



ASIAN UNIVERSITY  
FOR WOMEN

# A DECADE OF DARING

ASIAN UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN

10th ANNIVERSARY REPORT

2008 - 2018



## A LETTER FROM THE VICE CHANCELLOR

# A Commitment to Excellence



Dear Friends,

We are delighted to have had yet another successful year, and it gives me great pleasure to share with you some of the developments of which we are most proud. This year's annual report illustrates our achievements and the University's commitment to excellence in education and scholarship. We have continued to attract outstanding students from across the region, representing over 17 countries. We have been more ambitious than ever in our local and regional outreach, and our flagship programme, Pathways for Promise, now has students drawn from the farthest parts of the region.

The University now has more than 800 students enrolled in its programmes. With an emphasis on critical thinking and problem-based learning, our programmes challenge our young women, equip them for their careers, and help to create the leaders of the future. Our mission informs everything we do and our aim is to deliver on our vision of developing lifelong leadership skills. We also share a set of values – empathy, integrity, courage and hope – that define the way we work and live.

After years of intensive effort, this year marks a turning point: the University is close to reaching the level of financial strength that will enable a step change in our ability to invest further in our academic mission. I am delighted to announce the establishment of endowed chairs in our key disciplines of public health, economics and computer sciences. The senior scholars, when appointed, will provide academic leadership, push the frontiers of the disciplines, and help recruit and retain the best faculty for the University.

These achievements are excellent for a University established just ten years ago and have only been made possible by sustained and high-quality commitment from staff and faculty across the University. I would like to add my thanks to all our colleagues for their hard work and enthusiasm in delivering this outstanding success.

The support and generosity of our international support foundations and philanthropy of other individuals and organisations have been integral to the continued success of our University, enabling us to grow in ways that would not otherwise be possible. We believe this is an exceptional place with an exceptional story to tell. And with an international network of partners, our impact is being felt all over the world. I am proud to lead a University which we firmly believe lives up to the ambitions of its founders to create an excellent place where talent, opportunities and knowledge converge at the service of students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nirmala Rao".

PROFESSOR NIRMALA RAO, OBE, FAcSS  
Vice Chancellor, Asian University for Women

# CONTENTS

We believe that **empathy, courage, and outrage at injustice** are key characteristics of leadership; so, too, are leading institutions made. In celebration of our 10th Anniversary, we explore how the AUW community has exemplified and cultivated these essential leadership qualities.

## 1 EMPATHY

The Power of Perspective, by Kathy Matsui, Vice Chair of Goldman Sachs Japan 4  
Global Community: A Tribute to Partnerships 6

## 2 COURAGE

AUW and Change, by Nobel Peace Laureate Tawakkol Karman 10  
Achieving Excellence: Leaders in Liberal Arts and Sciences 12  
Against All Odds: Student and Alumnae Impact 14

## 3 OUTRAGE AT INJUSTICE

Stepping Up to Social Reform, by AUW Alumna Christina Tamang 24  
Pathways for Promise: Fighting Injustice through Education 28  
Access Academy: From Rote Learning to Critical Thinking 30

## 4 SUSTAINABILITY

Governance 34  
Supporters 36  
Financial Report 38

## 5 HOPE

A Letter from Our Founder 40  
A Decade of Daring 42

Written & Edited By: Ingrid Lustig & Kiko Wemmer

# EMPATHY

## The Power of Perspective

By Kathy Matsui, Vice Chair of Goldman Sachs Japan

*It is too easy to forget in a world that values competition, drive, affluence and professional success, that there is vital social impact to cultivating empathy. It is also easy to forget why we have a responsibility to do so.*

A good many talented, hardworking and even brilliant people, who could make important contributions to medicine, technology, politics and the arts, will never be able to do so because of a lack of access and opportunity. Their missed opportunities reflect a global situation that is still striving to create a fair playing field. Any one of us could have been one of them, had small changes in our history not come to pass. Any of our talents could have gone unnoticed, any of our successes could have been denied to us, simply because of the social and political situations into which we were born.

