

2024 Giving Circle Application



Member-Nominated Nonprofit

Afghan Literacy Foundation (ALF)

Website: *afghanliteracy.org*

Leader: *Adita Arya, Executive Director*



Summarize what is the core mission & vision

We want to empower children out of poverty through education.

The Afghan Literacy Foundation's main work is providing student sponsorships. Echoing the wisdom of the ages:

"Give a man a fish, and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish, and you feed him for a lifetime."

ALF operates as both a relief and development organization. We provide crucial financial support to families while fostering the development of children by mandating their attendance in school. Your sponsorship will empower a girl or boy to break free from forced marriage or labor and instead become a nurse, doctor, or teacher.

Briefly explain when your nonprofit was founded, why and by whom.

The Afghan Literacy Foundation (ALF) was founded in 2009 out of a profound need to confront and dismantle the cycles of child labor and child marriage in Kabul, Afghanistan by Adita Arya and Lila Ishaq.

Who is your constituency and approximately how many people are served by your nonprofit?

Since 2009, ALF has supported over 3,000 families. ALF has empowered over 500 boys and girls to receive an education, graduate, and lift their families out of poverty.

What is the impact of your nonprofit over the past five years?

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What is your goal for the next 1-5 years?

The Afghan Literacy Foundation (ALF) seeks to break through the Taliban-imposed educational barriers that deny Afghan girls their basic human right to education. Our "Empower Her" initiative aims to launch a comprehensive online learning platform tailored for 148 Afghan girls aged 13-18, offering them access to grade-level subjects and digital skills training in the safety of their homes. Through this program, we strive to provide these young women the knowledge, skills, and confidence needed to overcome adversity and thrive, despite oppressive political environments. By connecting them to the world through technology and international certification, we aim to transform their futures.

What is one key item our giving circle members should know?

We launched a computer lab for 20 aspiring girls banned from public education, giving them a rare opportunity to learn and dream again. We awarded medical scholarships to 15 women, empowering them to become healthcare professionals who will impact their communities for years to come. Through our "Empower Her" program, we provide a private, online curriculum to girls in grades 7-12, enabling them to continue their education at home when public education is out of reach.

If you receive funding from the Women's Giving Circle, how would you plan to use the funds?

The Afghan Literacy Foundation (ALF) urgently seeks funding to support 40 Afghan girls who are currently homebound, waiting on our priority list for access to education. These girls, aged 13-18, are unable to attend school due to Taliban-imposed restrictions and are desperately awaiting the expansion of our "Empower Her" online learning initiative. We have successfully piloted this program with 12 girls, using the Iranian curriculum for multiple subjects to ensure they can pursue grade-level material. The pilot has been met with great success, demonstrating the transformative impact of providing these young women with access to education.

With additional funding, we are prepared to scale this program to reach 40 more girls. Our initiative strives to equip these young women with the knowledge, skills, and confidence they need to overcome adversity and thrive, despite oppressive political environments. By connecting them to the world through technology and international certification, we aim to transform their futures. Afghan girls face severe persecution, with policies actively banning them from attending schools. Economic hardships, cultural barriers, and security risks make education almost impossible for them.

Since the Taliban regained control in August 2021, these restrictions have worsened, cutting off access to education for girls beyond the sixth grade. The consequences of these bans are dire-limiting opportunities for girls, increasing early marriages, and reinforcing cycles of poverty and inequality. Education remains their last hope for empowerment, and this project aims to address these deep-rooted challenges head-on.

Learn more about Afghan Literacy Foundation

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