



## UNITED STATES INSTITUTE OF PEACE

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### **Promoting Equality: The United States' Commitment to Securing the Future for the Women of Afghanistan**

Thursday, July 18, 2013  
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.  
U.S. Institute of Peace

#### ***Agenda:***

- 10:00 a.m. Welcome & Introduction
- Jim Marshall, President, U.S. Institute of Peace
- Keynote Address
- Rajiv Shah, Administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development
- 10:20 a.m. Moderated Panel Discussion
- Panel Introduction
- Kathleen Kuehnast, Director, Center for Gender & Peacebuilding, U.S. Institute of Peace
- Expert Panel
- Carla Koppell, Chief Strategy Officer, Former Senior Coordinator on Gender, U.S. Agency for International Development (*moderator*)
  - Rangina Hamidi, Founder, Kandahar Treasure
  - Naheed Farid, Member of the Afghan Parliament
  - Hossai Wardak, Afghanistan Visiting Expert, U.S. Institute of Peace
  - William Byrd, Afghanistan Senior Expert, U.S. Institute of Peace
  - Palwasha Kakar, Director of Women's Empowerment & Development Programs, The Asia Foundation
- 11:10 a.m. Question and Answer
- 11:30 a.m. End

## *Speaker Biographies in Order of Appearance*

### **Jim Marshall**

#### **President, U.S. Institute of Peace**

Congressman Jim Marshall (2003–2011) is the President and CEO of the United States Institute of Peace. He is a business lawyer and law professor, member of the United States Army Ranger Hall of Fame, and former mayor of Macon, Georgia. In Congress, Jim was a centrist Democrat well liked on both sides of the aisle. He currently serves on the National Defense Panel and the board of the National Futures Association. Jim taught at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs during 2011 and 2012. His courses focused upon the limited utility of American military force. Jim served four terms in Congress where he built and maintained strong bipartisan relationships. He served on the Armed Services, Agriculture, and Financial Services Committees. He also chaired the Air Force Caucus, the Financial Markets Caucus, and the Balanced Budget Caucus, as well as West Point's Board of Visitors. As mayor of Macon, Jim managed 17 departments, two airports, and 1,300-plus employees from 1995 to 1999. During that time, he was elected to the Advisory Board of the United States Conference of Mayors and co-chaired the National Conference of Democratic Mayors. Jim is also an infantry combat veteran. After the Tet Offensive in 1968, he withdrew from Princeton University to volunteer for Vietnam where he served as an Airborne Ranger reconnaissance platoon sergeant. Jim has received numerous military awards and recognitions, including the Purple Heart and membership in the United States Army Ranger Hall of Fame. After his tour in Vietnam, Jim returned to Princeton where he was a University Scholar and graduated in 1972. He then taught high school and founded a successful logging business before attending law school at Boston University. After law school, Jim moved to Macon where he clerked for two federal judges and then became a law professor at Mercer University. For the next 16 years, in addition to numerous civic roles, Jim taught, wrote about, and actively practiced business law, representing companies, financial institutions and individuals in commercial, insolvency, property, and financial matters.

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### **Dr. Rajiv Shah**

#### **Administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development**

Dr. Rajiv Shah serves as the 16th Administrator of USAID and leads the efforts of more than 9,600 professionals in 80 missions around the world. Since being sworn in on Dec. 31, 2009, Shah managed the U.S. Government's response to the devastating 2010 earthquake in Port-au-Prince, Haiti; co-chaired the State Department's first review of American diplomacy and development operations; and now spearheads President Barack Obama's landmark Feed the Future food security initiative. He is also leading "USAID Forward," an extensive set of reforms to USAID's business model focusing on seven key areas, including procurement, science & technology, and monitoring & evaluation. Before becoming USAID's Administrator, Shah served as undersecretary for research, education and economics, and as chief scientist at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. At USDA, he launched the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, which significantly elevated the status and funding of agricultural research. Prior to joining the Obama administration, Shah served for seven years with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, including as director of agricultural development in the Global Development Program, and as director of strategic opportunities. Originally from Detroit, Shah earned his medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania Medical School and his master's in health economics from the Wharton School of Business. He attended the London School of Economics and is a graduate of the University of Michigan. Shah is married to Shivam Mallick Shah and is the father of three children. He lives in Washington, D.C.

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**Dr. Kathleen Kuehnast****Director of the Center for Gender & Peacebuilding, U.S. Institute of Peace**

Kathleen Kuehnast is director of the Center of Innovation for Gender and Peacebuilding at USIP. The Center focuses on the gendered impacts of conflict and post-conflict transition of both men and women. She co-edited the volume, *Women and War: Power and Protection in the 21st Century* (2011), which focuses on U.N. Resolution 1325 and the critical role women should play in peacebuilding. In addition to her expertise on conflict and gender, Kuehnast worked 15 years in the international development field, where her research included studies on community driven development in post-conflict reconstruction, as well as migration and poverty impacts on gender roles. Kuehnast is a recipient of the Mellon Foreign Fellowship at the Library of Congress, and also a former fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in the Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies Program. Her regional expertise is Central Asia, where she has written extensively on the impact of post-Soviet transition on Muslim women, including the co-edited volume, *Post-Soviet Women Encountering Transition: Nation Building, Economic Survival, and Civic Activism* (2004). She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. Kuehnast holds a doctorate in socio-cultural anthropology from the University of Minnesota.

