



CALL FOR PAPERS

“The Burgeoning of Civil Society Organizations in Afghanistan Post 2001: Achievements, Perils and Promises”

Organization for Policy Research and Development Studies (DROPS) invites interested female researchers and analysts to contribute research papers to the 7th edition of its annual peer-reviewed *Women and Public Policy Journal (WPPJ)*.

This year’s journal themed is, “The Burgeoning of Civil Society Organizations in Afghanistan Post 2001: Achievements, Perils and Promises.” The journal aims to explore and critically assess the achievements made since 2001 by civil society organizations in holding the government accountable and transparency, promoting good governance, promoting the rule of law and, advocating for the civil society’s participation in the democratic process, and advocating for human and civil rights. Furthermore, the journal aims to identify key challenges faced by these organizations in the mentioned sectors and the prospects for their activities as Afghanistan enters a critical juncture with Intra-Afghan negotiations underway to determine the nature of a future political settlement.

With the presence of the international community in Afghanistan post-2001 came concepts such as democracy, rule of law, and civil society. The 2001 Bonn Agreement promised “further promotion of civil society participation, including both traditional civil society structures and modern manifestations of civic action in the country’s democratic process.” The 2004 Constitution was another important step towards creating a conducive environment for civil society organizations and associations to play a role in the political and democratic processes in the country, including the right to associate, the right to participate, and the right of freedom of thought and expression. In the meanwhile, within the larger framework of the international community’s liberal peacebuilding mission in Afghanistan, the role of civil society was seen as crucial for good governance, transparency, and accountability. Within this context, the inflow of foreign aid and support for civil society organizations catalyzed a burgeoning of civil society organizations across provincial centers, particularly in the capital and other major cities.

Over the course of the past two decades, civil society organizations have played an increasingly significant role towards promotion and strengthening of democracy, democratic processes, and democratic institutions in sectors like politics, elections, law and justice, economic, society and culture, education, security, peace, human rights, child protection, and women’s rights. However, after almost two decades, Afghanistan is once more at a critical juncture with democratic gains, including the Constitution, facing an uncertain future as peace talks begin.

In such a context, the seventh volume of WPPJ will explore the achievements, challenges, and good practices pertaining to civil society organizations in the last 19 in addition to identifying the prospects for their sustainability and continued activism in the next decade.

While conducting research on one of the above mentioned sectors, the contributors should keep in mind the following points:

1. An analysis of the background of civil society's involvement/contribution in one of the above sectors.
2. An analysis of the civil society contribution in the last 19 years in one of the above sectors.
3. Identification of the key challenges in one of the above sectors.
4. The identification of policy recommendation.

Note: Authors of the journal will be provided with trainings on research methodology and analysis and the platform of WPPJ to publish their research paper.

Interested authors are requested to email their abstracts and CVs and abstract to info@dropsafghanistan.org by **December 25, 2020**.

NOTE: *Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any inquiries or should you require more information. We look forward to working with you on this exciting and innovative project.*