



 2025
**IMPACT
REPORT**

REIMAGINING WHAT IS POSSIBLE



**RIGHT TO
LEARN**
Afghanistan



RightToLearn.ca

Under Taliban rule, millions of Afghan women and girls are banned from attending school.

Right to Learn Afghanistan exists to restore their right to education.

Grounded in the belief that education is a fundamental human right and a powerful tool for lasting social change, Right to Learn's programs reopen pathways to education and reconnect Afghan women and girls with the futures they deserve.

Since 1998, Right to Learn has trained more than 10,000 teachers, provided over 4,000 scholarships and connectivity devices, and created an online high school serving over 700 students. By investing in women's futures, we are defending a right, restoring dreams, and planting the seeds of long-term change.

Since 1998,

10,000+

↑↑ Teachers trained

4,000+

🎓 scholarships & devices provided

700+

📖 students currently enrolled in our online high school

Table of Contents



04 Executive Address



06 Darakht-e Danesh Academi



08 Grants and Scholarships



13 Safe Harbour Resettlement Program



15 I Am the Child Seeking Growth



16 Bridge to Learning



18 Advocacy and Engagement



20 Financial Snapshot



08 Bright Tomorrow

Executive Address *Spring 2026*



The situation in Afghanistan remains catastrophic. Amidst overlapping human rights, humanitarian and displacement crises, Afghan women and girls are shouldering the most severe consequences: impunity for violence against women, rising child marriages, devastating poverty, and a legal system so discriminatory, it's called gender apartheid. Yet in the midst of this crisis, the demand for education hasn't subsided: in fact, it's intensified.

At Right to Learn, we respond to this demand. Standing beside Afghan women and girls, we build safe, credible education pathways where learners gain knowledge, skills, and prepare for futures of their own design.

In 2025, we remained focused on reaching more learners and supporting them to keep going. With stronger programs and a fiercely dedicated team, we opened the doors that had been slammed shut to Afghan girls who refuse to give up.

In a place where books are seized, women are silenced, and girls beyond grade six are denied schooling, our online learning platform, Darakht-e Danesh Academi, restores access to learning, through its three "branches". The Library makes available nearly 9,000 resources and books; the Classroom provides an internationally recognized secondary education to 700 girls attending full-time, and in the Courses, over 5,000 learners study online. And in 2025 alone, we awarded nearly 1,400 scholarships and devices to women enrolled at higher education institutions around the world.

These efforts are not temporary responses. They are the long-term building blocks of dignity, agency, and possibility.

None of this would happen without you.

Our donors, partners, and supporters are the quiet force behind every classroom, every scholarship, and an uplifting hand to every learner who knocks on our door. You turned uncertainty into opportunity and stood with a generation who will one day remember the circumstances under which they kept learning.

Yet the urgency remains. Millions of girls are still denied their right to learn. The risks are real. The need is growing. And so is our resolve.

Together, with Afghan women leading through resilience, with our programs creating real pathways, and with you powering every step, we are reimagining what's possible.

Thank you for helping build a future where no girl's potential is left unfulfilled.



Lauryn Oates
Executive Director



Murwarid Ziayee
Senior Director

"These efforts are not temporary responses. They are the long-term building blocks of dignity, agency, and possibility."

Lauryn Oates &
Murwarid Ziayee

2025 in Review

This year's impact spans students, educators, and access to knowledge.



644

online high school students



1,400

scholarships & devices provided



715

resources added to Darakht-e Danesh Library



10th

language added to library collection



06

Darakht-e Danesh courses developed



26

total courses now available



100+

teachers in professional development



94

new chapter volunteers added



105

events and campaigns supported

Darakht-e Danesh Academi



Darakht-e Danesh Academi is our "Knowledge Tree" of online educational resources for Afghans, especially women and girls who have been denied access to education.

Like a tree planting deep roots, the Academi grows through three branches:

- Library,
- Courses,
- Classroom.

These programs provide accessible educational resources and learning opportunities to thousands of students, educators, and lifelong learners, in Afghanistan and around the world.

