



# 2021 Annual Report



## A Message from our Founder

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Dear Friends of WCI,

As you can well imagine, this has been a challenging year. COVID-19 made us shift our focus. We expanded our local programs, especially GALS. That series, for more than a decade, has empowered under-represented teenage girls with the skills and support to transform their communities. We reached out to these participants, and sponsored a community outreach event at Temple University in conjunction with our COVID-19 Free Ambassadors and Representatives (COFAR) Initiative. We aimed to facilitate virtual webinars in partnership with health professionals and the School District of Philadelphia, combined with larger in-person sessions, to inform Philadelphia youth ambassadors about the importance of the COVID-19 vaccine and equip them with the advocacy skills they need to make a difference in their communities. Funding for this came from a CDC sub-grant through Temple.

Since 2006, WCI has hosted a series of programs in Afghanistan focused on economic empowerment, entrepreneurship, and media in several areas across the country, including Kabul, Parwan, Panjshir, and Bamyan. Ever since the Taliban took control in August, our partners have been in extreme danger; several have been killed. We have managed to safely evacuate many of the remarkable women and men whom we worked with. Funds are being sent to the families still in hiding. Many are starving and living in unimaginable conditions. We will not give up.

In Africa, WCI was able to partner with Ukani Malawi in Malawi through the Reducing Adolescent Pregnancy (RAP) in the Era of COVID-19 program. WCI's former Director of Programs and Operations, Brynn, and Mandela Washington Fellow and Ukani Malawi co-founder, Temwa Chiremba, led this program with funding from the U.S. Department of State's Citizen Diplomacy Action Fund. Between March and April, approximately 90 girls in Blantyre and in Balaka participated in our workshops. In partnership with TraumaVenture, a Philadelphia-based social impact organization, participants also learned about mental health and wellbeing.

It looks like WCI weathered the COVID-19 storm. It was a huge task. We had to dramatically scale back our international programs. Nonetheless, we were resilient. We have now started to reinvigorate them. On the horizon, it looks like our work will be channeled to new regions where there is heightened conflict. With our abilities, and your support, we know we can fulfill our mission and once again celebrate WCI's legacy.

Warmest,  
Marjorie

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## OUR MISSION

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Working in the United States, emerging democracies, and democracies in-conflict and post-conflict, Women's Campaign International (WCI) is a not-for-profit organization that works to empower women to actively engage in public advocacy, market, and political processes. In providing the necessary skills, knowledge, and culturally-sensitive support, we empower young women and girls globally to transform their own lives and their communities. WCI focuses on key areas of entrepreneurship, public advocacy, public health, and international relief.

## OUR VISION

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We envision a world where equality and inclusion are at the core of all decision making.

## OUR VALUES

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**Empathy:** We are committed to lead with compassion, and seek to understand different perspectives and experiences.

**Inclusion:** We believe that the empowerment of women and girls means recognizing the intersectionality of the individuals and communities with whom we work.

**Collaboration:** We believe in creating and fostering ecosystems that are committed to holding space for tough conversations, leaning in to curiosity, which is key to empowering women to transform their communities.

**Sustainability:** We are committed to creating a model that establishes long-lasting impact by supporting local women to be able to continue to advocate and support themselves long after WCI has gone.

## WCI PILLARS

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Entrepreneurship  
Public Advocacy

Public Health  
International Relief



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# Team Member Highlight: Lilly Price

In 2021, Lilly Price joined WCI as a program intern and was then hired as Operations Manager. Lilly has a background in community-driven development and was thrilled to put her commitment to social and economic justice to work at WCI. After a great year with the team, she received news that was awarded a Fulbright independent research grant to go to Fiji and learn about how locals are pursuing economic sovereignty and ecological sustainability through community-based tourism. Lilly plans to stay in close touch!



