

# Inclusive Peace in Afghanistan and the Role of Higher Education



**Workshop**  
**Wednesday, December 15th, 2021**

Since the Taliban takeover of Kabul on August 15th, Afghanistan has been very present in Western media and public sphere. After the international community's initial dismay of the Taliban's rapid victory and the daily headlines, including the popular outrage about the new rules and regulations on Higher Education, it has become relatively quiet around Afghanistan. However, for the people in Afghanistan, the situation has not changed significantly, especially women and members of certain ethnic minorities feeling particularly threatened, yet life goes on in the country after nearly three months of Taliban rule.

So, after a few weeks of uncertainty, universities gradually resumed their work and are trying to manage the new and challenging situation. Against this background, we were able to continue the work in the project STEWS, as the Gawharshad University – our partner university in Kabul – also restarted its work. STEWS is a Higher Education development and exchange project between the University of Education Freiburg (UoEF), Gawharshad University Kabul (GU), and School of Education FHNW (PH FHNW), funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). STEWS stands for strengthening teaching and writing skills at GU and implementing peace and civic education at UoEF, which are the core objectives of this project.

This workshop is part of the STEWS-project and aims at resuming the exchange and collaboration between staff and students of the three cooperating universities as soon as possible and presenting the project to the public.

In this workshop, we will present the different parts of the STEWS-project and discuss them with the audience, including the question of the sustainability of the work done so far. Further, we will address the issue of peace in Afghanistan, focusing especially on the role of education in general and Higher Education in particular.

In the afternoon, interested students and staff of the UoEF and PH FHNW are invited to engage in a face-to-face exchange with GU project colleagues who left Afghanistan and are now in Germany.

#### Target groups:

- students and staff of the three cooperating universities
- students and staff of other universities
- other parties working on or interested in the topics Peace and (Higher) Education in Afghanistan

## Program Part one

09:00 AM - 12:30 PM (CET)  
12:30 PM - 04:00 PM (Afghan time)

## Inclusive Peace in Afghanistan and the Role of Higher Education

– ONLINE –

09:00 AM - 09:30 AM (CET)  
12:30 PM - 13:00 PM (Afghan time)

**Welcoming, Introduction Workshop and STEWS-Project (Organizers)**

09:30 AM - 10:30 (ECT)  
01:00 PM - 02:00 PM (Afghan time)

**Presentation Subprojects STEWS**

- Stews-Subproject Didactic and Teaching Skills (M. Sharif Akbari, Stefanie Harsch, Uwe H. Bittlingmayer)
- Stews-Subproject Writing Skills and Establishment of a Writing Center at GU (Khatira Khorrami, Farkhonda Mohsini, Gerd Bräuer, Stefanie Harsch, Uwe H. Bittlingmayer)
- Stews-Subproject Peace Education at GU (M. Jawad Salehi, M. Baqer Zaki, Diana Sahrai)
- Discussion

**Location: Digital via Zoom**  
(link will be sent to all registered participants)

10:30 AM - 10:45 (CET)  
02:00 PM - 02:15 (Afghan time)

**Break and time for informal exchange**

10:45 AM - 12:30 PM (CET)  
02:15 PM - 04:00 PM (Afghan time)

**Inclusive Peace and the Role of Higher Education**

- Inclusive Peace in Afghanistan (Fereschta Sahrai)
- Peace Education at Gawharshad University (M. Baqer Zaki, Mohammad Jawad Salehi)
- Discussion in Subgroups and Plenary Discussion: What can Higher Education contribute?

## Program Part two

01:30 PM - 04:00 PM (CET)

**Exchange between (former) staff of GU, PHFR and PH FHNW**

– HYBRID –

01:30 PM - 03:00 PM (CET)  
04:45 PM - 06:30 PM (Afghan time)

**Exchange between former staff members of GU and students and staff of UoEF and PH FHNW**

**Location: University of Education Freiburg (Breisgau, Germany) and digital via Zoom**

03:00 PM - 04:00 PM (CET)

**Apéro and time for informal exchange**

**Registration:** <http://www.phfr-afghanistanforschung.de/en/peace-in-afghanistan-workshop>

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## Organization

- University of Education Freiburg (Breisgau, Germany) – Uwe H. Bittlingmayer, Stefanie Harsch
- Gawharshad University Kabul (Afghanistan) – M. Jawad Salehi, M. Baqer Zaki
- School of Education, University of Applied Sciences and Arts, Northwestern Switzerland (Switzerland) – Diana Sahrai