DARAKHT-E DANESH | CLASSROOM

Our Darakht-e Danesh Classroom is our accredited online secondary school that provides graduates with an internationally recognized high school diploma. Students participate in live, online classes, lead and join extracurricular clubs, and access mental health support. Working with partners in neighbouring regions, our Darakht-e Danesh Classroom is also available via a Digital Learning Center (DLC) for displaced children who would otherwise not have access to education.

Thanks to your generous support, and in partnership with Global Affairs Canada through the Support for Afghan Girls' Secondary Education project, we continue to reimagine what is possible through education. In 2025, the Darakht-e Danesh Classroom provided borderless online learning to 644 students in grades seven to 10, guided by 29 teachers — most of them women — and a dedicated management team including a Principal and

Senior Administrator. Throughout the year, we maintained strong academic standards through curriculum review, ongoing teacher professional development, classroom observations, and targeted academic support.

Beyond academics, students engaged in opportunities that fostered creativity, confidence, and leadership. Through initiatives such as our monthly speaker series, the Stories of Light Voice Theater, and the six-week Joy of Learning Program, students explored new ideas and expressed their stories of resilience through art and writing.

A new partnership with Amala Education's Learning Bridge Programme also provided English language training for 37 grade 10 students, strengthening their research, presentation, and advocacy skills.

At the same time, our teachers strengthened their expertise in online pedagogy and supportive learning environments, creating a stable, committed teaching community.

DARAKHT-E DANESH | LIBRARY

As of 2025, the Darakht-e Danesh Library houses over 8,800 resources in 10 languages, including Farsi/Dari, Pashto, English, and seven Afghan minority languages. It offers materials for all grade levels and continuing education, as well as audiobooks to ensure accessibility for all learners.

A library is a home for knowledge and continuous learning, which have been denied to Afghan learners.

With support from our dedicated volunteers, we expanded access to learning by adding 715 new resources, incorporating additional rural Afghan languages in our database, and launching a free mobile app to reach learners wherever they are. As a result of this growth and the continued support of our donors and partners, we reached over 1.3 million views, significantly extending access to learning resources for Afghans.

8,800+
total learning resources

128
subjects available

DARAKHT-E DANESH | COURSES

Our Darakht-e Danesh Courses platform offers a wide range of free online courses in three languages: Dari, Pashto, and English. All courses are asynchronous, allowing students to take the course in their own time, at their own pace.

Our Darakht-e Danesh Courses are designed to make learning accessible to every Afghan. With your support, we were able to expand opportunities by adding six new courses, hosting three interactive workshops, and facilitating a course for teachers.

To celebrate the dedication of learners who devote immense efforts to their studies despite challenging circumstances, we also introduced badges and certificates to recognize students who consistently demonstrated outstanding performance throughout the courses.

"Thank you for providing us with all these opportunities. It was very painful for me to be deprived of education, but now I am very happy that you have created such a course, allowing us to learn easily."

DD Courses Digital Literacy participant





08



extracurricular groups and clubs for Darakht-e Danesh Classroom Students

"I am really happy that 2025 could help me to learn new things...

I truly appreciate your support, that you are staying with us and helping us to grow, change the world.

Thanks a million."

Grade 10 Darakht-e Danesh Classroom Student



Grants and Scholarships

Thousands of Afghan women and girls are eager to learn, but simple barriers — like not owning a computer — can make education unattainable.

Our Shafia Education Access Program provides laptops, scholarships, internet packages, and other learning tools to ensure women and girls can reclaim their right to learn. These grants are complemented by our Learning Plus Baskets Program that offers humanitarian assistance and materials for whole-family learning.

Thanks to your support, we distributed nearly 1,400 scholarships and technology devices to Afghan women and girls in 2025, making this the most impactful year in our Shafia Education Access Program's history. Your generosity also allowed us to distribute 150 Learning Plus Baskets, benefitting over 1,000 Afghans with family learning materials and humanitarian support.

