

U.S. Embassy Kabul 2: (3/3/2009 13:44) You can submit your questions now. We will be online today at 14:00 to answer the questions. Thanks for participation!

U.S. Embassy Kabul 3: (13:59) Hi, my name is Deb and I'm the cultural affairs officer at the Embassy. I am responsible for educational and cultural programs of the Public Affairs section. I've worked for the State Department since 1998 and have served in Germany, Ukraine, the former Soviet republic of Georgia, Russia, and now Afghanistan. I'm looking forward to answering as many of your questions here today.

U.S. Embassy Kabul: (14:00) Hi, I'm Emily. I work for the U.S. Embassy in Kabul doing cultural and educational work. I have worked for the State Department for 5 years, and I've worked in Abu Dhabi, Dubai, and Washington D.C. I'm looking forward to talking to you all today!

U.S. Embassy Kabul 2: (14:02) Hi, my name is Melissa. I am an economic officer in the U.S. Foreign Service. In my 18 years as a diplomat, I have worked in Africa, Europe, Latin America, and now Afghanistan.

Obaidullah Ahmadi: (14:03) Hi, I would like to know more about the American Women freedom. Is there any kind of discrimination (limitation) between male and female in American legal system?

U.S. Embassy Kabul: (14:03) No! Officially, women are guaranteed the same rights as men in the United States. It is illegal, for example, to give a man more money for doing the same job as a woman. However, informal discrimination does still exist in the United States. Women still earn less money than men, but under the law, we're guaranteed the same rights.

m: (14:03) I want to live in USA

U.S. Embassy Kabul: Moderator 2: (14:03) Thank you very much for joining us. Please submit your questions now. We are ready to answer them.

yalda: (14:04) i would like to know more about this site and wants to share my ideas and get some idea so i would like to have more information about this webchat. Thanks

U.S. Embassy Kabul: (14:04) Yalda, thank you for joining us today. We're looking to hear your ideas about women and women's right, and also talk about how women live and work in both the United States and Afghanistan. We're happy to answer any questions about the U.S. - and we hope you'll share with everyone some of your ideas.

rafi: (14:05) Salam: My Name is Rafiullah Sherzad. I want to know about how to apply for a student's Visa through Embassy for a Master's Program in US. I am a bachelor degree holder (BBA) and have all my transcripts and documents with me. Regards,

U.S. Embassy Kabul 3: (14:05) One of the most prestigious exchange programs supported by the U.S. government is the Fulbright program, which in Afghanistan, offers the opportunity to pursue a Master's degree at an American university. You can find more information on the program at

<http://kabul.usembassy.gov/fulbright.html>. The application deadline for graduate study beginning academic year 2010-2011 is May 1, 2009, so you can begin your application right away! We typically fund up to 40 fellowships every year -- all expenses are covered by the U.S. government. You also can apply on your own, <http://educationusa.state.gov/>, is a wonderful resource for researching universities and scholarship opportunities. Good luck!

Palwasha 2: (14:11) do you have any education opportunities for girls and women in your country

U.S. Embassy Kabul: (14:11) Absolutely! Actually, in the United States more women than men are enrolled in colleges and universities. Approximately 43% of women in the United States go to university, while only 35% of men go to university. So there are many options for women. There are also colleges in the U.S. that are only for women.

yalda: (14:11) how is life for muslim women in US?

U.S. Embassy Kabul 3: (14:11) I'm not Muslim myself, but while I was living in Denver, I became friends with an Afghan-American woman. I learned much from her about her values and way of life. For instance, she observed fast during Ramadan, wore her headscarf outside of the home, and was devoted to her husband and family. Because her faith is so important to her, she was committed to wearing a headscarf as a visible sign to all those who saw her. I think many people do not realize how family-oriented life in America is, and the strong emphasis on charity. These American values are very compatible with Islam. Getting to know her, for me, was a very enlightening experience because she lived her faith daily.

Obaidullah Ahmadi: (14:12) And let me know is there any kind of limitation in USA legal system against women if so what are those?

U.S. Embassy Kabul 2: (14:12) Thank you very much for your question. I am happy to say that there are no legal limitations on women in the United States. This was not always the case, however. Women did not used to be able to vote, for example. It took a strong effort by committed women activists and their male supporters to finally win the right to vote, by an amendment to the U.S constitution, in 1920. Since then, women have continued to struggle for equal employment and educational opportunities and to deal with the challenges of balancing work with family life. From my personal experience, I have not felt limited in any important way to make choices in my life because I am a woman.

