





Multi-Faith Centre, Griffith University
Believing Women for a Culture of Peace
Australian Muslim Advocates for the Rights of All Humanity (AMARAH)

cordially invite the public to a Dialogue-Forum on

## "Women in Afghanistan Today: Challenges & Hopes"

**Speaker** 

## Shazia

Member, Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan (RAWA), on a speaking and fund-raising tour in Australia.

Multi-Faith Centre, Griffith University 7:15-9:30 pm, Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> June 2009

Seven years after the US-led coalition's overthrow of the Taliban regime, and despite promises of the "liberation of women" and "establishment of a democratic socially improved Afghanistan," the situation of Afghan women has not significantly improved amidst the continuing insecurity and violence of the insurgency, counter-insurgency and armed conflict, deepening corruption, the rise of warlordism, and the power of religious authorities. Shazia will present an overview of the harsh daily realities facing Afghan women including domestic violence, early forced marriage, rape, increasing number of destitute widows, gender inequality and the anticipated impact of the new family law.

Shazia will also share experiences of courage and hope as reflected in the work of RAWA, the Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan [http://www.rawa.org]. RAWA has been "actively supporting the most needy women and girls for over 30 years and continues its extraordinary work in these difficult times, running literacy classes, schools, orphanages, small business projects and much more, still under threat of death, whilst publicly advocating for women's human rights. RAWA's work is vital, courageous and inspirational. It is a lifeline for so many."

Donations to support RAWA projects will be greatly appreciated. We appeal to faith leaders and communities to raise funds among their members to be given to Shazia at the dialogue-forum by one of your representatives. Donations may be in cash, cheque or bank transfer to RAWA's account (Westpac, BSB 033 039, Acct No. 348 902, Acct Name RAWA).

Envelopes for cash donations will be available at the door.

Please RSVP by June 12 to 3735-7052 or mfc@griffith.edu.au