Empathy forces us to embrace personal humility by reminding us that our talents and drive may not have been enough to secure our success in the face of overwhelming challenges, but it also reminds us that our lone stories have a place in a world dominated by the voices of a small few. Each graduate of the Asian University for Women knows that her voice, her narrative, her story and the stories of her community, are a part of the Asian story and deserves to be heard. Each knows that her talents and intelligence deserve a chance to be on full display, and not silenced due to a labyrinth of social norms and economic climates hostile to her dreams.

***“As students at the Asian University for Women often discover, empathy is hard work. We must learn to listen to others while learning to speak for ourselves, defend those whom we can and bear witness to the struggles of those whom we cannot.”***



**KATHY MATSUI** is Vice Chair of Goldman Sachs Japan, co-head of Macro Research in Asia and chief Japan equity strategist. Ms. Matsui was chosen by the *Wall*

*Street Journal* as one of the “10 Women to Watch in Asia” for her work on the “Womenomics” theme. She is a member of AUWSF’s Board of Directors.

As students at the Asian University for Women often discover, empathy is hard work. We must learn to listen to others while learning to speak for ourselves, defend those whom we can and bear witness to the struggles of those whom we cannot. It is a foundational value that honors both decency and memory. It creates the conditions for what some have called “the social bases of self-respect.”

Still, the hard work has a payoff. Empathy enables us to celebrate the rich diversity of a continent like Asia, where many languages, cultures, art forms and philosophies have created a tapestry of ideas that continues to guide our shared public discourse and inform our wisdom. We have a common inheritance in Asia that is all too often overshadowed by differences in religion, nation, ethnic group or social status. Cultivating empathy empowers us to gain insight into this shared inheritance and to participate in the common good of all societies.





*"This is my first time  
staying with women  
from different cultures  
and nationalities. I have  
learned to be united.  
Though we are from  
different countries, we are  
like family."*

HALIMA AKTER  
Rohingya Student, Bangladesh  
Class of 2020

Students from Afghanistan and Nepal



# GLOBAL COMMUNITY: A Tribute to Partnerships



Hong Kong Support Foundation

*Our university has been seeded and sustained by partners who believe in the importance of higher education for women and their communities.* Our partners understand that while there are more girls completing primary and secondary education than ever before, women are often unable to advance to higher education as easily. Without higher education, they are less likely to progress to leadership roles. In these pages, we gratefully acknowledge those forward-thinking partners who have invested in women's education at AUW - changing not only the lives of our students, but also the fates of their children, their communities, and the world.

## Partnerships that Seed

AUW emerged from conversations with academics, government officials, and education experts that concluded that higher education, and the higher education of women in particular, is critical to promoting sustainable social, economic, and environmental development. Critical support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Open Society Foundation followed, leading the Parliament of Bangladesh to ratify the landmark Charter of the Asian University for Women in 2006, granting full institutional autonomy and academic freedom to AUW and cementing our unique status as an independent, international institution of higher learning in a region where such institutions are rare.

## Partnerships that Sustain

Today, our community spans continents. Support Groups in Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, and the UK sustain the AUW mission. Academic institutions such as Sciences Po, Johns Hopkins, and Harvard, among others, facilitate cross-cultural intellectual exchanges and collaboration.

Entrepreneurs, non-profits, and multinational corporations host student internships and post-graduate fellowships, providing crucial leadership experience for our students and alumnae. After ten years, we are indebted to this growing community that has, and will continue to, sustain AUW and its mission to cultivate the next generation of women leaders.

