



'We all want stability and peace, but not at the price of women's rights. We're told that women's rights are a development issue, not a security issue. But women's rights are part of what the fighting is all about.'

Afifa Azim, coordinator of the Afghan Women's Network

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AFGHANISTAN

KITES FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS



50 YEARS
Amnesty International

DESIGN A KITE FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS



'Afghan women have the most to gain from peace and the most to lose from any form of reconciliation [peace process] compromising women's human rights. There cannot be national security without women's security, there can be no peace when women's lives are fraught with violence, when our children can't go to schools, when we cannot step on the streets for fear of acid attacks.'

Mary Akrami, Director, Afghan Women Skills Development Centre, January 2010

The popular Afghan pastime of kite flying was banned during the Taleban rule in Afghanistan (1996-2001). Since then, kite flying (*gudiparan bazi*) has again become popular. Yet while women and girls can *make* kites they do not enjoy the freedom to fly them. The kite symbolises the discrimination that still confronts women and girls in Afghanistan.

Amnesty International will collect the kites sent in by supporters and use them to call on the UK government not to trade away human rights during talks with the Taleban, and to support and increase women's participation in the peace negotiations.

7 October 2011 marks the 10th anniversary of the US-led international intervention to oust the Taleban regime. Since then there have been significant advances in women's rights and gender equality, including the creation of a Ministry for Women's Affairs, an increase in girls' access to education and women's representation in parliament, and a constitution giving equal legal status to women and men.

Many Afghan women fear that these hard-won gains will be sacrificed as the Afghan government and its international partners (including the UK government) pursue peace negotiations with Taleban. Today in areas under their control the Taleban continue to severely curtail women's human rights – including attacks on girls' education and the murder of prominent women.

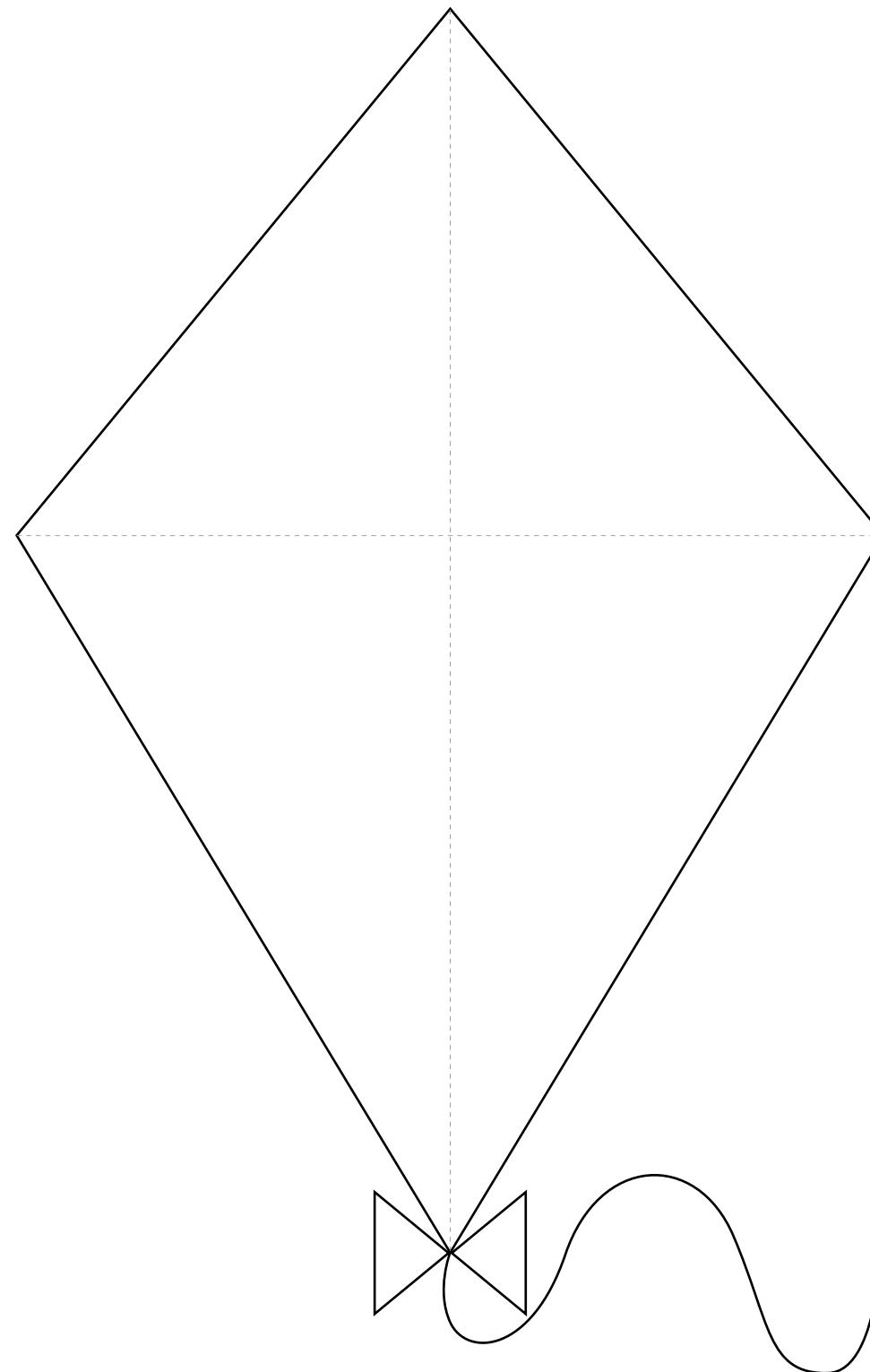
Afghan women have largely been marginalised in the peace negotiations. The involvement of women in peace processes is a safeguard against the rights of women and girls being sold short, and is critical to building an inclusive and sustainable peace.