# Girls Advocacy & Leadership Series (GALS): Philadelphia

**100%**

Of participants view themselves as advocates

**100%**

Of participants now identify themselves as leaders

**100%**

Of active participants implemented a campaign

**100%**

Overall program satisfaction rate, from participant survey

GALS has—for more than ten years—sought to equip teenage girls in Philadelphia with the skills, confidence, and connections needed to take on leadership roles. In June of 2021, WCI celebrated the completion of our 21-week virtual program, GALS: Game-Changers, which introduced participants to women speakers who work in historically male-dominated fields and supported participants in creating change through digital advocacy.

**“I gained confidence in myself and in my abilities. GALS gave me the opportunity to put my passions in action and really gave me a voice to express myself.” – GALS Participant A**

**“Being in the advocacy days was the best thing and made me so happy! Attending advocacy days has made me attain confidence and courage.” – GALS Participant B**

**“The guest speaker sessions were motivating and inspiring. The women were so powerful and they gave me hope in myself that I too can be happy and successful in my future.” – GALS Participant C**

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# Intern Highlight



**My experience as a virtual GALS intern has been nothing short of incredible. Even though GALS did not take place in person this year, each girl went out of her way to uplift others through struggles and praise everyone's successes. Seeing a group of high school girls come together to learn how to advocate for causes they care about and build connections was a remarkable process to have played a part in. The GALS internship is a great way not only to uplift student advocates on their path towards change, but to become a part of a network of strong young women who support each other through anything.**



# Reducing Adolescent Pregnancy (RAP) in the Era of COVID-19



**“I have been encouraged to stay in school and now I know I have a bright future.”  
-RAP Participant A**

WCI, in partnership with Ukani Malawi, implemented the “Reducing Adolescent Pregnancy (RAP) in the Era of COVID-19” from March-April 2021. The RAP curriculum provided a total of 90 participants with critical resources, support, and information on COVID-19, the female reproductive system, menstruation, safe sex, and healthy relationships. Through these efforts, we are working to ensure that more girls will stay healthy and in school through the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, each participant was provided with a resource package including PPE, underwear, toilet paper, pads, condoms, lotion, and food. All workshops took place with the consent and support from local women and tribal leaders.

Prior to the RAP program, only 50% of participants understood the best practices for preventing the spread of COVID-19 compared to 93% of participants post-RAP. Pre-RAP, 48% of participants knew of local women’s organizations that they could go to for support compared to 100% of participants post-RAP. In addition, there was a 20% increase in the number of participants who understood the meaning of consent post-program.

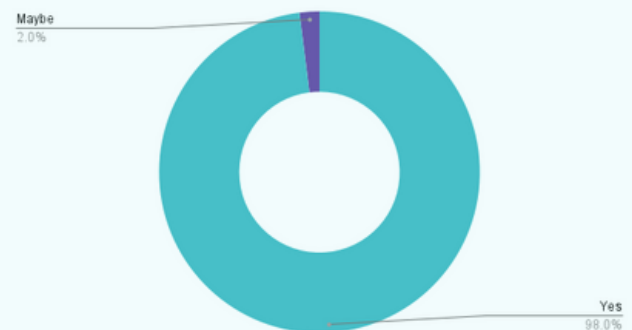
**“I really liked the session on consent, this was a new term to me and I am glad I can now confidently set personal boundaries and say no or call people out when they violate these boundaries.” - RAP Participant B**



# COVID-19 Free Ambassadors and Representatives (COFAR) Initiative

**Participants received an average score of 96% on post-webinar survey quiz about COVID-19 and COVID-19 vaccines**

Are COVID-19 Vaccines Safe?



Tapping into our youth engagement framework and building off of our COVID-19 programming in Malawi, WCI launched our COVID-19 Free Ambassadors and Representatives (COFAR) Initiative. From August 2021 through May 2022, WCI worked with health care professionals to create an information webinar with a question and answer session to allow high school and college ambassadors to learn from trusted messengers about the importance of COVID-19 vaccines and how to address vaccine hesitancy in their communities.

In 2021, the COFAR program trained 112 high school and college student ambassadors. WCI hosted two virtual training sessions and one in person hack-a-thon in collaboration with Temple University's Klein College of Media and Communication.