***"Li & Fung and the Victor and William Fung Foundation are proud to support AUW students and to nurture these leaders of tomorrow. Over the past six years, we have benefited from having AUW students as interns. These young women see the world differently and have proven to be dynamic change-makers helping us unleash new ideas through their enthusiasm, versatility, and passion for making a difference."***

ZAID HOSSAIN  
 General Manager  
 Human Resources  
 Li & Fung (Bangladesh) Limited



## LOCAL IMPACT: AUW in the Community



*As a major institution in the Chittagong area, AUW is an important partner in addressing regional and community needs.* The University has robust relationships throughout Bangladesh, and actively engages with national and city leaders and neighbors on a variety of issues that address the mutual goal of improving the quality of life in Bangladesh. These strong, sustained partnerships have enriched public education and services, contributed to the local economy, and enhanced Bangladesh's global influence. Here we sit with **Rubana Huq**, Trustee of AUW and Managing Director of the Bangladesh-based Mohammadi Group, to hear her thoughts about the relationship between AUW and its host community.

### **How has AUW contributed to Bangladesh's society in awakening the potential of poor women to get the best education possible?**

*AUW challenges the notion that poor people from Asia should be given basic aid, but not something more transformative, such as a university education. In Bangladesh, specifically, AUW's Pathways for Promise program identifies talented individuals within under-resourced communities to attend AUW. These students become role models for women from similar backgrounds and men who may have higher aspirations for their daughters and sisters but are unsure of their options. By identifying talented women within communities that face stigma and cyclical poverty, AUW begins to eclipse mainstream perceptions of that community.*

*Additionally, many of AUW's highest leadership roles are held by Bangladeshi women who have attained their positions in society through higher education. The Chair of our Board of Trustees is Dr. Dipu Moni, who serves on the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bangladesh; our Chief Patron is Sheikh Hasina, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh. These female leaders are vocal proponents of AUW's work and women's education, helping to change discouraging attitudes toward the impact of higher education for women—rich or poor.*

### **How has AUW supported local community resources?**

*AUW consistently generates intellectual, professional, and financial resources for the local community. Students are socially-motivated hobbyists and spend a great amount of their extracurricular time 'giving back.' They start student clubs to nurture stray animals; launch social enterprises*

*to tutor local school children; and, starting last year, are mandated to make at least five people literate by the time they graduate. AUW also employs a significant number of Bangladeshi nationals, both as staff and faculty. They are paid a fair and regular salary; provided benefits; and are part of a vibrant, international academic community.*

*About half of AUW's students come from various parts of Bangladesh and are likely to remain in the country upon graduation. In addition to working in and strengthening their local communities, alumnae also empower women back home to believe that they can achieve similar goals.*

### **What are your hopes for the future of AUW, Bangladesh, and their relationship?**

*I hope AUW will be able to host more young women representing diverse groups from different countries, and sustain itself as an institution which provides opportunities for young women who dare to dream. I perceive that AUW is steadily shifting the narrative about women's ability to make meaningful contributions to both the public and private spheres of Bangladesh. It is my hope that this understanding continues to foster a more egalitarian nation. Strengthening Bangladesh helps to strengthen the Asian region as a whole.*

### **JOIN OUR COMMUNITY**

Help us sustain our efforts to build peace and prosperity in Asia one woman leader at a time! If you are interested in partnering with AUW to host interns, build academic programs, or otherwise, please contact Katsuki Sakai at [katsuki.sakai@asian-university.org](mailto:katsuki.sakai@asian-university.org).





## Power of Global Collaboration

*AUW's first ten years testifies to the power of global collaboration and partnership in engendering impact.*

