



**AFGHAN WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION
REFUGEE & IMMIGRANT SERVICES**

2021-03-21

Toronto– Ontario

Nowruz Mobarak, Happy New Year!

Dear Friends,

Today, more than 300 million people in three continents are celebrating the solar new year 1400, Nowruz.

Earlier today, the Vernal Equinox marked the beginning of spring. Nowruz has been recognized by the United Nations as a day of observance and celebration. Federal and numerous provincial governments in Canada hold festivities to honour Nowruz.

Earlier today, while I was taking a walk at a ravine listening to the singing birds, I could not help but think of the challenging year that we lived through in 2020.

All regular activities were shutdown or suspended. Our programs and the very popular Samanak had to be placed on hold for the second year in a row. But despite all the unusual interruptions caused by the pandemic, the nature continues on track. Trees are full of buds, perennials are breaking through the hard earth, sun is deeper and the ice on rivers are melting.

Nature at this time of the year commands to upholding hope, rebirth and promises; creating fertile beds for resolutions and wishes.

I wish for my fellow Afghans to live in freedom and peace in our homeland.

I wish for our elderly to spend their golden years with respectful and sufficient means, surrounded by loved ones.

I wish for our children and youth the right to peace, conflict free life, social determinants of health, quality education and recreation.

I wish for our girls and women their human rights. The right of choice to their life partner, fields of studies and career.

I wish for the world to exercise humility, respect to environment, fairness, equitable access to resources and wealth, unity, and peace.

Here at AWO, my colleagues are determined to lend shoulders and hold hands. More than ever, the refugees and newcomers who come to us for assistance are in pressing needs of the very basic to the most complex resources for transitioning into their lives in Canada.

I wish for my colleagues and communities alike resilience, health, hope and happiness!
This is what the nature teaches us, this is what rebirth is all about!

سال ١٤٠٠ مبارڪ!

Adeena Niazi
Executive Director
Afghan Women's Organization Refugee & Immigrant Services