Speakers for our COFAR programming include, Dr. Robert Krasner, MD, Dr. Tara A. Cortes, PhD, RN, FAAN, Dr. Joseph Richardson, MD, and Dr. Bernard Nelson, MD.



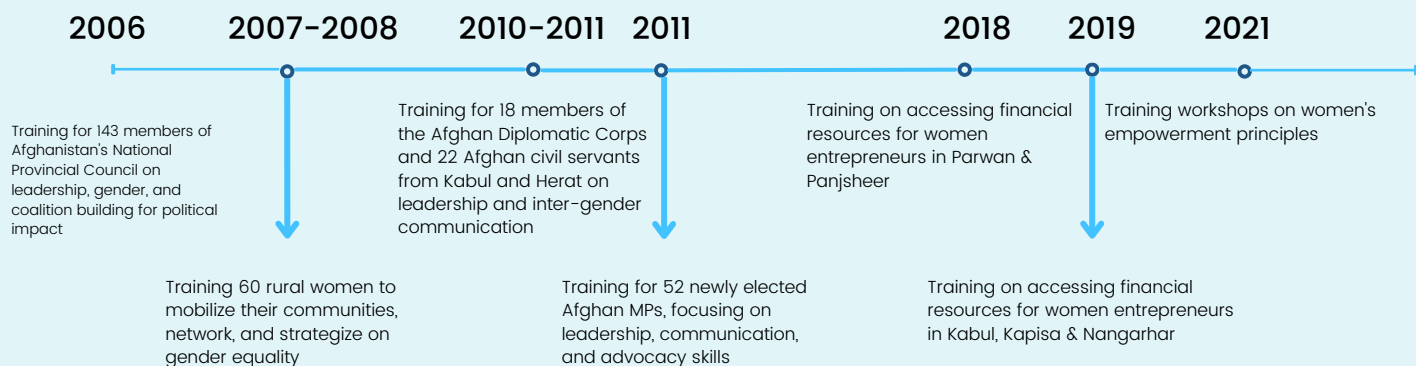
# WCI's Resettlement Program for Afghanistan

In 2021, WCI's Afghanistan Program Director traveled to Kabul to host a series of workshops on women's empowerment. By early August 2021, it was clear that previous estimations that the Afghan government would retain control for some six months were dramatically miscalculated, and we began arranging plans for her to come back to the United States immediately. WCI staff secured a seat on a flight for her, but 5 hours later all commercial flights out of the country were canceled.

Our Program Director made it through crowds at the airport and arrived in the US weeks later, after spending time in "lily pad" countries at refugee processing camps. During her journey, she had to give up all of her possessions except her dress, passport, and green card. She has been working at Fort Dix's refugee camp since she returned, translating and coordinating services for women and children.

Overall, WCI filed employment verification statements for all of WCI's Afghan staff, and assisted each in applying to the P-2 visa process. WCI sent letters of support for women's rights activists who did not work with US NGOs and worked with the Department of State to flag several of these cases for evacuation priority based on credible threat letters we developed with the most vulnerable applicants.

In addition, WCI assisted qualified Afghan human rights defenders and public servants apply for SIV and P-2 visas for their families. All had been directly threatened by members of the Taliban or had their houses searched. Those WCI has supported include: women women's right defenders, translators, government officials, law enforcement officials and many others.



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# The WCI Community

Temple University  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Department of Community &  
Economic Development (DCED)  
Republic Bank  
Philadelphia Foundation Fund for Children  
Swenson Arts & Technology High School  
Bodine High School for International Affairs  
First Philadelphia Charter High School  
Ukani Malawi



## Our Board

Susan Soon-keum Cox, Board Chair  
Marjorie Margolies, WCI President – Non-Voting Member  
Edie Hunt, Chair  
David Galardi  
Carol Scheman  
Satwik Seshasai  
Jon Stiklorius  
Alicia Miller  
Benjamin Tiede  
Charmain Bogue, WCI Executive Director – Non-Voting Member

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