



Friba,

We're excited to share updates and achievements from Women Leaders of Tomorrow (WLOT) as we continue our mission to empower and support women and girls, particularly in regions affected by gender inequality.

September 2023 Highlights:

Roya Shafai's Journey:

We're thrilled to announce that Roya Shafai has successfully arrived in Canada and is now a recipient of a full-ride scholarship at Loyalist College in Ontario. A former member of Afghanistan's national Judo team, Roya faced adversity after the Taliban takeover in August 2021. Despite the challenges, she persevered, continued her training, and is now pursuing her education in Health & Fitness at Loyalist College.

Pictures: Roya Shafai





October 2023 Highlights:

International Day of Girl Child:

On October 11th, in solidarity with WLOT's work, two high schools in the US and Canada actively participated in the International Day of Girl Child. In Surrey BC, L.A Matheson School organized a presentation by a WLOT Masters' student studying mining and geology at UBC, addressing Afghan girls' rights to education. A rally followed the presentation, aimed at raising awareness about the gender apartheid imposed by the Taliban on women and girls in Afghanistan.

Pictures: Rally at the L.A Matheson School in Surrey BC led by our board member, Annie Ohana





WLOT COLLABORATION WITH MUSTANG JUSTICE



**WOMEN
LEADERS of
TOMORROW**

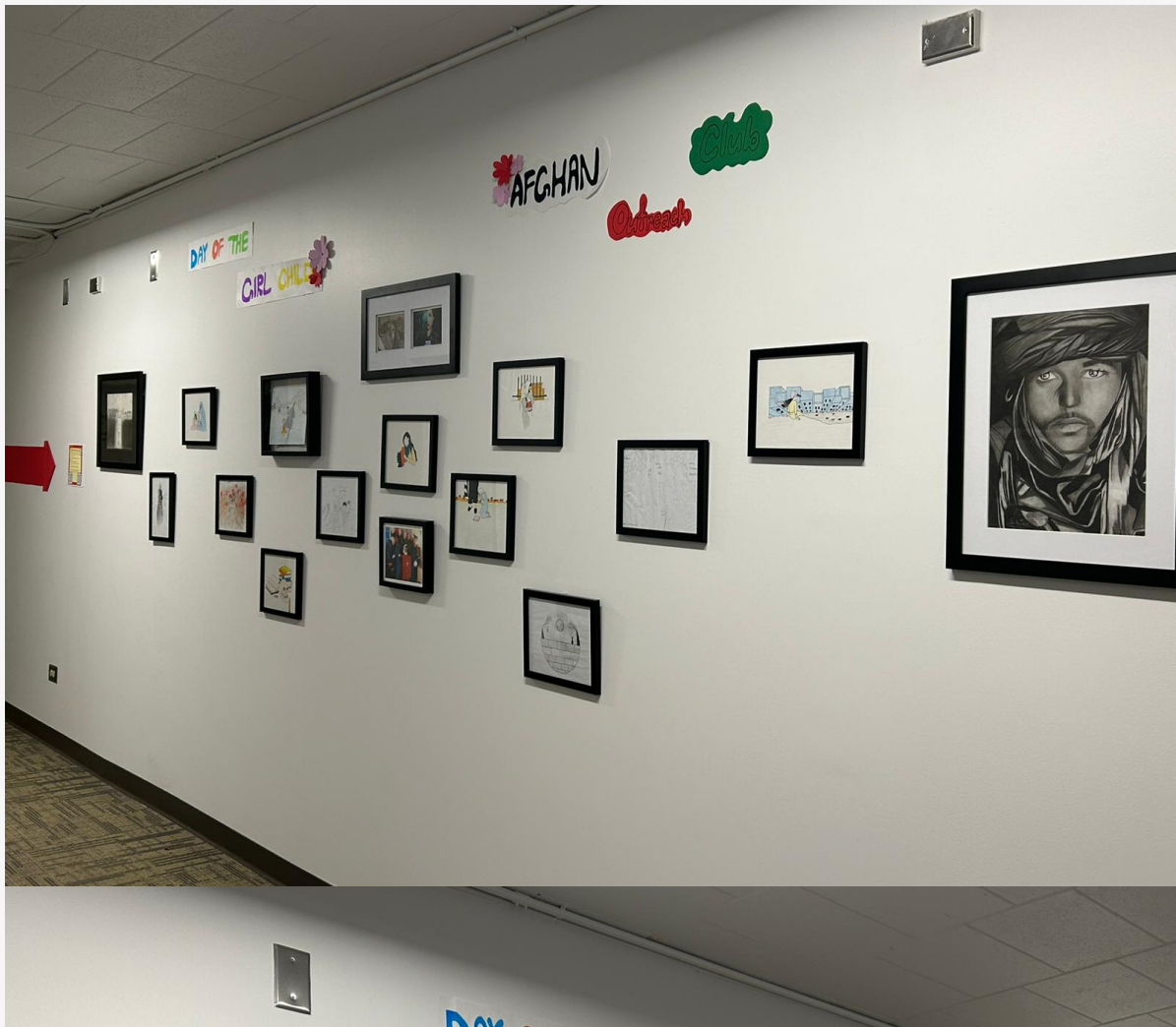
FT. JUDO DEMOS IN PE AND RALLY AT SCHOOL

