

**CALL FOR PAPERS!**  
**NATIONAL CIVIL SOCIETY WEEK**  
**BALKH-2021**

The annual 2021 *National Civil Society Week* (NCSW) will be organized in November 2021 in Mazar-e-Sharif, Afghanistan. We invite submission of research papers.

The three days event will be attended by 110 participants representing civil society, government, academia, private sector, Donor agencies, and Media from across the country.

The NCSW is organized every year with the following goals:

- Promote the work and stands of the civil society organizations (CSOs)
- To enhance inter-CSO collaboration, fostering networking and creating new synergies, with the purpose of enhancing CSOs credibility and effectiveness to better represent their constituencies.
- Share tools and experiences for enhancing civic engagement and civil society development.
- Celebrate inspiring examples of social change by CSOs and change agents and sharing success stories.

This year we will focus on identifying and addressing evidence-based critical issues facing the civil society. We welcome submission of full research papers or submission of 500 words abstract. We encourage civil society members, graduates, postgraduates, and practitioners to submit the abstracts.

The topics of individual/team submissions may include but are not limited to the followings:

**A) CSOs and Peace Building**

- How (if any) Afghan CSOs negotiate access to the Armed Opposition Groups held areas?
- How does the future of CSOs look in a post peace political settlement with the Armed Opposition Groups?
- How has the CSOs been involved in shaping the peace talk between Afghan government and the Armed Opposition Groups? How CSOs are represented, heard, and included in the peace process?
- How do the Armed Opposition Groups and the Afghan Government perceive the CSOs and their role & mandates in Afghanistan?
- What are best practices of CSOs engagement in peace building in other countries?

**B) CSO's Response to the COVID-19**

- How does the pandemic impacted on CSO's working environment and how CSOs responded to the COVID-19?
- How COVID-19 impacted CSOs role & mandates? (This includes discussion around 'unequal pandemic', pandemic and structural inequality, advocacy, and support for people in needs...)

### **C) CSOs & Good Governance**

- How has been the role of the CSOs in promoting good governance in Afghanistan?
- How has been the role of CSOs in promoting transparency in government delivery, and combating corruption in Afghanistan?

### **D) Democratization, Human Rights and Civil Society**

- How has the CSOs been engaged in democratization process of Afghanistan?
- How has the CSOs contributed to the human rights values in Afghanistan?

### **E) Digitization and Civil Society**

- What challenges and opportunities the increasing trend toward digitization and social media provides for civil society and civic engagement?

### **F) CSO Sustainability**

- What are the challenges & opportunities in gradual disengagement of global civil society and emerging grassroots civil society organizations?
- What are the prospects of voluntarism and voluntarily activism amid decrease in donor funding?

### **IMPORTANT DATES**

August 17, 2021, Paper/Abstract submission due

August 30, 2021, Paper/Abstract acceptance notification

September 06, 2021, Full paper submission due

September 20, 2021, Paper acceptance notification

### **ABOUT THE AICS**

The Afghanistan Civil Society Institute (AICS) is established to support development of a vibrant civil society sector in Afghanistan. AICS strategic priorities are in the following areas:

- Policy engagement: Facilitating policy analysis, dialogue and engagement with stakeholders.
- Knowledge & Learning: Strengthen CSOs through the collection, analysis and sharing of information and learning.
- Self-Reliance: Diversifying and strengthening CSO funding bases by identifying new and innovative approaches to fund raising.
- Certification: Improving CSO credibility through certification against local and international standards

### **HOW TO APPLY?**

All abstracts/paper must be submitted via the [ncsw2021@acisafg.org](mailto:ncsw2021@acisafg.org) by August 17, 2021, at 11:59 PM.