



## Co-operation for Peace and Unity (CPAU)

### Background

Cooperation for Peace and Unity (CPAU – [www.cpau.org.af](http://www.cpau.org.af)) is working for the promotion of knowledge and awareness of peace, social justice, and human rights as the foundation upon which the future development of Afghanistan will be built. Through direct encouragement and participation in active Peacebuilding, CPAU hopes to contribute to the creation of a viable alternative to the war and violence, as the first step towards building a lasting peace. CPAU is registered with the Government of Afghanistan and is a member of Agency Coordination Body for Afghan Relief (ACBAR) and Afghan NGOs Coordination Bureau (ANCB).

### Fight for Peace Project Concept Note

#### Rationale:

Afghan women have been the most vulnerable, subjected to unimaginable violence. The sports and recreational activities for men and women were the most affected areas in the society. One of the most affected sports sector in Afghanistan is boxing, where during the Taliban regime it was totally banned from the public and professional sports spheres.



The teams established in February 2007 is the first ever women boxing team in Afghanistan history

For Afghan Women there are many false perceptions and stereotypes left to fight through. This is not that different for Afghan men either! However, boxing, as a popular sport in Afghanistan does help break these stereotypes.

#### The Initiative:

*"Boxing isn't just about landing punches; it is much on mental as on physical training, boxers practice their personal journeys both inside and outside the ring."*  
Shahla, Fight for Peace boxer.

The **"Fight for Peace"** is a CPAU project trying to promote girls and women rights through sports. It is part of the overall efforts by CPAU in community Peacebuilding and developing a strong and inclusive civil society in Afghanistan. Currently, the Fight for Peace is part of promoting women boxing in Afghanistan through first ever Afghan Amateur Women Boxing Association (AAWBA),

financed and established by CPAU in February 2007, under auspicious of Afghan Olympic Federation.

This will lead to significant changes in women and girls involvement in sports and especially Afghan women boxing in the country. This will ultimately help improve the status of women in Afghanistan. The project helps to expand and cover other martial arts in Afghanistan in the near future. Fight for Peace trains 25 girls from 14 to 25 years old in the field of boxing. These girls formed the Afghan Amateur Women Boxing Association (AAWBA) for the first time in the history of the country.

The Fight for Peace offers boxing to attract youth, especially girls who are amongst the very vulnerable groups in the Afghan society, to the project. Once attracted to Boxing, the students will get non-violence and conflict resolution skills and tools through continuous peacebuilding classes. CPAU believes Sports and education is an effective combination with some great success stories.

CPAU tries to bring these girls in with the flash of sports, keep them there with the hope of a positive future and fight the violence at home and outside, with



A new generation is challenging the usual stereotype of Afghan women as shadowy figures concealed from head to foot behind powder-blue burqas.

education and social services. Meanwhile CPAU tries to help the sports fields in Afghanistan. As part of the World Amateur Boxing Federation regulations, by 2012 London games, no boxing team is allowed to attend unless they don't have a women team incorporated in it.

CPAU provided the sporting kits and other necessary support to make sure AAWBA continue their training. The Afghan Women boxing team has been practicing hard for the future of the game in Afghanistan. They want to punch their way to world recognition, as it achieved some of world class results in the past, for the Afghan male boxers. The Sports of Boxing may not be a way out of all the problems the women and girls in Afghanistan, but it is helping them get over a turbulent past and look at the future with a lot of hope.

**Peacebuilding Training:**

Between their training sessions, these girls set down and learn modern Peacebuilding and conflict resolution techniques for CPAU Peace works.

These trainings aims to empower these girls to contribute to building a progressive culture in Afghanistan based on courageous collective decision-making that integrates conflict transformation and development.



CPAU facilitates capacity building of these women boxers on the issues of peace building and conflict transformation so they break up these stereotypes and take on as peace role models.



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