

## **Biographical data form of candidates to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women**

**Name (family name, first name):** Zohra Rasekh

**Nationality:** Afghan

**Date and place of birth:** February 7, 1969, Kabul Afghanistan

**Working languages:** English, Persian (Dari)

### **Current position/function:**

Zohra Rasekh is the President of Global Watch Group (GWG), an independent non-profit organization, dedicated to the protection of human rights and promotion of health for all people. GWG focuses on investigative research, promoting public awareness of human rights violations, and providing healthcare services in situations of health and human rights crises in conflict and post conflict countries around the world.

### **Main professional activities:**

**General Director, Office of Human Rights and Women's International Affairs; and Advisor to the Foreign Minister on human rights and gender issues, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, 2003-2010.**

Among other accomplishments, established a sustainable human rights treaty body reporting mechanism within the Afghan government, initiated the process of human rights treaty body reporting including that of CRC, ICESCR, and CEDAW.

### **Research Analyst**

Population Action International, 2000-2003

Managed a three-year project on reproductive health rights policies in seven countries.

### **Senior Research Analyst, Physicians for Human Rights**

Initiated and lead two epidemiological research projects on the impact of war and Taliban policies on women's health and human rights under the Taliban regime in Afghanistan.

### **Educational background:**

- Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government, 2006
- Certificate on Women & Public Policy Program
- George Washington University, School of Medicine & Healthcare Sciences Masters of Public Health, May, 1994
- George Washington University B.A., Biology, Dec., 1989

**Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women:**

Zohra Rasekh is an expert on human rights, gender and health issues with a focus on Afghanistan. She is one of the world's leading spokespersons for human rights and gender equality in Afghanistan and that region. Ms. Rasekh also has expertise on women in conflict and post-conflict. She regularly appears before Congress, international forums, and international media. Ms. Rasekh has conducted 2 unprecedented studies on the impact of Taliban policies and the prolonged war on Afghan women's health and human rights in 1998 and 2000. Ms. Rasekh is the co-founder of the Women's Alliance for Peace and Human Rights (WAPHA) and founder of Global Watch Group, a non-governmental organization focusing on human rights of women and children in conflict and post conflict countries.

**List of most recent publications in the field of discrimination against women and advancement of their human rights:**

- Terrorism and Public Health: A Balance Approach to Strengthening Systems and Protecting People. Oxford University Press, 2012.
    - Women's Health and Human Rights in Afghanistan. Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA), 1998
    - The Taliban's War on Women: A Health and Human Rights Crises in Afghanistan, 1998
    - Education, A Health Imperative: The Case of Afghanistan. François-Xavier Bagnoud Center for Health & Human Rights. Harvard Publication, 1999
    - Health and Human Rights of Adolescent Girls in Afghanistan. JAMWA, 2000
    - In this Generation: Sexual and Reproductive Health Policies for a Youthful World Population Action International Publishing, 2002
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