



ONE STRUGGLE, MANY MOVEMENTS: THE OPPOSITION TO THE TALIBAN TRYANNY IN AFGHANISTAN

 **Venue:** Diplomatische Akademie Wien, Favoritenstrasse 15a, 1040 Vienna


 **Date:** Wednesday, February 19, 2025

 **Time:** 18:30 – 21:00 h

Registration required to participate at the venue via <https://www.da-vienna.ac.at/Events>


Live stream: <https://www.da-vienna.ac.at/Live>

Opening Remarks

 Martina Schubert (Deputy Director, Vienna School of International Studies)

- Welcome note and introduction to the event

Keynote Speech

 H.E. **Manizha Bakhtari** (Afghanistan's Ambassador to Austria)

- Overview of Afghanistan's political crisis
- The role of international diplomatic engagement

Panel Discussion: Strategies of Resistance Against the Taliban

 **Moderator:** Edit Schlaffer

Panellists & Topics:

International Diplomatic Efforts & the Vienna Process – *Fawzia Koofi*

- International negotiations and pressure mechanisms
- Lessons from previous peace talks

Political Opposition and Armed Resistance – *Khenjani (National Resistance Front)*

- Political strategies for countering Taliban rule
- Challenges of armed resistance

Legal & Diplomatic Measures Against the Taliban – *Nazifa Haqpal*

- Pursuing Taliban accountability through legal frameworks
- Gender apartheid as an international legal challenge

Naan, Kaar, Azadi Movement – *Parwana Ibrahimkhail Nejrabi*

- Grassroots women's resistance inside Afghanistan
- The role of protests and social movements

Perspectives from the Afghan Diaspora & Civil Society – *Mansoor Hussein Ayobi*

- The role of the Afghan diaspora in resistance
- Mobilizing global Afghan communities

Q&A Session

- Open floor for questions from the audience

Closing Remarks followed by Networking & Informal Discussions

Panellists



Fawzia Koofi

Fawzia Koofi is a politician, women's rights advocate, and former Deputy Speaker of Parliament from Afghanistan. As one of the few women in the 2020 Doha peace talks with the Taliban, she fought for women's rights and democracy. A survivor of multiple assassination attempts, she remains a vocal critic of the Taliban. In 2020, she was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for her efforts in peacebuilding and gender equality.

Despite exile, she remains deeply engaged in Afghan politics, working with opposition groups and resistance movements to restore democracy. Her courage and leadership make her one of the most influential figures in Afghanistan's modern struggle for freedom and equality.



Abdullah Khenjani

Abdullah Khenjani is the Head of the Political Office for the National Resistance Front of Afghanistan, where he plays a pivotal role in shaping the political landscape of his country. Previously, he served as the Senior Deputy Minister for Peace within the State Ministry for Peace, contributing significantly to peace-building efforts during a critical period in Afghanistan's history. With nearly a decade of experience as a journalist, Abdullah has honed his skills in communication and analysis, bringing a unique perspective to his current political endeavors. His dedication to promoting stability and governance in Afghanistan reflects his commitment to the nation's future.



Nazifa Haqpal

Nazifa Haqpal is a former Afghan diplomat, served at the Afghanistan Embassy in London. Prior to this, she was head of the USA Desk at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. She has also worked with international organizations including UNAMA (United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan) and Action Aid International. She received her master's degree in international security and diplomacy from the University of East Anglia, United Kingdom, and a BA in political science and law from Kabul University, Afghanistan. She is currently a Ph.D. candidate at SOAS University of London.



Parwana Ibrahim Khel

Parwana Ibrahimkhail Nijrabi is a human rights activist, founder of the Women’s Movement for Peace and Freedom, and former Taliban prisoner in Kabul.

She is one of the few civil society figures in Afghanistan who has been actively fighting for justice and equality since 2017. She is among the first women to protest against the Taliban’s apartheid regime in the streets of Kabul challenging the regimes gender-based persecutions. Despite enduring imprisonment and torture, she remains committed to her struggle. She is now in exile and lives in Germany.



Mansoor Hussein Ayobi

Mansoor Hussein Ayobi holds a Master in Advanced International Studies (M.A.I.S.) from the Vienna School of International Studies, serves as Vice-President of the Solidarity Group Afghanistan. In addition to his civic engagement supporting refugees in Austria, he has been highly active in organizing secret home-schooling groups in Afghanistan through the Solidarity Group Afghanistan. He has written his master’s thesis on the UNSC’s response to serious violations of women’s rights by the Taliban 2.0 regime in Afghanistan.

Moderator



Edit Schlaffer

Edit Schlaffer, a social scientist and trained psychoanalyst, founded WwB in 2001 with a view to building up the competence and confidence of women to effect positive social change in countries of crisis and transition around the world. She focuses on gender-based peacebuilding strategies that harness the strength of civil society in building a new security architecture from the bottom up. She is also honored with numerous awards for her efforts.

SOLIDARITÄTSGRUPPE AFGHANISTAN



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