



Organisation description, mission and focus of work:

Mission:

Omid International (OI) is an Afghan-led social non-profit UK registered organization with registration number: 13726694 working to save/protect, support and mentor to provide sustainable futures for those who are most vulnerable or at risk around the world. This is in line with the organizations name, *Omid* which means 'hope'.

As per OI's Articles of Association, our broader mandate and mission is to ensure that displaced people have food and shelter, vulnerable and displaced children have access to education, and poverty eradication. Thus, OI aims to provide emergency support, vocational training, employability skills and employment for self-sufficiency so that the uprooted Afghans can live their lives with a sense of purpose.

OI is a young grassroots organization based in London with a network of partners in Afghanistan and other countries and comprises of people who were fighting for human rights and basic freedoms of Afghan people despite challenges of civil war. We had to flee Afghanistan facing continued persecution, torture and death threats. Even though living as refugees, we were determined to fight for the rights of our own Afghan people which led to setting up of OI in London.

Ongoing efforts:

Our work, currently, is focused on supporting Afghans affected by the recent political upheaval in Afghanistan, reversal of basic rights and targeted killing, torture and rape of women. We aim to assist Afghan women who dedicated their lives to promote women's rights, democratic values and fighting extremism. While we are committed to helping as many people as possible, we believe that it is this category of women that is most at risk.

Our ongoing effort therefore is to save those at the highest risk of violence, particularly Afghan women journalists, CSO women leaders, former women judges and women police, persecuted sportspersons, and artisans; enable their evacuation from Afghanistan; support their emergency relocation as well as immediate and long-term integration of women into their new host communities; and provide vocational training and support to pursue livelihoods and lives with dignity. This includes developing core and employability skills and provision of employment once they are job ready with the aid of OI's sister organisation, Governance and Reform Advisory (GRA). The trainees will work with their local refugee communities to share their knowledge and skills.

OI works with other networks, both locally within Afghanistan and internationally, to support the targeted Afghan women and youth who have sought asylum in several countries.



OI is presently reaching out to the vulnerable at high-risk women activists in Turkey, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and India. We are providing a critical humanitarian support to these vulnerable activists by enabling them to be evacuated, relocated as well as being trained in core skills to gain employment for fulfilling their own basic rights. Within our limited capacity, we are reaching out to vulnerable Afghan women human rights activists and youth in Afghanistan and women activists in Turkey, providing remote trainings and are assisting them to be absorbed by different organizations with the support of OI's sister agency, GRA. These women while trying to sustain themselves would be able to help others in asylum or back home in Afghanistan.

Achievements:

So far, we have provided evacuation support to seven journalists and of those three are in US, two in France, and the two in Pakistan will soon leave for EU and Canada. We have provided capacity development support/vocational training to 100 women and youth in Afghanistan and eight women in Turkey, who have been recruited by GRA (www.globalgra.com).

We have also provided humanitarian support in the form of food and shelter and support cost to 50 women activists and their families in Pakistan, and we are in the process of providing food and shelter support to another 150 women activists and vulnerable women in Afghanistan and Turkey with donor support. Among this, the task of providing emergency food and shelter to about 40 vulnerable scholars/volunteers in Helmand, Kandahar and Kabul have been taken place. Screening of about another 75 vulnerable women, widows and those with other high-risk backgrounds has been done for further support.

We have also organised three advocacy meetings in partnership with the Danish Refugee Council and the Denmark Parliamentary members. Furthermore, with the support of Baroness Fiona Hodgson, Chair of Afghan Women Support Forum, we have held meetings with the UK parliamentarians, in collaboration with the Afghan Women Network, GRA and over 80 women activists from Afghanistan and the diaspora community, to highlight the issues of women rights and participation in peace negotiation in July 2021.

Contact details of the organisation

Name of the organization/entity: Omid International

Country of establishment: United Kingdom

Contact: Rahela Sidiqi¹, Founder and CEO/Mithulina Chatterjee (Grant Management Expert)

¹Rahela Sidiqi is Founder of Governance and Reform Advisory & former CEO. She is also founder & Director of Rahela Trust for Afghan women's education. Previously, Mrs Sidiqi was a Senior Advisor of Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission of Afghanistan (IARCSC), where she developed and led various reform policies across the country, such as the civil service law, reform procedures and structural



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SC: 40-03-33

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adjustment processes. Rahela Sidiqi has been governance and reforms advisor at senior levels of both government and international organisations, where she helped develop strategic policies, implementation plans, administrative reforms, capacity building and grassroots development for UN-Habitat, CIESVE, DFID, USAID, UNHCR and OXFAM, and Civil Service Commissions along with 47 ministerial agencies and several NGOs in the private sector.