Dr.Humaira: (14:13) there is no chance for me and other girls in afghanistan to improve their career

U.S. Embassy Kabul: (14:13) What do you think will improve opportunities for women in Afghanistan? I know more women are attending university here today, but what do you think could help provide women more opportunities in your country?

Maryam: (14:15) especially in government ?

U.S. Embassy Kabul: (14:15) The U.S. government is required under the U.S. Constitution and U.S. law to treat men and women equally. That means, for example, that women have equal access to jobs in the

government and equal access to all jobs in any private company. Women must also receive the same salary as a man for doing the same job.

Fattane: (14:16) i want to know about women in USA

U.S. Embassy Kabul: (14:16) want to know? Women in the United States, much like women in Afghanistan, care very much about their families, religion, jobs, and friends. For many women, balancing education and work opportunities with family life is essential to happiness and success.

somayyeh: (14:17) there are many problem for girls here

U.S. Embassy Kabul: (14:17) Can you tell us more about some of the problems you face? What could improve the situation for women here in Afghanistan?

Palwasha 2: (14:19) will embassy of USA in kabul give the VISA for women whom have relatives there or whom want to send their girls for education?

U.S. Embassy Kabul 2: (14:19) Afghan women have the same opportunity to apply for visas as Afghan men. Women do not need to bring a male relative with them or get permission from a male family member, either to apply for a visa or to visit the United States. There are several different kinds of visas that will allow you to visit or study in the United States. The best thing to do is go to the embassy website, where you can get information: <http://kabul.usembassy.gov/visas.html>.

Maryam: (14:21) I think every women that decided strongly she can get high position in every where

U.S. Embassy Kabul: (14:21) I agree! But many people agree that it is harder for women. There is an organization in the United States called "Emily's List" that promotes women in high-level positions. For example, during the U.S. presidential election last year Emily's List supported Hillary Clinton since she was a female candidate. After President Obama won the election, Emily's List encouraged him to choose women to serve in his cabinet and at the highest levels of government. But I think the success of women like Hillary Rodham Clinton show that it is possible for women to serve at high positions.

m: (14:22) Is there any University or college which doesn't need for TOEFL degree

U.S. Embassy Kabul: (14:22) Since universities in the United States teach classes in English, colleges require a TOEFL score to show a student will be able to complete the coursework. There are, however, English Language programs that do not necessarily require a TOEFL exam. See educationusa.state.gov for more information. Omiya: (14:23) tell me about the life of the woman in the usa

U.S. Embassy Kabul 3: (14:23) I can tell you a little bit about women's life in the USA based upon my own experience and some of my friends. I am married and have two children. I also have received my Master's degree and have a full-time career. While it sometimes is a challenge to juggle both family and work, I'm very grateful that I have the option of doing so. The only reason why I can be a mother, a wife, and a career-person is because of the hard efforts of women who have fought for equal rights in the States. It wasn't always the case -- for instance, my grandmother had 13 children and no education. My

mother, on the other hand, was the first woman in her family to go to university. For me, I was raised with the philosophy that with education and hardwork, I could do anything I wanted in life. That to me is the American dream -- and one that is available to both men and women. I have friends who are married and stay at home with their children, I have friends who are still single and have no intention of having children, and some like me who have both family and work. In my opinion, a woman should be able to chose which is personally best for you, without any judgment on which is more socially-acceptable.

Dr.Humaira: (14:23) how can you help us to improve our education skills?

U.S. Embassy Kabul: (14:23) Improving education is a key to success for women everywhere. Studying hard and pursuing fields of study that you are interested in will help improve your education, as will taking advantage of programs.

Maryam: (14:24) just freedom in afghanistan is more imporent than the others

U.S. Embassy Kabul: (14:24) Freedom is always important!

Dr.Humaira: (14:26) they go to university but after they finish the university there is no chance for them to work in their profession

U.S. Embassy Kabul: (14:26) There are organizations helping women get jobs and start their own businesses. For example, USAID in Afghanistan has a number of programs to promote women-owned businesses. For more information, see their website at afghanistan.usaid.gov

Farahnaz: (14:27) i would like to know more information about your city

U.S. Embassy Kabul 2: (14:27) I am from the city of Seattle, in the state of Washington, which is located in the far northwest corner of the United States. It is a beautiful city on Puget Sound, a large bay off the Pacific Ocean. The weather is neither hot nor cold and very rainy. In fact, the weather in Kabul lately reminds me very much of Seattle. Because of the rain, the city is very green the entire year. Because the city looks outward toward Asia, there is a very strong Asian influence, and there are many people of Chinese, Japanese, Vietnamese, and Indian origin, among others. The food is very good in Seattle – seafood is our specialty.

