



CHAMPION AWARD

October 4, 2014

Victoria - The non-profit, charitable organization *Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan* (CW4WAfghan) is pleased to present the organization's annual *Champion of Education in Afghanistan Award* to a remarkable woman: Dr. Lauryn Oates, Vancouver resident and Programs Director of CW4WAfghan. The award is being presented at the organization's annual symposium, to be held at the Delta Hotel in Victoria Oct 4th. This award is presented annually to recognize an individual or individuals who have given outstanding service to the cause of supporting education for girls or women in Afghanistan.

Dr. Lauryn Oates is the Programs Director for Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan. She is responsible for the overall project management, program planning and support to our Afghan staff in Kabul. Lauryn oversees approximately 15 ongoing education projects including small community schools and school equipment, teacher training, educational resources, literacy classes, an orphanage and village libraries.

As an award winning human rights activist, Lauryn's work focuses on international development, women's rights, and education in conflict zones. She has worked throughout the Muslim world but particularly in Afghanistan, advocating for women's rights. It was in 1996 that, at age 14, Lauryn began demanding that the world respond to the Taliban's misogynist policies, and she has continued advocating for Afghan women ever since.



Lauryn has been contracted as an expert consultant on gender and human rights working with diverse organizations and agencies worldwide, including the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Nike Foundation, USAID, Global Rights, Medica Mondiale, Womankind Worldwide, and Transparency International, among others.

Lauryn's deep passion and commitment to the girls and women of Afghanistan go far past her professional responsibilities. Madeliene Tarasick, national president of CW4WAfghan describes her impact, "*Lauryn is a truly remarkable individual who has dedicated her life to supporting the girls and women of Afghanistan – with unparalleled energy, intellectual brilliance and astute understanding, courage and industry – an inspiration for all of us lucky enough to work with her.*" The Champion Award is one small way to recognize her outstanding

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contribution to the girls and women of Afghanistan.