

January 10, 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***An Evening in Solidarity  
with Afghan Women and Girls***

*Saturday, February 12, 2005*

*6 to 9 pm*

*College Hill, University of Hawai'i-Manoa*

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**Local hui raises funds for Afghan Women and Girls**

This February 12, a hui of concerned Hawai'i individuals will hold a special fundraiser on behalf of Afghan women. Humanitarian Mavis Leno, a leading international advocate for the rights of Afghan women, will travel to the Islands to keynote an evening celebrating Afghan poetry, music, art, photography, food, and most of all, women. The event is being coordinated by the Hawai'i hui and sponsored by the Globalization Research Center, University of Hawai'i-Manoa in partnership with The Feminist Majority.

*An Evening in Solidarity with Afghan Women and Girls* will be held Saturday, February 12, 2005, from 6 to 9 pm, at College Hill, University of Hawaii-Manoa. Raofa Ahrary, editor of Afghanistan's first women's magazine, and Ms. Leno will speak. Leno, who has championed Afghan women's rights on husband Jay's late-night talk show, is chair of the Feminist Majority Foundation, an nonprofit organization that has been a strong advocate for Afghan women. All monies raised will go to The Shuhada Organization, which is based in Kabul and runs schools, clinics and hospitals throughout Afghanistan and for refugees in neighboring Pakistan. Tickets for the event are \$100, \$85 of which is tax-deductible.

The fundraiser grew out of the desire of a group of Honolulu residents—a former Peace Corps volunteer in Afghanistan, a former diplomat, members of the local Afghan community, local human rights advocates and concerned citizens—to raise monies for their Afghan sisters. Spearheaded by Nancie Caraway, director of the Women's Human Rights Project at the Globalization Research Center, the group has generated much support.

All funds raised on February 12 will go to the Shuhada Organization. Shuhada and its founder, Dr. Sima Samar, are well known in and out of Afghanistan. The largest woman-led, non-governmental organization in the region, Shuhada is dedicated to empowerment of Afghan women and children. The organization runs projects in health, education, literacy, job training and more. It operates 11 clinics and three hospitals in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and 71 schools for boys and girls throughout Afghanistan as well as three for refugees in Quetta, Pakistan. Dr. Samar is Afghanistan's first Minister of Women's Affairs and chair of the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission.

For more information on the event, to contribute or to purchase tickets, please email the Afghan Women's Hui at [afghanwomenshui@yahoo.com](mailto:afghanwomenshui@yahoo.com).



Afghan Women's Hui :: [afghanwomenshui@yahoo.com](mailto:afghanwomenshui@yahoo.com)