Solha: (14:27) can u telme that what is the plan of America about the scolar ship for the woment and girls of afghanistan ? Did u have any program for women and girl?

U.S. Embassy Kabul 3: (14:27) While we don't currently have a program specifically for women and girls, we strongly encourage women to apply for the Fulbright program <http://kabul.usembassy.gov/fulbright.html>. To date, unfortunately, not as many women have submitted applications, which makes it difficult for us to achieve gender parity. In the past, we have offered special programs for women entrepreneurs, for instance. But at the moment, we like to send groups of students that include both men and women, since it's also important that we learn to interact with each other in a positive way.

U.S. Embassy Kabul: Moderator 2 (Submitted question): (14:28) Please be patient we have a lot of questions and try to answer them all.

Gita: (14:29) I want to know about life in US

U.S. Embassy Kabul: (14:29) What about life in the U.S. are you most interested in? Life for many Americans is focused around family and friends, as well as their jobs and studies. The normal work week is Monday through Friday, with the weekend for family, friends, church, and social occasions. What else can we answer for you?

Lida: (14:29) what is the secret of being successful

U.S. Embassy Kabul: (14:29) Study hard, work hard, and enjoy what you do!

Gita: (14:29) We want to have better situation in study

U.S. Embassy Kabul: (14:29) What would improve the study situation for women?

Solha: (14:29) there is the problem of School and university in Afghanistan

somayyeh: (14:29) they think a girl should not study in this faculty

Solha: (14:29) when ever we went to school so we dont have the major teacher

Maryam: (14:30) A dont tell which women of Afghanistan dont have freedom

Fattane: (14:31) there is no work for women in Afghanistan

U.S. Embassy Kabul: (14:31) What kind of work are you interested in doing? Do some women work as teachers or nurses or midwives here? What opportunities are possible? Dr. Humaira: (14:32) yes they can reach to a high position but there is no facility in their societies to reach to that position actually they dont have any respect to women there is no security for them they dont feel safe from the men in outside as you see that they burn their schools.. and sometimes giving warning to girls to no go to university so There are lots of problem that they face and even they dont pay attention to their skills..

U.S. Embassy Kabul: (14:32) There are some women in high positions in Afghanistan. Do you see women MPs or women ministers as successful? There's a female governor in Bamyan Province and a female mayor in Dai Kundi. What do you think about women who can reach these high levels?

Maryam: (14:33) I am a girl that have born in Iran country

somayyeh: (14:33) it is really my big wish to familiarise with American people during my life

U.S. Embassy Kabul: (14:33) And many Americans also are very interested in Afghan women. What are you curious about Americans?

Fattane: (14:33) more the families didnt want to work their women

Lida: (14:33) Hi I am very happy to have the opportunity to discuss women in Afghanistan

Maryam: (14:34) because I have searched always for the results of successful persons

U.S. Embassy Kabul: (14:34) Maryam, it is always good to look at successful people and see what they did to succeed! They provide a great role model for the rest of us!

me: (14:34) what do you think is the most important in Afghanistan that the USA can improve the women's rights for the women of Afghanistan?

U.S. Embassy Kabul 3: (14:34) I think there are a number of things that we can do to assist women in Afghanistan as they work for their rights. I believe that education is important, especially literacy. For instance, more than 8000 women have participated in the USAID sponsored "Learning for Life" classes to acquire literacy, numeracy, and good health and hygiene practices. Women also should have the opportunity to pursue a livelihood -- by the summer of 2008, one USAID rural enterprise program had issued 70,000 loans to women, that help create income generating opportunities for women who must work from home. I think it's also important to educate men about the importance of legal rights for women. It's important for the women of Afghanistan to learn about the candidates for office in the upcoming elections, and as 50% of Afghan society, we would encourage women to vote so that their voices are heard. By voting, Afghan women can impact their own future.

bita: (14:35) I think if we use our mind and ability we can succeed like the other women in the world.

U.S. Embassy Kabul 3: (14:35) You are absolutely right and I couldn't agree with you more!

Farahnaz: (14:36) hi, this is Nahid from LC Herat, I would like to know how do you mark March 8, in your country?

U.S. Embassy Kabul: (14:36) Farahnaz, great question! Women's Day is marked in the United States by events throughout the country. Some of them include breakfasts for women, big speeches, and promotion of women's issues. Women's Day has been celebrated since 1908 in the U.S. There are currently 162 events listed for the U.S. on March 8. If you go to www.internationalwomensday.com, you can see a list of all the planned events!