To Afghan women and girls, these grants are more than just support for learning: These tools are an opportunity to thrive and a lifeline in reclaiming their futures.



150

 learning plus baskets distributed



Meet Kamila: Graduating Dentist and Shafia Education Access Program grant recipient.

In 2022, Kamila bravely fled Afghanistan to pursue a Bachelor of Dental Surgery Degree in Pakistan. Despite achieving a full scholarship, she faced 150,000 Pakistani Rupees (\$735 CAD) in unexpected costs not covered by her scholarship. Kamila tried everything to raise the funds but was on the brink of abandoning her dream.

At this critical moment the Shafia Education Access Program stepped in. Thanks to the support of our generous donors, Right to Learn provided Kamila with the funds needed to stay in school and pursue her future.

Over the next three years, Kamila worked relentlessly towards her degree until she faced another unexpected barrier at graduation: her practicum would require an additional 120,000 Rupees (\$575 CAD) for housing. Kamila contacted the Shafia Education Access Program in late 2025 who again met the funding needs that Kamila could not overcome alone.

Today, Kamila continues in her practicum and eagerly awaits graduation. She is preparing to enter her profession where she hopes to inspire other Afghan girls to pursue their dreams.

In her words:

“Your support has transformed the entire trajectory of my life... After my house job, I will be a licensed dentist! This is a goal that seemed impossible just a few years ago. I will use my skills to serve those in need, to give back to the communities that supported me, and to stand as living proof that investing in Afghan girls’ education creates lasting change.”

Kamila, Graduating Dentist and Shafia Education Access Program grant recipient

1,400

 scholarships and devices provided

Safe Harbour Resettlement Program

Every day, Afghan women and families flee Afghanistan to neighboring countries and beyond in hopes of finding safety and security and the chance to start a new life.

Working in collaboration with community sponsors, partners, and our chapter community, our Safe Harbour program aids in the relocation of Afghans to Canada, assisting in securing housing, furnishings, school enrollment, language instruction, healthcare access, and cultural support, allowing Afghans to regain their futures.

This year was one of the most challenging we have ever faced in resettlement work.

Sweeping immigration changes, mass deportations, and a global shift in how refugees are perceived created an environment of uncertainty.

Yet, even amid these obstacles, our Safe Harbour program remained steadfast in its commitment to Afghan women and families who entrusted us with their hopes and shared their stories marked by loss, resilience, and the constant threat of violence under Taliban rule.

Throughout the year, we submitted 26 applications for Afghan women and their families, representing a total of 43 people seeking safety.

Each application has officially entered the long and complex process toward resettlement in Canada, a process that demands patience, hope, and unwavering advocacy.



02



Afghan women now rebuilding their lives in Canada

"I am now free to study and live. I feel completely secure here. People who helped me get here, they saved my life. I cannot thank them enough."

Afghan woman sponsored by Safe Harbour

200



Afghans supported with personalized resettlement guidance

43



people in active resettlement applications

Thanks to the generosity and dedication of community sponsors, partners, and our chapter community, we were able to welcome two Afghan women to Canada this year.

Their journeys remind us why this work matters. Even in the face of immense global challenges, every life resettled is a testament to resilience, solidarity, and the power of community to restore hope.



One woman had sought refuge in Pakistan after the Taliban takeover, leaving behind her work as a fitness instructor in Kabul, a role that once empowered others and later placed her at risk.

Today, she is rebuilding her life in Canada, learning English and working toward her dream of becoming a fitness instructor once again.



The second woman had been a medical student in Kandahar before the Taliban seized control, forcing her to flee and ultimately live in a refugee camp in Doha.

Now in Canada, she carries with her a deep determination to continue her medical education or contribute to the healthcare field.



I Am the Child Seeking Growth

I am a small sapling sprouting in this
desolate desert of isolation.

Last night, I grew a few millimeters taller.

O passerby of this desert,
do you see this sturdy stem of mine rising
upward among the ashes?

I have green branches—
I am the green of this barren land.
Do you see the beauty of my green against
the desert's vastness?