By enacting the landmark Asian University for Women Act, 2006, the Parliament of Bangladesh created the essential framework for AUW's establishment and operation as an independent institution free from political or bureaucratic control. The land grant that came with the Charter provides it with the ground for building its own campus. An early challenge grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and additional support from the Open Society Foundation and others paved the way for its launch. The endorsement of key global figures such as Cherie Blair (UK), Laura Bush (USA) and Akie Abe (Japan) brought significant credibility and reach for the initiative. The collaboration agreements with the Governments of Afghanistan and Cambodia (and others) opened national channels for recruitment of students. NGO partners such as BRAC Afghanistan, the Grameen Bank, Taryana Foundation (Bhutan) and others helped leverage their extensive networks to highlight the opportunities at AUW. Public and private corporations and others hosted hundreds of AUW students as interns providing a key learning ground for professional engagement. Year after year talented educators from many parts of the world made Chittagong and AUW their home, creating a new ethos for a global learning community. A rising network of support groups in Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, UK and the US mobilizing essential resources have helped sustain AUW's work. We also honor the confidence of parents who have trusted a new, international institution to contribute to the growth of their children. A common recognition of the urgency in and the possibility of educating a new generation of women leaders have brought countless individuals, groups and organizations together to make this difference. AUW could not come into being and exist today without its crucial partners.

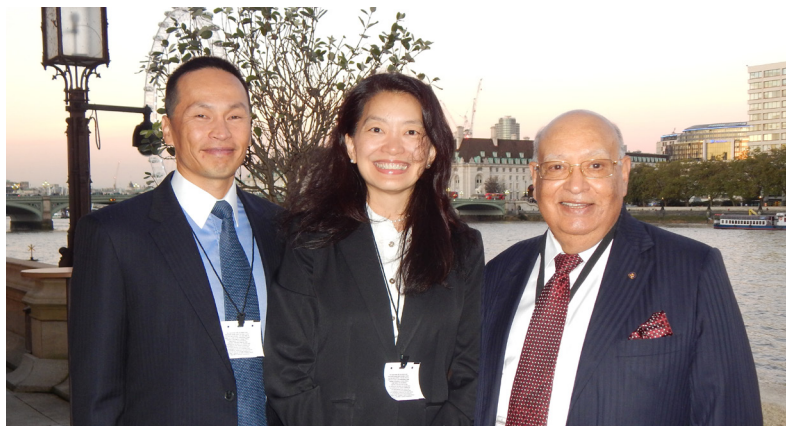
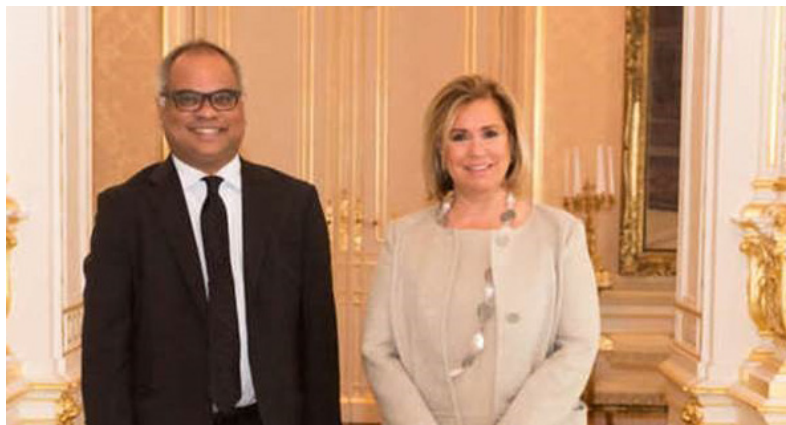
**2005: The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation provides a challenge grant of US\$15 million for AUW to begin operations.**

**2006: The Parliament of Bangladesh ratifies the Charter of Asian University for Women, guaranteeing full institutional autonomy and academic freedom to AUW.**

**2010: The Japan Support Group holds its first annual fundraising event.**

**2011: AUW holds a Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony in Chittagong, chaired by AUW Chancellor Cherie Blair and attended by Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh; Dr. Dipu Moni; Nurul Islam Nahid, Minister of Education; and Dr. Ngozi N. Okonjo-Iweala, then managing director of the World Bank.**





*“Through partnerships,  
we are able to bring even  
wider opportunities  
to AUF students and  
graduates.”*

