

The 2018 Award was presented to Ms. Lael Mohib at the WCI International Conference in Washington, D.C., by Caroline Adair Dimmers, daughter of founder Marian Adair.

Ms. Lael Mohib is founder and director of the Enabled Children Initiative, a U.K. and U.S. registered charity that supports and advocates for Afghan orphans with special needs. During her husband's tenure as Afghanistan's Ambassador to the U.S., Ms. Mohib volunteered at the Embassy, focusing on women's empowerment, social, cultural, and educational programs.

Ms. Lael Mobi's initiatives have included organizing the Afghan Disability Rights Conference with Georgetown University and the U.S. International Council on Disabilities and leading the Embassy's involvement in the Embassy Adoption Program, a cultural education program with local public schools. She has also been an active member of the U.S.-Afghan Women's Council, helping to accelerate the Council's advocacy work and women's economic empowerment initiatives. She has also worked to keep the doors of the Embassy open to the Afghan diaspora, in the Washington community, and the wider public in an effort to foster understanding and communication between Americans and Afghans. She has been an active supporter of the Embassy Dialogue Series for Peace and Understanding, which aims to create dialogue and understanding between Muslim nation embassies and the American public.

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She previously worked for the Afghan Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development with village development councils, before joining BBC Media Action's Afghanistan team, where she worked on educational and media development programs. She most recently served as Chief of Staff at the American University of Afghanistan in Kabul.

Ms. Mohib studied communications at Mary Baldwin College, graduating summa cum laude. In 2006, she traveled across India to conduct interviews for her undergraduate thesis *"Voices of India: Dialectical Tensions in the Negotiation of Identity and Cultural Values in a Globalized Society."* In 2008, she traveled to Cyprus to conduct

research on post-conflict communication amongst Greek and Turkish Cypriots. In 2008, she received the university's Global Citizenship Award and Most Outstanding Communication Student Award.

She has written op-eds for the New York Times and Foreign Policy and contributed a chapter on Afghan children with disabilities to the anthology *Children of Afghanistan: the Path to Peace* published by the University of Texas press in 2013.

Born and raised in the southeast of the United States, she met her husband in Kabul in 2009 and has since called Afghanistan her adopted home. She and her husband, Ambassador Hamdullah Mohib, have two young children, a daughter and son.