For hours I've been waiting,
my eyes fixed on a stranger—
do you see that I am growing?

O stranger of this desert,
as you pass by,
sing a song for me—and
look at me again—

**You will see how
beautifully I grow.**

Excerpt from "I Am The Child
Seeking Growth" by Zahra S.,
Darakht-e Danesh Classroom
Literary Club Student

Bridge to Learning

Teachers are at the heart of meaningful education and can be influential catalysts for change.

Through our Bridge to Learning program, we assist Afghan teachers in refugee villages through community mentorship and professional development opportunities that benefit refugee students and entire school communities.

Through our involvement with the Alliance for the Education of Women in Afghanistan, a growing network of more than 100 organizations, we have contributed to developing and upholding standards for quality education across the ecosystem of schools and organizations responding to the learning crisis in Afghanistan.

100+
refugee educators advanced through professional development

Care-Centred Networked Improvement Communities - Empowering Teachers Initiative

The Care-Centered Networked Improvement Communities Research Project (CC-NIC) empowers Afghan refugee teachers in Pakistan to build classrooms of care, quality education, and hope, even in the most challenging conditions.

This project pioneers collaborative learning communities and professional development opportunities for 50 refugee educators who are teaching in extreme circumstances.

As a result of these care-focused opportunities, teachers report:

- improved wellbeing
- improved relations with host country teachers
- more inclusive classrooms
- more effective care-based teaching strategies to support the wellbeing and learning of over 1,500 refugee students

CC-NIC, delivered in partnership with the University of Peshawar, and supported by UNHCR Pakistan, is one of 12 research projects in the “Empowering Teachers Initiative”, led by Fit-Ed and SUMA, and funded by IDRC.

“This course has reminded us that first of all, the child needs care, which is the most important point in this - they can be taken care of, they can be loved and cherished.”

Male teacher

Inclusive Education Furthering Impact Grant

In 2024, Right to Learn led a teacher training research project centered on inclusive education for refugee children. Due to the success of the project, Right to Learn was awarded a grant to support the inclusive education work of UNHCR and other partners in 2025.

Inclusive education is a critical investment that helps students feel valued, collaborate, and build empathy in diverse communities, contributing to peacebuilding in times of crisis.

With Right to Learn’s technical support, partner organizations adopted our teacher training approaches, and UNHCR Pakistan supported 60 refugee teachers to complete the online program. This professional development equips teachers to promote gender equity and remove barriers to learning, ensuring all children can access quality education.

Following the success of this work, these approaches are now being scaled by UNHCR in Pakistan, with expansion to Afghanistan anticipated in 2026.

This work was supported by the Global Partnership for Education Knowledge and Innovation Exchange (GPE KIX), a joint endeavor with the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada.



Sector Coordination

Right to Learn is committed to contributing to and collaborating with the wider sector of schools and organizations serving the educational needs of Afghan women and girls.

We do this primarily through our leadership role with the Steering Committee of the Alliance for the Education of Women in Afghanistan, a community of over 100 education providers.

In 2025, Right to Learn supported the development and implementation of quality standards of education for our context and sharing practical tools through training and webinars. These collaborative efforts ensure quality educational opportunities reach as many Afghan women and girls as possible and strengthen the ecosystem of organizations collectively working to restore access to education for women and girls in Afghanistan.

Advocacy & Engagement

Our advocacy and engagement efforts are rooted in amplifying Afghan women and girls so they are seen, heard, and supported at a time that their voices are being silenced.

Through grassroots action led by our chapters, strategic collaborations with global partners, and the empowerment of youth, we work to amplify the experiences and expertise of Afghan women and mobilize communities to drive lasting change.

Our action in 2025 included 11 campaigns to deepen public understanding of the restrictions facing Afghan women and girls while raising critical support for their education and futures. Right to Learn actively supported 94 events including the first National Red Pashmina Walk where hundreds of Canadians from coast to coast walked in solidarity and action. Through seven op-eds, 41 media publications, and hundreds of social media posts we ensured Afghan women's experiences reached countless audiences to shape support and advocacy dialogue locally, nationally, and globally.

