

Palwasha Hassan

Palwasha Hassan is senior fellow at the Institute for Women Peace and Security at Georgetown University. Hassan is a dedicated women's rights activist pioneering many critical works to promote women's rights and civil society in Afghanistan. Her achievements include the first women's legal support organization Roazana, Women and Street Children Center, Women, Children Safe Home Network Madadgar, Irfan Cultural Center, and Afghan Women Network, a visionary movement of women playing a pivotal role in women's rights advocacy in the country for the last twenty-six years.

Previously, she was a fellow in the United States Institute of Peace. She has also led several initiatives and project teams that supported pro-women's rights law in Afghanistan, including contributing to women equal law efforts in the Afghan Constitution (2003 –2004), Eradicating VAW law (2009), family law, and Shiite personal laws draft proposals based on progressive Islamic models.

She has been one of the 1000 women nominees for Nobel Peace Prize (2005), as one of the finalists of the Sakharov Prize for freedom of thought by the European Parliament for her outstanding contribution in support of human rights and freedom of expression, and recently received Hilary Rodham Clinton Award for exceptional leadership and dedication to human rights and women's rights.

She holds a master's degree in Post-war Recovery Studies from York University, UK.