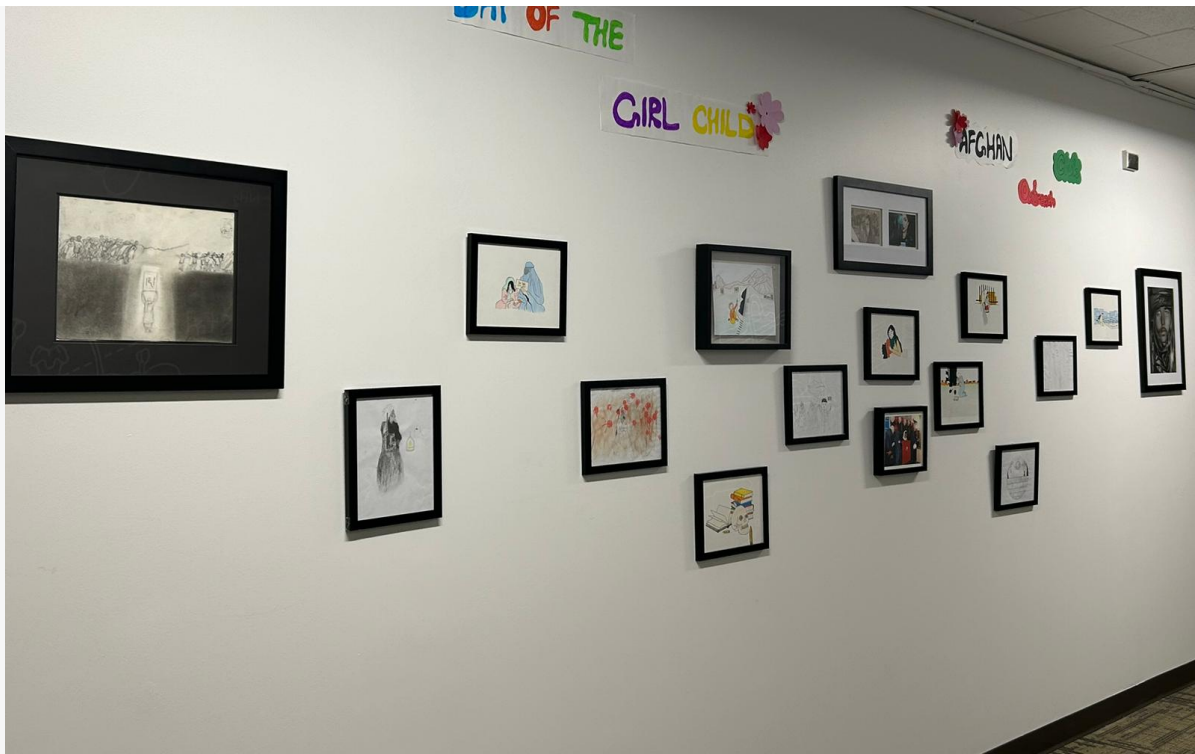




In the US, The Hun School of Princeton hosted an art exhibition featuring Afghan artists and invited guest speakers to address the critical issue. This was a collaboration between Women Leaders of Tomorrow and the Hun School.

Pictures: Art Exhibition Highlights

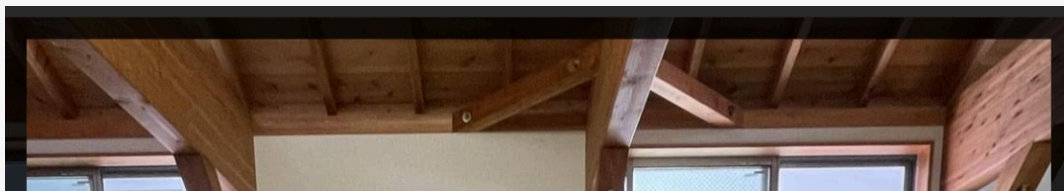




International Judo Day - October 28, 2023:

On International Judo Day, the founder and Executive Director of WLOT celebrated the sport's birthplace in Japan. Advocating for women and girls to have access to Judo and sports in Afghanistan, she also attended a four-week professional Judo coaching seminar organized by NPO Judos in Japan. The goal is to develop a sports program for young Afghan female athletes, fostering their development as professional athletes, coaches, or instructors.