Maryam: (14:37) the American women are so kind

U.S. Embassy Kabul: (14:37) Thank you! Afghan women are fabulous as well!

m: (14:38) Is there any free English school in USA if yes can you give me their websites

U.S. Embassy Kabul: (14:38) There are some free online English courses, but those require internet access. For more information, please contact the U.S. Embassy Educational Advisor. You can find his information at educationusa.state.gov

Simin: (14:38) first I should tell you congratulations 8th March then give information about this day in US.

U.S. Embassy Kabul: (14:38) Thank you! See above - I just answered this question with some more details. It's a great question!

bita: (14:39) situation of women in afghanistan today I think very batter than the 7years ago

U.S. Embassy Kabul: (14:39) How has your life improved in the last 7 years? How would you like to see it improve more?

LC Herat : (14:40) Nahid from Herat: Do you have faminist groups in the US, if yes what are their activites?

U.S. Embassy Kabul 3: (14:40) Yes, there certainly are feminist groups in the United States, but you might be surprised to learn there are pro-feminist MEN'S groups, as well. The common denominator they share is supporte of feminism and efforts to bring about gender equality. Different feminist groups are active in areas of health, religion, education, empowerment of girls, public awareness, anti-violence, and participation in public life.

Fattane: (14:40) how we can achive our wishes?

U.S. Embassy Kabul: (14:40) By working hard and studying hard. If you have a goal or a place you want to be in life, work towards it. When I was younger, I wanted to live overseas. I studied hard and eventually started working for the U.S. State Department. Hard work will get you far in life.

Lida: (14:40) hi,I am Dr fatema I want to you some information women Us

U.S. Embassy Kabul: (14:40) Please ask your questions!

LCBAMYAN 4: (14:40) i work in a male dominated soceity

LCBAMYAN: (14:41) they face many challanges as forced and early age mariages, family violence

LCBAMYAN: (14:41) life for women in most part of Afghanistan is still very difficult

LC Herat : (14:42) Firooze from herat: what do you think of women rights in Afghanistan, I know the situation is better then Taliban time but still there are alot of violence against women such as forced marriges and so

U.S. Embassy Kabul: (14:42) The United States is committed to helping remove constraints on women's potential. Women's participation in reconstruction will have transformational impacts on Afghanistan. To achieve this, the U.S. government supports legal rights for women, helps them gain access to public services and jobs, builds their capacity, and encourages their inclusion in public life. The United States government continues to encourage greater access to justice and fuller human rights for women.

Maryam: (14:42) becuse they have a very good behave whit foreignn people

Farahnaz: (14:43) we can improve our life if we try alot

U.S. Embassy Kabul: (14:43) I agree!

Dr.Humaira: (14:44) Do you have any scholarships for the students who are studying In Kabul university Who has got the highest position in every year of their studies>

U.S. Embassy Kabul 3: (14:44) For senior students who are interested in getting a Master's degree from an American university, I would strongly recommend applying for the Fulbright program. The deadline for applications is May 1, 2009 and you can find further information at:
<http://kabul.usembassy.gov/fulbright.html>

me: (14:45) from USA its not only this to tell to the women of afghanistan that this is the rigths of womens in afghanistan and how to use it but the USA should work on the women of afghanistan, on thier knowledge and to tell them that they can become some one and can do lots of things and never thinks like (we women can do nothings coz they can do alotsssss) and the USA should work on the women of afghansitan and teach them how to achieve thier goals. Do you agree with me and if yes what do you tink is better to work on it the most for the women of afghanistan?

U.S. Embassy Kabul: (14:45) I do agree! Women enhancing their skills and knowledge will make it possible for them to reach their goals. For example, the U.S. encourages women and girls to pursue educational opportunities. USAID also has a number of programs to encourage women who own their own businesses in rural areas. By 2008, USAID has supported more than 70,000 loans for women. Encouraging women to gain the knowledge and ability is a critical issue!

Jamila faiz/ from Jalalabad LC: (14:46) this is jamila faiz one of high school student, I want to thank from American Embassy for making a good center (LC) in Jalalabad.

U.S. Embassy Kabul 3: (14:46) We are so glad that you find the resources of the LC useful! If you have recommendations for additional programs or resources, please make sure the coordinator knows of your wishes. We hope to be able to expand our network of Lincoln Centers to other cities in Afghanistan as well. Gita: (14:47) I want tostudy in US when igo threr Should I be like US women?

