Kindle Project Afghanistan Fund

The Kindle Project Afghanistan Fund will provide support to organizations working with artists, artisans, women, and girls who are at risk inside Afghanistan or have managed to relocate outside of the country.

Our goal is to raise a minimum of $250,000 as soon as possible.

Please join us!

Photo courtesy of Simon Norfolk
In the span of a few days Afghanistan descended into chaos, confusion, and terror for millions of Afghans. The U.S. made a hasty withdrawal as Taliban fighters closed in on provincial capitals and then Kabul, with both speed and success that caught everyone off guard. The past twenty years of progress toward a more open, tolerant, and thriving society ended abruptly and decisively.

Afghans who have worked with NGOs, media, human rights organizations, the UN, embassies and government agencies were left in the lurch, scrambling to make sense of this new (yet frustratingly familiar) reality: the Taliban are in power, bringing with them repressive social codes. Many Afghans are fleeing for their lives and attempting to get out of the country. Most won’t have the opportunity. Borders were slammed shut and visa programs are swamped. Evacuation flights have begun, but most Afghans, even if they do have visas, are unable to get to the airport to take the flights due to Taliban checkpoints and blockades.

The Afghans most at risk are those who fought the hardest to preserve tolerance, cultural diversity and richness, human rights, and accountability for the past 20 years. Activists, local journalists and media organizations, human rights workers, and of course women (who disproportionately bore the brunt of oppression and suppression the last time the Taliban were in control) are likely to be targeted and persecuted.

The situation for Afghans is desperate.

**The intent of the fund**

Kindle Project feels it is necessary to do what we can to alleviate even some of this desperation. We have set up this fund to provide support to artists and women/girls who are at risk inside Afghanistan or have managed to relocate outside of the country. We know that it is the people on the ground that best know how to use the money, therefore we will offer organizations general operating funds. We anticipate making grants at a minimum of $25,000 to five to seven organizations (depending on total amounts of funds raised) that:

- use arts to empower women and/or young girls in Afghanistan;
- focus on artisans, artists, and freedom of expression in Afghanistan;
- provide support to artists (and contingent on additional funds, women activists) who have sought refuge in countries outside of Afghanistan;
- operate with smaller budgets than the large mainstream aid agencies, and are likely to be overlooked and underfunded.

We anticipate that these funds will be used to:

- support to artisans/artists and women/girls as they go underground;
- help individuals escape the country;
- support individuals who have escaped;
- provide safety and lifesaving resources for the immediate community.
Who is Kindle Project?
Kindle Project is a women-founded, women of color led, agile philanthropic organization. We are invested in democratized, collaborative, and strategic grantmaking that aligns donors and projects for meaningful impact.

The Fund will be spearheaded by Nellika Little and Sadaf Rassoul Cameron. Nellika has been with Kindle Project for 6 years. In addition to her work with us, she has worked (and continues to work) with international aid agencies. She has spent close to 35 years living and working in Afghanistan, including during years when the country was under Taliban control. She is deeply familiar with the realities on the ground, the organizations which continue to operate, and the nuances of the needs and obstacles for Afghans in the midst of crisis. Sadaf co-founded Kindle Project where she has served as Executive Director for the past 13 years. Born in New Mexico, Sadaf is of Afghan descent on her mother’s side. As a documentary photographer and artist, Sadaf has traveled extensively and has had two solo shows covering Afghan refugee camps and the 1949 Partition of Pakistan and India.

Why this focus?
- Artists, activists, and empowered women are critical to a healthy, vibrant, and stable society.
- These individuals have fought to uplift an open, accountable, tolerant Afghan identity.
- These individuals are under specific threat by the Taliban.

How will we identify grantees?
We have extensive networks both inside and outside of Afghanistan, as well as firsthand experience with numerous organizations who would qualify for funds under this program. This includes knowledge and experience of close friends and allies of Kindle Project who have their own networks and ground-level understanding of the situation.

What is the ask?
We are hoping to raise $250,000 as soon as possible for this critical moment. We are seeking donations of $5000 and above. You can donate online, by check, or by wire. Please visit our website here for detailed donation information. Please share this with your networks and anyone you know that may be interested in supporting this effort.

For further information or questions please reach out to Sadaf at sadaf@kindleproject.org or Nellika at grants@kindleproject.org.