



Kabul, 19 November 2009

In over 150 mosques in Afghanistan, this Friday prayer's theme will be Child Rights.

Friday, 20th of November 2009 marks the 20th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Imams in over 120 mosques in Kabul province, 60 mosques in Jalalabad and 20 large mosques in Mazar-i-Sharif, including the famous Blue Mosque, will address the issue of children and their rights.

This Friday is a starting point for addressing rights of children in Afghanistan in the mosques of the country. Children's rights will be a recurring theme in the Friday prayer from this day.

- On this day, the convention written to protect children worldwide is 20 years old. Children have a special value and have always had it for every true Muslim. Let us honour this, let us speak about children and how we should respect them. It is our duty as Muslims, as parents, as a society to take care of and protect children, Shir Mohammad Ibrahymi Head of the Department of Mosques said in a meeting with Imams this Wednesday in Kabul.

To reach out to parents, extended families and the society through mosques is a unique opportunity to strengthen the respect for and rights of children in Afghanistan. The Department of Religious Affairs is working together with Save the Children to introduce Child Rights in the curriculum in the religious education.

- We are happy that the Department of Mosques is taking this initiative to bring out this important message starting on the day of the celebration of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. We have worked in partnership with religious councils, individual mullahs and scholars and with the Ministry of Religious affairs for a many years, Fazel Jalil, deputy Country Director for Save the Children Sweden-Norway in Afghanistan, says. Children's rights are the foundation of everything we do.

Save the Children Sweden-Norway works closely with the Afghan society on all levels. Our staff is almost completely national, we cooperate with children, parents, teachers, village councils, religious leaders, ministries and national and international NGO. Keywords for our work are local acceptance and ownership. This is our way of achieving increased inclusive child rights in Afghanistan and changing children's lives for the better.

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