U.S. Embassy Kabul: (14:47) All U.S. women are different people. If you go to the United States, you will meet many women who choose to live their lives differently. You should always stay true to yourself.

m: (14:48) but I want to live with netive speakersm If free is not Available what about cheap english schools

U.S. Embassy Kabul: (14:48) For more information on schools and costs, see educationusa.state.gov - they give lots of information about programs in the United States and how to apply.

Solha: (14:49) do the fulbright take unversity gardueates or school garduates

U.S. Embassy Kabul: (14:49) The Fulbright program is for students who want to get their master's degree in the United States. To qualify, you must have your bachelor's degree. See kabul.usembassy.gov for

more information. LCBAMYAN 5: (14:50) so far there has been very less attention by you to the Hazarajat. No?

U.S. Embassy Kabul: (14:50) I've been to the Hazarajat 3 times in the last six months, personally! Every region in Afghanistan is critical to the country's success. In the United States, we believe that everyone should have equal access to all opportunities, regardless of the region or area they come from.

Solha: (14:52) here in jalalabad we are only studying net

U.S. Embassy Kabul: (14:52) What would make it better for you?

Maryam: (14:52) I think in American every girl can choose her husband

U.S. Embassy Kabul 2: (14:52) In America women are free to marry whom they wish. Under the law, no woman can be forced to marry if she does not want to.

U.S. Embassy Kabul: Moderator 2 (Submitted question): (14:52) Please be patient. We will try to answer your questions.

Idriss Enayat: (14:53) Do US have plan to have thier schools and univercities in Afghanistan

U.S. Embassy Kabul 3: (14:53) Not only does the U.S. supports the American University in Afghanistan, <http://www.auaf.edu.af/index.php>, but there are many universities that work with Afghan universities on areas of training and curriculum development. For instance, Kansas State University is active at Kabul University and Balkh University. Washington State University and the University of Nebraska-Omaha are also active here. Purdue works with Herat University. We would like to support additional collaboration between American and Afghan universities.

LCBAMYAN 5: (14:54) what is your specific program for women rights development in Bamyán and Dai Kundi?

U.S. Embassy Kabul: (14:54) That's a hard question! I see you're in our Lincoln Center in Bamyán - I will try and find some specific information to send back to the Lincoln Center. I can tell you about some programs we have throughout Afghanistan to promote women's rights. USAID is supporting the Afghan Midwives Association to improve women's access to health care. We are also promoting classes for literacy and health programs. Additionally, USAID programs assist women with small loans and assistance to start small businesses. Jamila faiz/ from Jalalabad LC: (14:55) my question is tha how can I study in United state, is it posible?

U.S. Embassy Kabul 3: (14:55) Study in the U.S. is certainly possible. You should continue to study English, and depending upon your educational level, you may qualify for any number of opportunities. I would refer you to <http://kabul.usembassy.gov/fulbright.html> and <http://educationusa.state.gov/> for more information.

Farahnaz: (14:55) i was born in iran and i retured to my country about 3 years ago

LCBAMYAN 5: (14:55) the people are less conservative. so you should work more on women in central highlands

LCBAMYAN 5: (14:55) as a woman, i think we have the best environment in Central Highlands

LC Herat : (14:55) Maryam from Herat: I would like to thank very much the Lincoln Center and its director for arranging good programs and holding English classes for the girls here, also thank you for answering our questions

U.S. Embassy Kabul: (14:55) Thanks for your comment! Your thoughts help us improve our programs!

U.S. Embassy Kabul: Moderator 2: (14:56) Please be patient. We will try to answer your questions.

Farahnaz: (14:56) i want to be an excellent economist in the future and i want from you that have a good wish

Fattane: (14:56) can we study in USA?

U.S. Embassy Kabul: (14:56) Absolutely! Women are encouraged to study in the U.S. For more information on universities and scholarships, please see the website educationusa.state.gov

Simin: (14:57) I study in medical faculty I want to know your idea that how I can be a good Dr. and service especially for women.

U.S. Embassy Kabul 3: (14:57) I think it's very important for more women to be trained as doctors in Afghanistan, especially given the cultural norms. Keep studying hard and doing your best!

LCBAMYAN 5: (14:57) then why the aid is not appropriately and equally donated to all Afghanistan

U.S. Embassy Kabul: (14:57) US development aid is distributed throughout the country. In Bamyan, I know we have multiple USAID officers, as well as development funds from the U.S. military.

LCBAMYAN 5: (14:58) on your midwives program, is there any in Hazarajat?