With your support, we secured Parliamentary attention with a Gender Apartheid petition, read by MP Elizabeth May, and directly influenced policy discussions on international stages such as the UNESCO Conference on Women and Girls in Afghanistan.

At the same time, we strengthened the next generation of advocates by creating dozens of advocacy resources, developing a Stop Gender Apartheid course in our Darakht-e Danesh platform, and training student leaders at U of T and U of O through collaborations with our Youth Advocacy Network.

These actions, collectively, are ensuring that the movement of support is growing, Afghan women's demands for justice are reaching further, and advocacy is translating into meaningful pressure for change.

Volunteer Chapters

Rooted in their local communities and supported by the national office, our nine incredible volunteer chapters advance the mission of Right to Learn Afghanistan through grassroots advocacy, fundraising initiatives, and public engagement and education.

Our volunteer chapters are the backbone of change. Across Canada, they inspire communities to stand up for human rights and support Afghan women and girls' education. We are deeply grateful to every chapter volunteer whose dedication, generosity, and open heart continue to prove that while the fight for Afghan women and girls' right to learn remains challenging, anything is possible when we stand together.

Through cultural celebrations, participation in Afghan film screenings, Breaking Breads fundraising dinners, community picnics, advocacy rallies, and participation in our first-ever National Red Pashmina Walk, our volunteers ensured Afghan women and girls remained at the forefront of public conversation.

This year alone, our nine chapters welcomed a total of 94 new volunteers, participated in 43 fundraisers and events, and raised over \$51,000 in support of the right to education! We are also happy to welcome our first Right to Learn Afghanistan Student Club at the University of Alberta, with inspiring youth who are ready to spark change.



Thanks to you — our dedicated supporters — who stepped up time and again to show the world that the rights of Afghan women and girls matter, Afghan women and girls are being heard, global support is growing, and the push for their rights continues to gain strength.

“As with most things, you think you are giving, but in the end, you receive so much more.”

Jane, Victoria Chapter Volunteer

Financial Snapshot

Revenue	Total Donations	% by Category
Grants	1,597,537	36%
Foundations	876,725	20%
Partner Programs	800,640	18%
Resettlement Co-sponsorship Funds	426,628	10%
Individuals	369,875	8%
Parvana Fund Royalties	180,102	4%
Fundraising Activities	97,026	2%
Investment & Other Income	62,060	1%
Chapter Events	51,476	1%
Total	4,462,068	100%

Program Spending	Total Expenses	% by Program
DD Academi	1,270,856	40%
Implementing Partner Programs	758,966	24%
Advocacy & Engagement	313,385	10%
Grants and Scholarships	214,640	7%
Bridge to Learning	199,395	6%
Fundraising Activities	177,169	6%
Management & Admin	145,320	5%
Resettlement	60,273	2%
Total	3,140,004	100%

Program Expenses	3,109,094
Admin & Other Expenses	44,800
Other Gains & losses	(13,890)
Expenses per financial statements	3,140,004



“The investment will be worth it: education today will be the foundation of peace building, conflict transformation, and stabilization tomorrow, when one day Afghanistan needs to once again rebuild and plan for a new era that centres equitable representation, pluralism, and full rights for all Afghan citizens without discrimination on the basis of gender.

Seeds planted now will help provide continuity, quality, and capacity that will be much needed down the road to secure the lasting peace and freedoms that Afghans deserve and have long awaited.”

Lauryn Oates, Right to Learn Executive Director, at UNESCO High-Level Conference on Women and Girls in Afghanistan

Bright Tomorrow

In the dark night, where I am
walking in the yard,
You are in the sky — like a star.

In a place where no one is there,
I find comfort when
I look at the sky.

The moon is beautiful
on a quiet night.
In a silent place
where no one exists,
Though it looks near,
it feels so far.

But this night will pass.
And a bright day will come.
After all these dark nights,
I believe the light will return.

Written by Nilab,
DDC Literary Club Student



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