■ ACT NOW

On 5 December 2011, the UK government will be represented at the Bonn Conference, where the peace process will be discussed. You can call on the UK government to support women's human rights and increase women's participation by designing a beautiful kite and sending it to us before 20 November 2011. See instructions overleaf.

WM2/42 August 2011 Illustrations: Rich Cowley

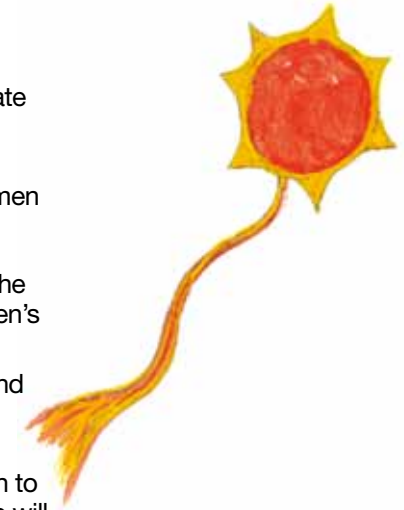
DETACH HERE



FOLD HERE

HERE'S WHAT YOU DO

- 1 Use the template outline to colour and create your own personal kite
- 2 Write your message to the UK government expressing your support (for example: Women must be at the peace table in Afghanistan; Don't trade away women's rights; Don't sacrifice women's rights in Afghanistan in the name of peace; or No Peace without women's rights)
- 3 Detach the kite postcard page as shown and post it **FREEPOST** (address on reverse)
- 4 Every kite that reaches us before 20 November will be included in the petition to Foreign Secretary William Hague and some will be displayed as part of a public stunt
- 5 To be kept up to date on this campaign and the progress of women's human rights in Afghanistan please fill in these brief details (below)



Email address (please write in CAPITAL letters)

First name

Surname

City

Postcode

So that we can ensure that you receive appropriate communications, if you are under 18 please tell us your date of birth:

D	D	M	M	Y	Y
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