Central Asia* (Bloomsbury/I.B. Tauris, 2021) - co-author; *Modern Afghanistan: A History of Struggle and Survival* (I.B. Tauris, 2012); *The Rise and Fall of the Shah: Iran from Autocracy to Religious Rule* (Princeton University Press, 2009). He is an op-ed writer, whose articles have been published in leading world dailies, including *The New York Times*, *The International Herald Tribune*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Guardian*, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, and *The Strategist*, and a frequent commentator on national and international television and radio networks.



### **Nilofar Sakhi**

Director of Policy and Diplomacy at McColm & Company  
@NilofarSakhi

Nilofar Sakhi is the Director of Policy and Diplomacy at McColm & Company. She is also a professorial lecturer of international affairs at Elliott School of George Washington University. Sakhi is a scholar and policy practitioner who has written extensively on various aspects of transitional security and human security, and peacemaking and peacebuilding processes. Her recent book is on *Human Security and Agency: Reframing productive power in Afghanistan*. Sakhi has been involved in assisting peace and counter insurgency policy formulation. Sakhi thematic expertise is terrorism, security and peace. Her regional expertise is on South Asia, Afghanistan, and Iran with focus on regional security architecture. She has been involved in Afghanistan Peace Processes since 2010 and remains a regular commentator in media and writer on analyzing the challenges and prospects of peace processes. Sakhi was formerly a visiting fellow at National Endowment for Democracy, Columbia University and a fellow at Asia Society and International Center for Tolerance Education. Sakhi holds a PhD from George Mason University and master's degree from Johns Hopkins University.

### **Mazar Rahim Saleh**

Independent researcher

Dr. Mazar Rahim Saleh was a founding member of the Taliban Political Commission from 2012 to 2020. He was previously a lecturer at the International Islamic University in Islamabad from 2010-11, and Al Qasimi University in Pakistan from 2009-12. He holds degrees in Islamic Studies from the International Islamic University in Islamabad, graduating with a PhD in 2011, MPhil in 2006, and Bachelor's in 2004. He also obtained a Bachelor's in Arabic Language and Shari'a from Peshawar Degree College in 1997.



### **Susanne Schmeidl**

Researcher, University of New South Wales  
@SSchmeidl

Dr. Susanne Susanne is an honorary academic at UNSW and Associated Research with swisspeace. She sits on the boards of Peacifica and the Research for Development Impact Network, and editorial boards of *Development in Practice* and the *International Quarterly for Asian Studies*. A transdisciplinary critical peace scholar-practitioner, she has three decades of experience working at the intersection of conflict, peace and development, with over two decades working on Afghanistan. She has focused on generating new insights and critical interventions in three intersecting areas: 1) understanding drivers of conflict and forced



migration; 2) inclusive and locally-led peace formation; and 3) conflict-sensitive practice; with cross-cutting focus on intersectionality.



### **Omar Sharifi**

Assistant Professor, American University of Afghanistan

Omar Sharifi is Assistant Professor in the American University of Afghanistan, the Senior Research Fellow and Kabul Director of the American Institute of Afghanistan Studies. He is Asia Society Fellow and member of Afghan 21 Young Leaders Forum. He is graduated from Kabul Medical Institute in 2003. Following his medical studies, he worked as Head of research and publications for the Foundation for Culture and Civil Society in Kabul, and as Director of the Open Media Fund for Afghanistan. From 2006 to 2008, he studied Cultural Anthropology at Columbia University in New York under a Fulbright Fellowship. He also received a fellowship, through the Rumsfeld Foundation at the School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) at Johns Hopkins University. He completed his PhD in anthropology from Boston University in 2019.



### **Astri Suhrke**

Senior Researcher, Chr. Michelsen Institute (CMI)

Astri Suhrke is an associated research professor at the Chr. Michelsen Institute in Bergen (Norway). She is a political scientist focusing on the social, political and humanitarian consequences of violent conflict, and strategies of response. Astri has published widely on the politics of humanitarian policies in the UN system, concepts of human security and peacebuilding, and strategies of post-war reconstruction and statebuilding with particular reference to Afghanistan. She has led several research projects funded by the Research Council of Norway and participated in research commissioned by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, various UN agencies (particularly UNHCR), SIDA, DANIDA, the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation, DFID, the World Bank and UNDP. Her books in these areas include *When More is Less: The International Project in Afghanistan* (2011), *The Peace In Between: Post-War Violence and Peacebuilding* (co-edited anthology, 2012), and *Roads to Reconciliation* (co-edited anthology, 2005). She is presently a participant in a research project funded by the Research Council of Norway entitled "Gender, Islam and transnational legal orderings in post-US Afghanistan."