U.S. Embassy Kabul: (14:58) I believe it's in every province! I will check on our women's programs in Bamyan and send it back to the Lincoln Center coordinator. Please see him next week for this information.

Maryam: (14:58) can we continue our faculty degree in US

U.S. Embassy Kabul: Moderator 2: (14:58) Thanks for joining!

somayyeh: (14:58) as i tell you i am studying engineering do you have any suggestion to me to improve myself

U.S. Embassy Kabul: (14:58) you need to study hard! U.S. Embassy Kabul: (14:58) Continue to study hard!

Sara: (14:59) Yes i'm agree with you, as an educated girl I do know about the women's rights,

Solha: (14:59) would the embassy make any chance to study more programs free

U.S. Embassy Kabul: (14:59) Good bye!

LCBAMYAN 5: (15:00) you as an American official and as well a female, how do you think the life for women should be improved?

U.S. Embassy Kabul 3: (15:00) As an official and as a woman, I believe it is important that women be given the opportunities to pursue their dreams -- opportunities to be good mothers, good wives, and good professionals. It's very difficult to be good at everything, but I don't think women should be limited in what they are allowed to become. I think if a woman wants to devote herself to motherhood, she should be able to. If she wants to devote herself to a career, she should. But in short, I think women should have the opportunity to develop themselves as best they can and have the choice to decide their lives for themselves.

Dr.Humaira: (15:00) hi my name is Dr.humaira i have graduated from kabul medical university recently i finished my internship now i would like to ask you about that how can you help afghan educated girls to improve their educational skills because there is no chance for them

Farahnaz: (15:00) i want some information about the situation of american women

U.S. Embassy Kabul: (15:00) What exactly do you want to know?

Simin: (15:02) I want to know about women right in USA.

U.S. Embassy Kabul: (15:02) Women have been working for full rights since the 1800s. The first conference for women's rights was held in 1848, and women first got the legal right to vote in 1920. Even since that time, women have been pushing for equal salaries and equal treatment under the law, which is now guaranteed. To this day, women's groups advocate for women's issues.

Maryam: (15:02) in my opinion the important roll in this is self confident

rafi: (15:02) Hi: This is Rafiullah Sherzad: I am keen to know more about students scholarships to US, Please advise in regard

U.S. Embassy Kabul: (15:02) Please see educationusa.state.gov for more information.

Maryam: (15:03) because the women of here don't have enough freedom to improve themselves: (15:04) i will be glad if some changes will be in Herat about us

U.S. Embassy Kabul: (15:04) What changes do you hope to see?

Sara: (15:04) the women have no right to decide about their future specially about marriage even in educated family

Wasfiah: (15:04) i think Islam has given lots of rights in Islam for women but the problem is the awareness for those who are living in villages

U.S. Embassy Kabul: Moderator 2 (Submitted question): (15:04) Please submit your additional questions if you have. We will answer.

Palwasha 2: (15:05) how the women could apply for USA embassy to the courses?

U.S. Embassy Kabul: (15:05) Yes! All US Embassy programs are open to both women and men.

Gita: (15:05) I want to know about education in us because I want to go there to study

U.S. Embassy Kabul: (15:05) Please see educationusa.state.gov for more information about studying in the U.S.

Maryam: (15:05) our government have so problem and it is cursed to not have an excellent degree in our country

LCBAMYAN: (15:07) I would like to know about American families' economy and income. Is it the responsibility of man or woman or both?

U.S. Embassy Kabul: (15:07) Both men and women work in many families, but sometimes only the man or only the woman works. It is up to each individual family to decide who will work outside the house. In 60% of American families, both the man and the woman work.

Fattane: (15:07) they like them because USA women are very kind

bita: (15:07) I would like to go to another country special U.S. for known which how the women in America are different and how they live?

U.S. Embassy Kabul 3: (15:07) I think when it comes down to the basics, women in America share many similar values as Afghan women -- for many their primary concern is their family, their children, their husband, their home. But the one primary difference I note is the great freedom to determine their futures in America -- whether and whom to marry, whether to work, get an education, where and how they want to live. Women in America also deal with some stresses as well -- how can I devote enough of myself to both my family and my work. Or sometimes stay-at-home mothers feel lonely or wish they could follow their dreams. Sometimes they feel isolated. But I think in the end, American women enjoy the right to decide how to live their lives, rather than have that decided for them.

LCBAMYAN 2: (15:07) women in Bamyan and whole Hazarajat are very interested to work with civil society and international community LCBAMYAN 2: (15:07) but due to lack of their language limitation, they can get the job

U.S. Embassy Kabul: (15:07) Working on language skills can help improve access to jobs.

