

in all aspects of life for sociopolitical growth and development.

7. To help provide the necessary assistance to the disabled, the maimed, and the refugee Afghans and to encourage them to willfully repatriate when there is peace, safety and security in Afghanistan.
8. To promote education and awareness and to abolish illiteracy, since it is the enemy of peace and national unity.
9. To succeed against all forms of destructive military and detrimental political interferences by foreign countries in Afghanistan's internal affairs.
10. To establish the legitimate right of Afghanistan as a permanently nonaligned and demilitarized country.
11. To establish and preserve close, effective relations with internal and international peace organizations and to support and abide by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the UN Charter, and international norms.

The APA is not seeking political power in Afghanistan as a whole; however, its members have the right to partake in any political candidacy or vote for others as they choose. The APA would also support any legitimate government that would come to power through the people's vote. Having its political independence, the APA, on the basis of nonviolent principles conceived of as the God-given birthrights of individuals, will respect the rights of all Afghan citizens in terms of equal rights for men and women and will always sustain its nonalliance in regard to any individual, organization, political party, ethnicity, tribe, locality, language, and nationality.

The APA was formed to help empower the notions of peace and national duty among the various ethnic groups and to foster the natural course of development in society, which has been destroyed by foreign aggression and internal fratricidal war, pushing Afghanistan toward national disparity and chaos. The movement recognizes that great parts of the country

have been destroyed, hundreds of thousands of Afghans killed, millions scattered as refugees, and society rendered so fragile that it could break apart at any moment. The founders of the APA believe that the people of Afghanistan do not deserve all of these misfortunes and that the survival of the country depends on national unity and achieving a permanent peace based on the establishment of the political and social rights of all its citizens, without any discrimination.

The APA has been promoting its objectives by holding conferences such as the Intra-Afghan International Conference in Search of Peace, held in New York in 1996, and it presented a peace plan in 1998 to the Hamburg conference in Germany. It also publishes a monthly newsletter, *Voice of Peace*, and sponsors the now independent, bimonthly *Afghan Communications: Voice of the Young Generation*. In addition, the APA has sponsored a number of cultural and social events and founded regional offices in Europe, Central Asia and South Asia. It has also fostered links with organizations within Afghanistan and provides advice on structuring these organizations and helping them organize events and activities to meet the needs of people in postconflict Afghanistan.

The APA has also been involved in projects at a practical level in Afghanistan through the following types of activities:

- Raising funds for orphaned children in 1991
- Founding an orphanage in Khost, Paktia Province, in 1997
- Providing medical supplies worth \$24,000 for earthquake victims in 1998
- Founding Maihan High School in Peshawar, Pakistan, in 1999 to provide education for 300 refugee children

In addition, the APA has been actively involved in relevant international conferences and has become a member of the Conference of NGOs at the United Nations. On 2 June 2002, it sponsored and organized the Conference on Afghan