**Alex Thier**

Chief Executive Officer, Global Fund to End Modern Slavery (GFEMS)  
@Thieristan

Alex Thier serves as Chief Executive Officer of the Global Fund to End Modern Slavery. He is also a non-resident Senior Democracy Fellow at Freedom House and served as Co-Director of the Task Force on US Strategy to Support Democracy and Counter Authoritarianism. Alex has dedicated nearly three decades to addressing the world's most intractable challenges and translating bold ideas into action at scale. Prior to GFEMS, Alex served as the Executive Director of the Overseas Development Institute, a leading global think tank that examines causes and develops solutions for global challenges like migration, climate change, and fragility. In 2010, Alex was appointed by President Obama to lead the US Agency for International Development programs in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and the region— one of the largest development efforts in US history. In 2013, Alex was appointed as the global Chief of Policy, Planning, and Learning at USAID. He served as legal advisor to the Constitutional and Judicial Reform Commissions of Afghanistan from 2002 - 2004 and went on to direct the Afghanistan and Pakistan Programs at the US Institute of Peace. He has written extensively about peace, law, and governance in Afghanistan.



**Ali Wardak**

Professor, University of South Wales  
@AliWardak1

Professor Ali Wardak, who obtained his PhD degree from the University of Edinburgh in Scotland, teaches criminology at the University of South Wales, and is a Fellow of the UK's Higher Education Academy. His main teaching and research interests focus on comparative crime and justice, transnational crime, restorative justice, and the relationships between state and non-state justice systems. From 2006 to 2008, he worked for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Kabul and co-authored the 2007 Afghanistan Human Development Report where a 'hybrid model' for postTaliban justice system in Afghanistan is proposed. Professor Wardak has collaborated closely with Professor John Braithwaite of ANU on the Peacebuilding Compared research project that focuses on a study of 'what works in peace building' and on the causes of conflicts in 48 countries around the world. He is a Vice President of the South Asian Society of Criminology and Victimology and has been invited to speak at major conferences/forums in Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, and the United States. Professor Wardak has published widely and is the joint winner (with John Braithwaite) of the 2013 Radzinowicz Prize. On winning the prize, professor Wardak was congratulated by President Ashraf Ghani of Afghanistan through an official letter of tributes. In November 2017, he won the University of South Wales 'Best International Impact Award' in recognition of the impact of his research on the justice system of Afghanistan. Professor Wardak's research was nominated for the 2018 Times Higher Education Awards.





Professor Wardak currently works - alongside Professor Kate Williams and Dr. Palash Kamaruzzaman - on a British Academy funded research project on experiences of displacement and (in)dignity among IDPs in Afghanistan and the Rohingyas in Bangladesh.



**Kate Williams**

Professor, University of South Wales

Kate Williams is a Professor of Criminology at the University of South Wales. She is also Director of the Welsh Centre for Crime and Social Justice, a HEFCW funded initiative which brings together researchers across eight Welsh universities and builds links with both policy and practice. Over more than 30 years, she has managed numerous evaluations and published widely. She has won research support from the British Academy, the AHRC, British and Welsh Governments, local agencies and numerous other sources. A recurrent theme with her research (both theoretical and empirical) is the links between rights (especially human rights), social justice (well-being) and criminal justice. Recent large-scale research has revolved around the criminal justice service in rural areas, evaluation of diversion for women and children, explaining the behaviour of prolific young offenders, the third sector in criminal justice and studying justice and dignity for Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh and internally displaced people in Afghanistan. Professor Williams has published widely in national and international academic journals and books and presented her work at many national and international conferences. She has also written many policy and practice reports which have resulted in changes that have had positive effects for the lives of those with whom she worked. Kate is an academic advisor to the Youth Justice Board Cymru's Practice Development Panel (Hwb Doeth), is one of six academics on the Academic Steering Group for the Youth Justice Board, sits on the IOM Cymru Board, and sits on committees which work within the Women's Blueprint and in the Youth Justice Blueprint.



**Faiz Zaland**

Professor, Kabul University  
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Faiz Zaland is a Professor of Public Administration and Policy at Kabul University, and a PhD Candidate in Philosophy and Political Science at Alfarabi National University, Kazakhstan. He received a master's degree from the Willy Brandt Public Policy School, Erfurt University, Germany. His research focuses on state building, governance, peacebuilding and conflict resolution, scientific research, and the changing face of the military and the conflict in Afghanistan. Mr. Zaland participated in the Pugwash Peace conferences in Doha and Astana (2016 and 2018), and the Civil Society conference in Doha (2019). He received the DAAD Scholarship for his master's degree in Germany and a PhD scholarship from Alfarabi National University.