Solha: (15:07) We need some female trainers who are professional if you provide these facilities

Solha: (15:08) coz we don't have as much as professional people as they should be here

yalda: (15:09) hi, this is yalda from kabul. Is there any course or school in Afghanistan to help poor children from US embassy?

U.S. Embassy Kabul: (15:09) Yes! In addition to development programs to assist families and children, the U.S. Embassy also sponsors English language programs specifically for orphans and children from poor families.

Idriss Enayat: (15:09) Why AUAF doesn't support afghan students?? I mean the tuition fee is too high that an afghan student can't afford it, what is the reason behind??

U.S. Embassy Kabul 3: (15:09) I've personally met many Afghan students at AUAF, so I know that there are opportunities for financial assistance for those who can't pay the tuition fees. I would refer you to them for additional information: http://www.auaf.edu.af/admis_fys_scholar.html

LC Herat : (15:10) Omiye from LC herat: I would like to be in contact and have regular chat and email exchange with american female students, it will help me to improve my english and learn about your culture, how i can make this connection?

U.S. Embassy Kabul: (15:10) Good question! I don't have an answer today, but I'll look into this question for you and I'll see if I can find a contact to provide through the Lincoln Center coordinator.

somayyeh: (15:10) if i get some experiences from american women i will do them in my life

Dr.Humaira: (15:10) I would like to ask You some information about the visa lottery which was announced last year ? was it true?

U.S. Embassy Kabul: (15:10) For information about the diversity visa (sometimes called the visa lottery), please see the US Embassy in Islamabad's website at islamabad.usembassy.gov

somayyeh: (15:10) i want to know why they are lucky ,brave and promotion in their life.

Solha: (15:11) how to remove the discords of womans

bita: (15:11) what is secret of succes in your life?

U.S. Embassy Kabul 3: (15:11) I've found for myself that education, hard work and believing in yourself are key to achieving your dreams. LCBAMYAN 4: (15:11) during my last 5 to 6 years experience, there has not been any efforts for women rights in Bamyan and Dai Kundi

U.S. Embassy Kabul: (15:11) What are the women of Bamyan and Dai Kundi doing to enhance their rights?

Solha: (15:12) Do you have any policy to open like lc educational centers especially for female or do you want to train some female teachers for female students

U.S. Embassy Kabul: (15:12) What would work for the women in your area? Lincoln Centers can hold women only hours and we also try to promote women's access to the Lincoln Centers.

bita: (15:13) how to improve women in afghanistan

U.S. Embassy Kabul: (15:13) Access to education, health care, employment, and participation in public life is critical for women everywhere.

Solha: (02:43) women are facing with such problems here in jalalabad

Maryam: (02:44) what do you say about the getting marriage for a afghan women

LCBAMYAN 4: (02:44) but due to severe poverty, women can not do any important thing here

LCBAMYAN 4: (02:44) they go to schools, participate in awareness raising programs, workshops and trainings

Solha: (02:44) and also here in Icj they are only having on time to study

Obaidullah Ahmadi: (02:45) Hi , I would like to know a little about the American women and their roles in American Society

U.S. Embassy Kabul: (02:45) American women are critical to American society! Women make up half the population in the United States, and women's contributions to business, government, families, and education make the United States a better country.

Maryam: (02:45) because they can't get their decided for this important subject in their life

Maryam: (02:46) I told you before every position is perfect for women because women are honest more than the men

LC Herat : (02:46) Simin: You know we here in Herat still have to put on Chador, even there are families that don't allow their daughter to go to school, how we can cope this situation?

U.S. Embassy Kabul 3: (02:46) I know it's difficult, but I would still recommend trying to learn as much as possible, even if it means self-study. Try to find like-minded people, friends who support you and help you. Sometimes change takes a while to happen, but no one can ever take knowledge away from you, which is why I think education is important. Solha: (02:47) so now a days we see in Afghanistan many families don't allow their daughter for school did you have a public awareness program?

U.S. Embassy Kabul: (02:47) There are many public awareness programs encouraging women to attend schools. For U.S. government programs, we strongly encourage women to participate.

U.S. Embassy Kabul: (02:47) Hi everyone, thank you for your patience. We are trying to answer all the questions, but there are a lot of good ones! Please make sure all your questions are submitted at this time. Thank you!

Dr.Humaira: (02:47) how can i apply for it?

