



Den Haag, 15 november 2011

Voortouwcommissie: **vaste commissie voor Buitenlandse Zaken**  
Volgcommissie(s): vaste commissie voor Defensie

Activiteit: **Gesprek**  
Datum: woensdag 16 november 2011  
Tijd: 16.00 - 17.00 uur  
Openbaar/besloten: besloten

Onderwerp: Annulering gesprek Afghaanse delegatie

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Agendapunt: **Het gesprek met een Afghaanse delegatie van vier Afghaanse vrouwen in aanloop naar Bonn conferentie over Afghanistan**  
**ZAL GEEN DOORGANG VINDEN.**

**In verband met verplichtingen in Afghanistan zal de delegatie niet afreizen (zie bijgevoegde brief).**

Zaak: Brief derden - Gender Concerns International te Den Haag - 9 november 2011  
Verzoek Gender Concerns International, namens Afghaanse delegatie, voor bijeenkomst met vaste commissie voor Buitenlandse Zaken d.d. 16 november 2011 - 2011Z22474

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Griffier: T.J.E. van Toor

Activiteitsnummer: 2011A04817

to: Ms. E. Durville Vaste Commissie voor Buitenlandse Zaken Tweede Kamer, Den Haag

**Date:** 15<sup>th</sup> November 2011

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**Subject: Cancellation for Pre-Bonn Gender Conference and related meetings. Lobby for Bonn conference continues**

Dear Ms. Durville,

In the past few days, we received confirmation that a Jirga is taking place on the 16<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> of November in Kabul, Afghanistan. This is a grand meeting to discuss the US – Afghanistan strategic pact. More than 2000 people, including MPs, tribal elders and Afghan women organizations, will attend the Loya Jirga. AWN and our delegates for Women at the Flashpoint II were also invited by the government to attend.

Unfortunately, the dates of the Jirga coincide with our 16<sup>th</sup> of November meeting with the Vaste Commissie voor Buitenlandse Zaken, and our Pre-Bonn conference on the 17<sup>th</sup>. We understand the honour and the importance of the Jirga, and consider it counter-productive if both conferences were to go ahead. It is for this reason that we have decided to cancel our public event and unfortunately will not be able to have our delegation meet with the commission. We have not yet announced the news publicly, to ensure all parties involved are informed first.

This decision has been taken in close consultation with our partners, supporters, well-wishers and other stakeholders. At a time when Afghan women are actively involved in the transition process and are participating in reaching a national consensus, we offer them our full support and wish them strength and success.

We will, of course, be continuing our lobbying and advocating, but instead we will use the outcome of the Jirga as recommendations to hand over to His Excellency Peter Heinz-Behr, the German Ambassador, to be taken to the Bonn Conference. Ms Bano, Director of Gender Concerns International will also be travelling to Afghanistan soon to set up our office there. Between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of December, we are organizing a Pre-Bonn latest-update consultation, and on the 20<sup>th</sup> of December we will host a Post-Bonn Follow-up briefing. We look forward to following up with you for the delegates' visit in December. More precise planning and information will be announced shortly.

We wish to thank you for giving our delegates a platform at the Parliament, and we hope to work together in the future. We sincerely apologise for any inconvenience caused, and wish to thank you for your cooperation.

With kind regards,

Sabra Bano, on behalf the organizing committee of Gender Concerns International