



In the name of Allah

Declaration of Consultative Peace Conference with the Victims of War

13 - 14 December 2020

On December 13 and 14, the Afghanistan Mechanism for Inclusive Peace (AMIP) facilitated a Consultative Peace Conference with the Victims of War organized by the Community Center for Disabled (CCD) in Herat Province.

The purpose of the consultative peace conference with victims of war was to collect the voices of **all** victims of war, people with disabilities and families of martyrs from the villages, districts and provinces of western Afghanistan. Our concern is about victims from all sides of the conflict and not any one side.

The participants formed 10 working groups, each discussed a specific issue, namely: announcement of an immediate and permanent ceasefire, Implement the Law on the Rights and Privileges of Persons with Disabilities , paying special attention to the families of war victims on both sides of the conflict, participation of the disabled in the peace process, access to justice, human rights, good and accountable governance, preserving the honor and dignity of war victims on both sides of the conflict and minority rights.

The conference brought together over 130 people with disabilities, families of martyrs and victims of war from Afghanistan's western zone which included the following provinces; Herat, Ghor, Nimroz, Farah, and Badghis, to share their concerns and recommendations to the negotiating parties and international community.

We the Victims of war from the Western Zone propose nine recommendations, articulated below, to both negotiating parties below:

1. Announce an Immediate and Permanent Ceasefire

The participants of the conference calls on both sides of the conflict, "the Afghan government and the Taliban movement," to agree on a country-wide, comprehensive and permanent ceasefire.

- Violence and the continuation of war across the country have increased civilian casualties, disabilities, and is resulting in more victims. This is a serious concern for the Afghan people.

2. Implement the Law on the Rights and Privileges of Persons with Disabilities

Implement the Law on the Rights and Privileges of Persons with Disabilities and the Universal Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and do not spare any effort to protect it.

- The Law on the Rights and Privileges of Persons with Disabilities and the Universal Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, has been passed by the Parliament, but has not yet been effectively implemented.

3. Pay Special Attention to the Families of War Victims on All Sides of the Conflict

The participants call on both sides of the negotiations to consider the rights of the families of war victims on all sides during the negotiations and address their economic, social and educational problems.

- In the peace talks the families of war victims have remained marginalized while continuing to represent a vulnerable group living under dire political, economic, social and cultural conditions.

4. Participation of People with Disabilities in the Peace Process

We reiterate to both sides of the negotiations; “Do not decide for us, without us!” and call on both sides to include knowledgeable and impartial representatives from the disabled community in the peace process and to have an Observer Role at the negotiation table.

- According to latest research, 26 per cent of our country’s population are people with disabilities, and despite this figure this community has been marginalized in the national and crucial issues facing the country.

5. Access to Justice

The negotiation parties must provide access to justice and do away with the culture of impunity, in accordance with national and international laws. The parties should give true consideration to social justice and vulnerable areas, define the role of judicial institutions and support them.

6. Human Rights

The Disabled Community and the participants of the Consultative Peace Conference with the Victims of War in the western zone, call on the parties to the conflict to protect the human rights of persons with disabilities, women, children and families of martyrs on both sides of the conflict in accordance with national laws and international conventions and avoid any kind of discrimination.

7. Good and Accountable Governance

We call on both negotiating parties to agree on the establishment of a transparent and accountable government that values merit-based appointments, upholds balanced development and ensures public service delivery in a fair, equal and just manner to the people.

- The current political and military conflict among groups and individuals creates challenges that prevent the establishment of good governance.

8. Preserving the Honor and Dignity of War Victims on Both Sides of the Conflict

The participants of the Consultative Peace Conference with the Victims of War ask that the honor, dignity, and sacrifices of the victims of the war on both sides of the conflict be honored.

9. Minority Rights

We call on both negotiating parties to guarantee the rights of religious, sectarian, ethnic and linguistic minorities in accordance with Islamic, humanitarian and human rights standards, and consider the participation of minorities in all sectors.