



PRESS RELEASE

A UK charity launches to support women at university in Afghanistan

London (15th March 2016): the Farkhunda Trust for Afghan Women's Education was officially launched in London, UK today. Approximately 40 political figures, women's rights activists and supporters of Afghanistan were present at Matrix Chambers WC1 to hear the founder Ms Rahela Sidiqi explain the vision for the new British charity:

'Afghanistan still needs support. Afghan women still need support. Women continue to strive to get education but many are unable to continue at university because of economic reasons. The Farkhunda Trust has been established to support these girls. I noticed that most donor aid is for primary education and most scholarships are for Afghans to study MAs abroad. Therefore the FT will fill a gap – by providing exceptional female scholars with funds to continue their university education at BA level in Afghanistan. We have started with five scholarships, and hope very much, with the support of the British public, to expand'. Ms Rahela Sidiqi, Afghan Women's Rights Activist, and Founder of the Farkhunda Trust for Afghan Women's Education

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The Farkhunda Trust was registered in the UK in February 2016, and the first Farkhunda Scholars, who study at Gawharshad University Kabul, were selected in March 2016. It aims to support exceptional female women enrolled at Afghan Universities with particular motivation to address issues of women's inequality and to support other Afghan women. Scholarships are provided for those who would otherwise have to drop out of University, in order to get the education they crave. It was founded in memory of Farkhunda Malikzada, an Afghan Religious Studies Student, who was attacked and killed by a huge public mob in central Kabul very close to the Presidential Palace, on 19th March 2015.