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**Carla Koppell****Chief Strategy Officer, United States Agency for International Development**

Carla Koppell is the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Chief Strategy Officer (CSO). In that role, she is creating, communicating and executing strategic initiatives across the Agency, focused particularly on improving Bureau strategic planning and management for results. As CSO, she is fostering Agency-wide coordination and enhancing internal communications, transparency and accountability. Koppell brings to the position twenty-five years of experience working in international affairs. Prior to serving as CSO, Koppell served as USAID's first Senior Coordinator for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment and a Senior Advisor to the USAID Administrator. In that role, she spearheaded a transformation in the approach of US development assistance to empowering and benefitting women and girls globally. Under her leadership, USAID developed a new Gender Equality and Female Empowerment Policy as well as specific Agency-wide strategies and plans for advancing the US National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security and the US Strategy for Preventing and Combatting Gender-based Violence Globally. Koppell served as USAID's representative to the White House Council on Women and Girls and contributed to Government-wide efforts ensuring gender equality and women's empowerment are core goals of US foreign policy. Previously, Koppell directed The Institute for Inclusive Security and the Washington, DC office of Hunt Alternatives Fund where she strived to ensure that peace processes around the world involve women and civil society. During her tenure, Koppell worked extensively with leaders from volatile conflict zones around the world including Afghans, Colombians, Iraqis, Israelis, Liberian, Palestinians, South Sudanese, and Sudanese. Earlier in her career, Koppell was senior adviser and, prior to that, interim director of the Conflict Prevention Project at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, where she authored "Preventing the Next Wave of Conflict: Understanding Non-Traditional Threats to Global Stability." Koppell served as deputy assistant secretary for international affairs of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), helping steward bilateral relationships with South Africa, China, and Israel in addition to overseeing HUD contributions to Central America and the Caribbean reconstruction following Hurricanes Mitch and Georges. She also directed the USAID climate change program and, earlier in her career, worked for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Koppell received her M.A. in public policy from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and her B.S. from Cornell University.

**Rangina Hamidi**  
**Founder, Kandahar Treasure**

As founder and president of Kandahar Treasure, the first women's private enterprise in Kandahar, Afghanistan, Rangina provides life changing economic opportunity for 300 Afghan women, giving them a for profit platform for Kandahar's unique embroidery work. As one of Kandahar's leading voices for Afghan women, Rangina has guided the development of groundbreaking networks for women, establishing pioneering weekly women's meetings, social programs and activities for all women in Kandahar. These forums led to a historic moment for Kandahar women when on International Women's Day in 2009 they marched for peace at the famous Kherqa Shrine. Rangina's aim is permanent and lasting change to Kandahar's long history of violence. She believes that women are the critical ingredient which can help bring peace to Afghanistan. Her work in Kandahar began when Rangina returned to the country in 2003 compelled by the tragedies befalling her countrywomen. She had escaped her native Afghanistan in 1981, at the age of four, during the Soviet occupation. Rangina moved first to Pakistan and then in 1988, settled in the United States with her family, receiving her education at the University of Virginia. Upon her return to Kandahar she served as manager of the Women's Income Generation Project with Afghans for Civil Society, a grassroots organization dedicated to the social development of southern Afghanistan. Rangina has been internationally recognized for her work with women. She was selected as one of 18 finalists for the CNN 2007 Hero Award, and chosen as a "Personality of the Week" by Radio Free Europe in January 2008. She has been heard on numerous radio programs including NPR, the BBC and Voice of America and has been quoted in international publications including the TIMES Asia magazine, The Globe and Mail, Der Spiegel, Business Week, The Guardian, and Telegraph. She is a sought after speaker and participant at conferences around the world. Rangina has been selected for prominent professional and academic training programs, including Project Artemis of Thunderbird University and the business development organization Bpeace, both of whom assisted in the launch of Kandahar Treasure.