U.S. Embassy Kabul: (02:47) Dr. Humaira, there are many programs available. For information about general scholarships, please see educationusa.state.gov For information about Fulbright scholarships, please go to kabul.usembassy.gov

Palwasha 2: (02:48) is it possible to provide for the women oppertunities to improve their English by short term courses .

U.S. Embassy Kabul: (02:48) Absolutely! In addition to many private courses, all Lincoln Centers in Afghanistan offer free short-term English courses. There are also many free online resources for studying English.

Maryam: (02:48) they have but its not enough to make theirself us the other countries wemen

LCBAMYAN 3: (02:49) Is there any specifc scholarship program for women in Afhganistan?

U.S. Embassy Kabul 3: (02:49) There isn't a scholarship program specifically for women in Afghanistan, but we strongly encourage women to apply for the programs we support. Our aim is gender-parity in the scholarships we provide, but if women don't apply, they can't be selected! Right now we're looking for good applicants for the Fulbright Program, which provides full support for a Master's degree -- check out <http://kabul.usembassy.gov/fulbright.html> to see if you qualify!

Solha: (02:49) Eventough here in jalalabad we have just one room for all things i mean all the classes are getting in one room however sometimes there is two classes in same time espacialy sometimes there is female class so there is also male class too in same time but tough students come here for studying and learning so it well be better if you have make any capicity for that so all students will be so pleasure espacialy female students

U.S. Embassy Kabul: (02:49) Thanks for the idea! This is something we hope to do in the future - I'm glad you suggested it today.

LCBAMYAN 3: (02:49) Hi, i know i have bothered you a lot but.....

U.S. Embassy Kabul: (02:49) It's not a bother - we enjoy all the questions! We're having fun trying to answer all your questions today!

Solha: (02:49) we are looking forworrd to ru coperation and ur supporting

m: (02:50) Is there any free english school in USA if yes can you give me their websites

U.S. Embassy Kabul: (02:50) There are free online programs. For more information about scholarships and education opportunities, please see educationusa.state.gov

Dr.Humaira: (02:51) i finished my internship now i would like to ask you about that how can you help afghan educated girls to improve their educational skills because there is no chance for them to work and have a good career in the future

Solha: (02:51) what is the Amirca strategy a bout the women education of Afghanistan?

U.S. Embassy Kabul: (02:51) The United States is committed to helping women gain equal access to education and jobs.

Farahnaz: (02:52) how we can prove that we can do some thing

U.S. Embassy Kabul: (02:52) Good question! Showing your hard work and what women can achieve is very important.

Hassina Sherjan: (02:52) this is an interesting idea. we will be connecting three of our kabul schools and then our students can be in touch with you for question, if you decide to continue this program. for more info, you can visit our site at www.aidafghanistan.net

Simin: (02:54) Give informatigive information about local culture of american woman

U.S. Embassy Kabul 3: (02:54) Because the United States varies so much -- many nationalities, geographic regions, rural, and urban -- it's very difficult to generalize. I myself grew up on a farm, where women/girls were expected to help out -- gather eggs, work in the garden, feed animals -- and I also have two younger brothers whom I had to help take care of. Some of my friends grew up in cities and the only place they ever got eggs was from the grocery store. This is a very interesting topic and I think that by talking to different American women, each one will tell you something different about the local culture of American women, depending upon where they grew up.

Maryam: (02:54) how is the circumestences of women in your country ?

U.S. Embassy Kabul: (02:54) The United States is a big country, and every woman has a different experience. By law, women are guaranteed equal access to jobs and education and have equal rights to men.

LCBAMYAN 3: (02:54) is there any specific program for female Bamyan university?

U.S. Embassy Kabul: (02:54) Talk to the Lincoln Center coordinator about what is available in Bamyan specifically! U.S. Embassy Kabul: (02:57) Every woman in the United States has a different experience. Many women go to university (even more than men) and work. Many women get married and have children. Some women choose never to marry. The best part of being an American woman is the choice to choose how to live our lives.

jamil: (02:57) wome are taking care of their families and kids in US, but the family violence and divorce, ex husband cases are too many there, what is your opinion regards?

U.S. Embassy Kabul 3: (02:57) Divorce, when it happens, is an unfortunate situation but it also allows women to escape bad marriages and protect their children from abuse. Family violence, unfortunately, is an issue not just in the United States, but everywhere in the world. I think that knowing this, many Americans are waiting until they are older to marry.

U.S. Embassy Kabul: (02:58) Thank you to everyone for the excellent questions and suggestions! We all enjoyed talking with you today, and look forward to future webchats!

U.S. Embassy Kabul: (02:59) Good Bye!