University Women Helping Afghan Women Amplifying Voices of Afghan Women

Zan Times

Zahra Nader, Editor-in-Chief of *Zan Times*, delivered an informative and inspiring presentation that painted a compelling picture of the realities Afghan women face today. Through her insights, she highlighted both the severe constraints imposed on women and their determination to assert their voices.

Founded in 2022, *Zan Times* is an Afghan women-led news outlet that supports women journalists working under Taliban rule. Zahra outlined the significant challenges confronting women journalists, including widespread job losses, gender-segregated workplaces, prohibitions on women's voices and images in the media, and the persistent risk of arrest and persecution. Journalists associated with foreign media face particular danger, often subjected to detention or intimidation through threats to family members.

Since 2024, *Zan Times* has trained more than 70 Afghan women journalists and continues to produce original reporting on human rights violations affecting women and other vulnerable populations. These journalists report from Afghanistan, using pen names to hide their identities. The organization collaborates with international media outlets, including *The Guardian*, to extend the global reach of these stories and provides training in trauma-informed journalism and mental health awareness.

Despite losing significant funding in 2025, *Zan Times* mobilized community support through crowdfunding and is now seeking *donors* to sustain a new training program for Afghan women journalists. Zahra concluded by emphasizing the urgent need for education, protection, and sustained international solidarity with Afghan women.

Zahra Nader is currently living in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

If you would like to subscribe or donate to *Zan Times,* visit their website https://zantimes.com/

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

February 5, 2026, Dr. Karim Qayumi will speak about using technology to provide Afghan women with medical education. To join our "Friends" list, email uwhaw2010@gmail.co and Zoom in to hear our speakers.

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