

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

PREPARED BY ASDD TEAM



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About Us

Founded in May 2022, Associazione di Solidarietà Donne per le Donne (ASDD) is a refugee- and women-led organisation based in Italy that supports and empowers Afghanistani women refugees and migrants. ASDD works to enhance their social and psychosocial well-being, promote inclusion, and foster cross-cultural understanding by sharing Afghan culture and building bridges with Italian and international communities.

Vision

ASDD envisions a future where all women and girls from Afghanistan and across the diaspora—whether refugees or migrants—can grow, thrive, and live with dignity and equal rights.

Mission

The mission of Associazione di Solidarietà Donne per le Donne (ASDD) is to advance gender equality and empower Afghanistani refugee women, in alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 5 (Gender Equality). ASDD pursues this mission through research, capacity-building workshops, awareness-raising initiatives, and the coordination of educational and employment opportunities.



Projects and Activities

for Year 2023-2024

01

Cultural Exchange and Integration - "Il Mondo in Casa" Project (May-June 2023)

Partners: ASCS - Agenzia Scalabriniana per la Cooperazione allo Sviluppo and Chiesa del Carmine - Milano

ASDD participated in "Il Mondo in Casa", an intercultural initiative promoting dialogue between immigrant communities and Italian society. On June 9, 2023, ASDD hosted the Afghanistan Cultural Evening at Chiesa del Carmine, featuring performances by Nooria Sultani and Sumaia Karimi. Traditional Afghanistani cuisine was served by Ristorante Samarkand. About 150 participants joined, fostering meaningful interaction and appreciation between Afghanistani and Italian communities.

02

First Anniversary Celebration (November 3, 2023)

Partners: Local community organisations and Afghanistani diaspora networks

ASDD marked its first anniversary in Milan, celebrating a year of growth, collaboration, and advocacy. The event brought together over 50 participants, including Afghanistani women, local partners, and volunteers. The celebration highlighted ASDD's achievements in promoting women's empowerment, cultural inclusion, and solidarity, while strengthening connections within the Afghanistani diaspora and Italian community.

03

Membership in Women 7 (W7) - G7 Engagement Group (Jan 2024)

Partners: Women 7 (W7) - G7 Engagement Group

Throughout 2024, ASDD continued its engagement as a member of Women 7 (W7), the official G7 engagement group on gender equality. This membership allowed ASDD to contribute to global policy discussions, advocate for women's rights, and amplify the voices of Afghanistani refugee and migrant women in international platforms.

Projects and Activities

for Year 2023-2024

04

English Language Course for Afghanistani Women (January 2024)

Partners: Local volunteer educators and community networks

In early 2024, ASDD launched an English language course for Afghanistani refugee and migrant women to strengthen their language and communication skills. The programme aimed to enhance educational access, self-confidence, and employability. The course directly benefited 25 participants, equipping them with tools for integration and personal empowerment in Italy.

05

Advocacy and Human Rights Webinar - "Gender Apartheid and Lack of Investment on Afghanistani Women: Challenges and Solutions" (March 15, 2024)

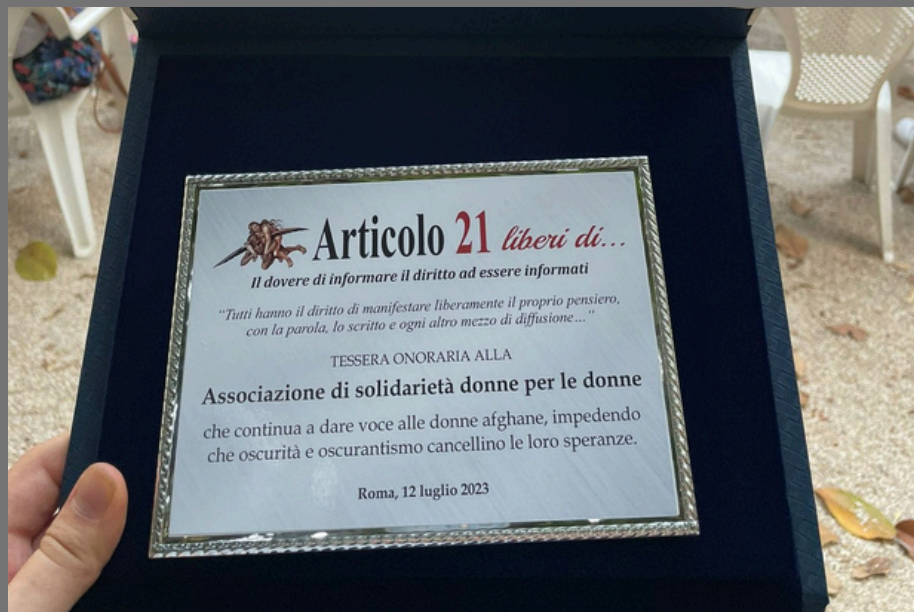
Partners: Global Campus of Human Rights

ASDD co-organised this international webinar with the Global Campus of Human Rights, addressing the systemic exclusion of Afghanistani women under Taliban rule. The panel featured renowned experts, including Dr. Sima Samar, Ms. Fereshta Abbasi, and Ms. Martina Rogato. The event drew over 100 participants, creating a global space for dialogue on gender apartheid, accountability, and international solidarity with Afghanistani women.

Recognition

On July 12, 2023, in Rome, Italy, the organisation Articolo 21 gathered and honoured women and men who actively defend the Constitution and civil rights. Among the awardees was the Associazione di Solidarietà Donne per le Donne (ASDD), recognised for its ongoing commitment to amplifying the voices of Afghanistani women and advocating for their rights alongside other civil society organisations.

The members of ASDD dedicated this meaningful award to all women of Afghanistan, in recognition of their strength, resilience, and continuous struggle for equality and freedom.



Impacts and Achievements

Impact and Beneficiaries

In its second year, ASDD expanded its reach, visibility, and advocacy efforts:

- Direct beneficiaries: approximately 275 women (cultural events, anniversary celebrations, workshops, English courses, webinars)
- Indirect beneficiaries: approximately 400-500 individuals, including family members, peers, and broader audiences reached through digital platforms and advocacy initiatives.

Key achievements:

- Promoted intercultural dialogue through national events and cultural showcases.
- Received recognition from Articolo 21 for ongoing advocacy on women's rights.
- Expanded digital and international engagement, including webinars and W7 participation.
- Created educational opportunities through the English course in Afghanistan.
- Strengthened community networks, providing mentorship and a platform for sharing experiences among Afghanistani women.



Financial Overview

During 2023-2024, ASDD operated primarily through voluntary efforts and in-kind contributions. Most initiatives, including educational activities and administrative operations, were carried out with the dedicated support of volunteers. This approach reflects ASDD's strong commitment to efficiency and community-driven impact, ensuring that resources were directed toward empowering Afghanistani women and advancing the organisation's mission despite limited financial means.

Together Toward the Future

ASDD's journey continues, guided by the belief that every woman's voice matters and every act of solidarity builds a stronger community. The past year has shown what dedication, cooperation, and compassion can achieve.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all volunteers, partners, and supporters who walked beside us. Together, we will continue to empower Afghanistani women, foster inclusion, and build bridges between cultures — one step, one story, and one voice at a time.

