

**SWOT- Analysis**  
**“Analysing the Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats**  
**for Female Candidates for Parliament”**

**A seminar of the FES Women’s Network on 14th June 2004**  
**at the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Afghanistan**

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**1.) Results of the group work**

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
1.) (some) having political knowledge and courage	1.) lack of courage
2.) patience and tolerance	2.) lack of self-confidence
3.) (limited) coordination in social, cultural and economic activities	3.) lack of polit. experience and knowledge
4.) membership and participation in former and existing political parties	4.) lack of trust in each other
5.) formation of women’s organisation, cultural and social organisations	5.) unawareness of polit. and soc. rights
6.) (limited) leadership ability	6.) lack of freedom of thought
7.) higher education and experience of political activities in tough times (some)	7.) dependence on men
8.) transparency	8.) traditional limitations
9.) understanding of basic rights	9.) lack of cooperation between men and women
10.) support of democracy, peace, human rights and fight against drugs	10.) economical weakness, unemployment
11.) acquired political experiences as migrants in other countries	11.) illiteracy
12.) management abilities at home (can be used outside the house too)	12.) lack of coordination among women
13.) less discrimination amongst women than amongst men	13.) unawareness of role of women in history
14.) creation of female values	14.) lack of cultural identity
15.) abilities to be political leaders	15.) lack of security
16.) foundation of political parties	
17.) protection of women’s identity, culture and history of Afghanistan	

<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.) women's rights guaranteed in Constitution</li> <li>2.) backing of international community</li> <li>3.) transparency</li> <li>4.) Ministry of Women's Affairs</li> <li>5.) capacity building programs for women</li> <li>6.) women interested to become MPs</li> <li>7.) women have started to cooperate in political affairs</li> <li>8.) encouragement of women and coordination of women's activities</li> <li>9.) support for female parliamentary candidates</li> <li>10.) freedom of speech, media and thoughts</li> <li>11.) women can use workshops, seminars for their benefit</li> <li>12.) establishment of local NGOs that focus on women's empowerment</li> <li>13.) expansion of education and higher education institutions for women</li> <li>14.) focus of government and international community on women</li> <li>15.) a better chance for women to be covered by media</li> <li>16.) presence of ISAF and UN participation in Loya Jirga and 25% quota for parliament</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.) lack of security</li> <li>2.) illiteracy, ignorance</li> <li>3.) lack of awareness of rights</li> <li>4.) male dominance</li> <li>5.) poverty</li> <li>6.) lack of economic opportunities</li> <li>7.) unwanted and backward traditions</li> <li>8.) wrong understanding of religion and misuse</li> <li>9.) lack of courage</li> <li>10.) women having no role in decision-making processes</li> <li>11.) domestic violence</li> <li>12.) weapons</li> <li>13.) exploitation by men</li> <li>14.) ethnic and language divisions</li> <li>15.) coalition building and compromises on national affairs behind closed doors</li> <li>16.) women not being valued as decision-makers</li> <li>17.) women being kept out of politics</li> </ol>

## 2.) Recommendations:

- a.) For increasing strengths
  - capacity building and awareness building
  - women should support and defend women candidates
  - strengthen women's participation and role in political parties
- b.) For reducing weaknesses
  - address reasons why women are often not disciplined (e.g. in workshops)
  - building tolerance and acceptance amongst women
  - creating opportunities for political and economic independence
- c.) For using opportunities
  - strengthen the Preparatory Committee for Participation of Women in Politics
  - fruitful use of opportunities of constitution
  - encourage women to register for elections

- d.) For circumventing threats
- stop symbolic (mis)use of women in parties
  - build awareness of women about rights and Islam
  - build means of coordination and cooperation amongst women