Pictures: International Judo Day Celebrations





npo_judos_official 2m





Annie Ohana's Nomination:

We are delighted to announce that Annie Ohana, a dedicated board member of Women Leaders of Tomorrow, has been nominated for the prestigious Global Teachers Prize in London, England. Her outstanding work for social justice has garnered attention globally, and we are honoured to have her in our organization.

Pictures: Annie Ohana's Recognition





Letter to IOC's President:

WLOT expresses gratitude to our board member, Dr. Shashi Goel, for her commitment to keeping all supporters informed by regularly writing the newsletters and all communications. Dr. Shashi recently penned a letter to the President of the International Olympic Committee, Thomas Bach, advocating for increased support for women in sports.

Pictures: Letter to IOC

Dear president Thomas Bach,

October 16, 2023

We believe that this letter finds you in the best health and spirit.

We are two Afghan female Olympians, and we are writing this letter as a collective effort. The purpose of this letter is to share our on-going concerns about violation of Human Rights, Women and female athletes' rights by the Taliban in Afghanistan.

We are asking the IOC to ban the Taliban from the upcoming Olympic Games until they allow women and girls to play sports with full freedom, and access to sports.

There is already a precedent for that, the IOC banned the Taliban in 1990s, when they have violated Human Rights, and women's rights, and set the worst Human Rights records in the world.

We are thankful to the IOC EB's decision to ban Russia from the Olympic Games on October 12, 2023. It is time to ban the Taliban as well

We have four requests in this letter:

1. We request that the IOC should recognize Afghan female athletes independent, and allow them to register and compete at the IOC training camps, and competitions.
2. Invite the five Afghan female Olympians as honour guests to the upcoming 2024 Paris Olympic Games.
3. Empower the Afghan female athletes to lead women's sports in Afghanistan, and in diaspora in order to train and prepare other female athletes for the IOC competitions. We can lead Afghanistan's women's team.
4. Recognize the Taliban's regime as the gender apartheid, and ban them effectively and immediately.

We greatly appreciate IOC's commitment to support Afghan female athletes, and women's sports in Afghanistan. We also sincerely appreciate IOC's efforts to convince the Taliban to reverse their ban on women and girls' sports in Afghanistan. However, as you are undoubtedly aware that the Taliban have no intentions of allowing women and girls to practice their rights to sports, and education in Afghanistan; they remain firm on their decision. In addition to that, the Taliban have imposed strict punishment for women and girls if they are caught or seen going to the gym or playing sports.

The IOC has committed to nondiscrimination in its, which outlines the Olympic values and principles that guide IOC work. The Olympic Charter that the IOC must "encourage and support the promotion of women in sport at all levels and in all structures, with a view to implementing the principle of equality of men and women" (Chapter 1, Rule 2, paragraph 7).

As pioneers of Afghan women's sports, and someone who are in direct contact with the other Afghan women athletes in Afghanistan, and in diaspora on daily basis, and someone who responded to them right after the Afghan central government collapsed, I am requesting IOC to maintain a direct relationship with the Afghan female athletes, with us. Afghan women athletes should be able to maintain an independent contact and relationship with IOC, and should be able to participate at the upcoming 2024 Paris Olympic Games without Taliban's involvement.

We want to bring it to your attention that sports played a vital role in empowering women and girls, and helped us shape a just society after the defeat of the Taliban in 2001, and prior to the Taliban's takeover in middle of 2021.

Whenever we participated at the Olympic Games, our participation brought hope, motivation and light to the Afghanistan's nation.

Athletes, female athletes in particular, have become role models for the young generation, become change maker who significantly contributed to gender equality, advocated for peace and democracy, and more importantly, they become Human Rights defenders.

It is crucial that IOC supports Afghan female athletes in all sports to have access to sports facilities, be able to compete, and participate at the Olympic Games next year to meet the 50/50 gender ratio stated by the IOC.

Signatories:

Tahmina Kohistani

2012 London Olympic Games



Friba Rezayee

2004 Athens Olympic Games



Thank you for your continued support and dedication to advancing the rights and opportunities of women and girls in Afghanistan.

Sincerely,

Women Leaders of Tomorrow

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Women Leaders of Tomorrow

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