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**MP Naheed Farid**  
**Member of Afghan Parliament**

Naheed Farid is the youngest member of the Afghan Parliament, where she serves as a member of the International Relations committee. Elected to Parliament in 2010 at the age of 27, Farid has worked tirelessly to engage Afghan youth and women in the nation's political processes. Her strong background in non-profit work informed her deep desire to enter politics and advocate for her nation's most marginalized groups- women and children. She currently runs the Farid Foundation, which has provided stationary and clothing to over 70,000 children in Herat. Prior to her position in parliament, Farid served as the Executive Director of the Mother and Child Organization in Afghanistan. She had also worked for several non-profit groups in the Herat province of Afghanistan, including the World Food Program, Medica Mondiale, and Dacaar. In addition, she was involved on a number of initiatives to reduce gender-based violence and human rights violations against women, including coordinating trainings in psychological care, crisis and human rights. Farid has been a passionate advocate for expanded access to education and employment opportunities for women. Like many of her generation, Farid was prohibited from attending school under the Taliban's regime. When the Taliban was overthrown, she went on to become one of the most-educated members of Parliament. She currently holds a master's degree in international relations from George Washington University, and has spoken at numerous international seminars and forums on the need to implement mechanisms to defend Afghan women's rights. Farid's presence on the international stage has served as a voice for women in Afghanistan, who still face many challenges ahead in their struggle for equal rights and respect.

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**Hossai Wardak**  
**Afghanistan Visiting Expert, U.S. Institute of Peace**

Mrs. Hossai Wardak is coming from program development background with extensive experience of working with United Nations both inside and outside Afghanistan. In her recent capacity of working for EQUALITY for Peace and Democracy (EPD), Mrs. Wardak has been involved in conducting independent analysis and review of 2012 and 2013 Afghanistan National budget, establishing Civil society coordination committee with HPC, service delivery assessment of health and education sector and establishing of community-based monitoring mechanism on using national budget as main monitoring tool in Kabul and Jalalabad. She also worked with United Nations Children Fund in Baku Azerbaijan, where she served as a Social Policy Planning and M&E Specialist. Mrs. Hossai Wardak has several unique program achievements; these include design and implementation of Program under the title of Healthy Family Relations from Islamic perspective, Gender and Ethics in Policing, Inclusion of psycho social and trauma counseling in Basic Package of Health services and Health Through literacy. She also developed the Country Program Action Plan for United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) a policy document of UNICEF with government of Azerbaijan for the four years. Mrs. Wardak is certified trainer of Culturally Sensitive Approaches from university of Costa Rica. She is also awarded by Minister of Women Affairs of Afghanistan for her unique efforts on Women Rights and Empowerment. Mrs. Hossai Wardak, obtained her Bachelors in Business Administration from Preston University. She also has diploma in Population Issues from University of Costa Rica, and is a Peace Building and Peace Keeping Associate with Hiroshima Peace Center, Japan. She is active in variety of organization and these include UNICEF Social Policy Specialists' Network, Women Waging Peace, Afghan's Coalition for Transparency and Accountability, Hiroshima Peace Center and UNOCHA Gender Based Violence Task Force.

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**Dr. William Byrd**  
**Afghanistan Senior Expert, U.S. Institute of Peace**

William Byrd is a development economist whose academic background includes a doctorate in economics from Harvard University and a master's degree in East Asian Regional Studies from the same institution. He joined USIP in April 2012 for a 10-month stay as senior expert in residence, working on Afghanistan. He had long experience at the World Bank, where most of his work was country-focused, including China, India, Pakistan and Afghanistan. He lived for significant lengths of time in all of these countries and speaks Dari and Chinese, with some knowledge of other languages. During 2002-2006, he was stationed in Kabul, Afghanistan, where he served as the World Bank's country manager for Afghanistan and then as economic adviser. His publications include six books on China, other books, and numerous articles, among them several papers on Afghanistan, as well as a number of World Bank reports. Examples include reports on Afghanistan's economic development, public finance management, economic cooperation in the wider Central Asia region, vulnerabilities to corruption assessments, Afghanistan's drug industry, and economic incentives and development initiatives to reduce opium production, as well as papers on these topics, security sector reform from a financial and development perspective, and on responding to Afghanistan's development challenge.

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**Palwasha Kakar**  
**Director of Women's Empowerment & Development Programs, The Asia Foundation**

Prior to joining the Foundation, Palwasha Kakar led the Gender Mainstreaming and Civil Society Unit in UNDP's Afghanistan Sub National Governance Program managing a nation-wide small grants program with

UNDP for Afghanistan's civil society initiatives, connecting communities to the state and community consultations for local governance policies. Ms. Kakar has also served as Program Manager for The Gender Studies Institute laying the foundation for the establishment of the institute, development and approval of curriculum and resource mobilization. She has experience working with the World Bank Group as a Social Development Specialist dealing with Gender, Social Justice and Environmental issues surrounding their various projects in the region. She was previously the Local Governance Research Officer specifically focused on researching women's participation at the local levels in the National Solidarity Programme (NSP) at the Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit (AREU). An Afghan-American, she has experience teaching and researching gender and local governance in Afghanistan for over eight years now. Prior to joining AREU, she was involved in research regarding Afghan customary law, Afghan women's identity, and social spaces in Afghanistan. She has also published papers on female prophets and saints in Islam. She has a master's degree focusing on gender, politics and religion with a specific emphasis on Afghanistan and the surrounding region from Harvard University, MA whereas her bachelor's degree is in Religion and Global Studies focusing on peace and conflict from Bethel College, KS.

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