

Photographic Alliance of America (PAA)

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FIAP Celebrated International Woman's Day

International Women's Day (IWD) is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender equality. Groups all around the world come together to celebrate women's achievements.

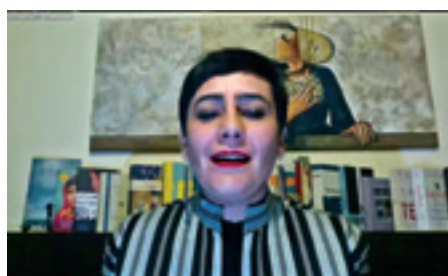
IWD is celebrated annually on March 8; however, it was not practical to hold FIAP's celebration on a Monday, so it was celebrated on Sunday, March 7. International Women's Day includes celebrating women's achievements, raising awareness regarding women's equality, lobbying for accelerated gender parity, and fundraising for female-focused charities.

International Women's Day has occurred for over a century with the first gathering held in 1911. IWD is not country, group, or organization specific. No one government, charity, corporation, academic institution, women's network, or media center is responsible for International Women's Day. The day belongs to all groups collectively everywhere. The United Nations does observe International Women's Day each year.

With the belief that celebrating and increasing the visibility of women's achievements can help build equality, the FIAP Photo Academy planned a program by an internationally recognized female photojournalist; a short gallery show of images by female FIAP Masters and female FIAP leaders; and the launch of an exceptional celebratory video of images by female FIAP Photography Distinction recipients and female FIAP leaders.

Featured Speaker: Farzana Wahidy

The celebration began with a presentation by Farzana Wahidy, who was born in Kandahar in 1984 and moved to Kabul when she was six. She was a teenager when the Taliban took over Afghanistan in 1996. At 13 she was beaten in the street for not wearing



Farzana Wahidy, FIAP Celebration of International Women's Day

a burqa. During the Taliban era she was able to attend an underground school with about 300 other students in a residential area of Kabul, and when the Taliban rule ended in 2001, she began high school and then enrolled in a two-year program with the Assyrian International News Agency Photojournalism Institute.

In 2004 she became the first female Afghan photographer to work for the Agence-France Press and later the Associated Press. In 2007 she received a scholarship to take the two-year photojournalism program at Loyalist College in Belleville, Ontario, returning to Afghanistan in 2010. Her work has been published widely in international magazines and newspapers.

Farzana uses her access to women to focus on Afghan women and their roles in their segregated society. She has been documenting the life of Afghan women for nearly two-decades, including the life of prostitutes and women imprisoned

for "moral crimes." Farzana is the recipient of the National Geographic All Roads Photography Program Merit Award. In 2014, she created a project to train Afghan photographers, to review copyright law, and to research the history of photography in Afghanistan. In 2016 she established the Afghanistan Photographers Association.

Two Gallery Shows by Woman FIAP Photographers and FIAP Leaders

The FIAP Photo Academy requested three images from all women FIAP Master Photographers (those holding the MFIAP); all women with EFIAP Levels Distinctions; all women FIAP Liaison Officers; all women FIAP Services Directors; and all women FIAP Exhibition Center Directors.

Following Farzana's presentation, the three images submitted by the women FIAP Master Photographers (MFIAP) and the images submitted by the women in FIAP leadership positions were presented in a slideshow that provided a preview of the larger show of all the images submitted by FIAP female photographers.

The special celebration video that displays all the images submitted by the FIAP women photographers can be seen on the FIAP YouTube channel at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMFrN3LLbyYU1hCov4IY7mw/about>