**YJ KIM**, Board Chairman of  
AUF Support Foundation  
and Secretary of AUF Board  
of Trustees

**Clockwise above:** AUF Founder Kamal Ahmad and AUF Patron HRH Maria Teresa, Grand Duchess of Luxembourg and AUF Patron

**Young Joon (YJ) Kim** (left), **Humayun Kabir** (middle), and **Dipu Moni** (right), members of the AUF Board of Trustees

Students at **Hotel Agrabad**, owned by **Monwara Hakim Ali**, which provides free use of the pool for AUF students

**Alice Lin**, Chair of Singapore Support Foundation (middle), with **Joel Lin** (left) and **Lord Raj Loomba** (right), founder of the Loomba Foundation

**Clockwise on page 8, from right to left:** Chancellor **Cherie Blair** (center) at an AUF dinner at the House of Lords with AUF students at a cultural performance

**Professor Henry Rosovsky** (right), former Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at Harvard University with AUF graduate, **Jampa Latso**, from Tibet, China, on the occasion of the conferral of an honorary degree to Professor Rosovsky

**Marina Mahathir**, Malaysian Writer and Activist, Member of AUF Board of Trustees

From left: **Miwa Seki** and **Kathy Matsui**, Co-Chairs of AUF Japan Support Committee; **Keiko Ihara**, the world's fastest racecar driver; **Professor Nirmala Rao**, AUF Vice Chancellor; and **Catherine Watters Sasanuma**, Co-Chair of the Japan Support Committee at the 8th annual fundraising event in Tokyo

**Dipu Moni**, Former Foreign Minister of Bangladesh and Chair of AUF Board of Trustees; speaking at AUF Commencement 2016

**2012:** The U.S. State Department begins to sponsor scholarships for Afghan students to attend AUF.

**2015:** Sciences Po enters into an exchange program with AUF to allow for global academic and cultural collaboration. The AUF Support Foundation in Hong Kong is established.

**2017:** The AUF Support Foundation in Hong Kong holds its first annual fundraising gala.

**2018:** AUF reaches a milestone of \$100 million in support.

# COURAGE

*“By empowering young women to clear the societal smoke that has darkened their horizons, AUW endeavors to disrupt regional assumptions about who women are and what they should become.”*

**TAWAKKOL KARMAN**

2011 Nobel Peace Prize Winner



## AUW and Change

**By Tawakkol Karman**

Despite the global challenges of mass migration, famine, and climate change that burden individuals and nations alike, we are in an era of ideas. Innovators who have chosen to resist ignorance and complicity present us with new solutions to protracted issues, and social leaders convince us of a better tomorrow.

In this context, Asian University for Women has emerged as a truly revolutionary approach to achieve equity, peace, and sustainable development through education. Tolstoy once claimed that “Everyone thinks of changing the world, but no one thinks of changing himself.” The AUW solution changes everything. By empowering young women to clear the societal smoke that has darkened their horizons, AUW endeavors to disrupt regional assumptions about who women are and what they should become. While spreading knowledge among women who have a hunger to lead and influence society, AUW addresses a regional epidemic that can only be described as a crisis: states that marginalize women and impose restrictions on their presence in the public sphere resign themselves to failure and make themselves vulnerable to extremism and violence.

AUW's commitment to making a significant contribution to women's scientific, cultural, economic, and political empowerment is a vital step towards overcoming regional policies that marginalize and weaken women. **While everyone thinks of changing the world in which women live, AUW actually achieves this change through its generosity, commitment to excellence, and courage.**

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***TAWAKKOL KARMAN** is a Yemeni human rights activist, journalist, and politician. She was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2011 in recognition of her work in non-violent struggle for freedom of expression, women's rights, and peacebuilding work in Yemen. She has been imprisoned on numerous occasions for her pro-democracy and pro-human rights protests. Among Yemen's youth movement, she is known as “mother of the revolution.” Tawakkol Karman was awarded a Doctorate in Humane Letters, honoris causa, by AUW at its 2018 Commencement.*





A close-up portrait of a young woman with long, dark, wavy hair. She is looking slightly to the right with a calm expression. She has a small nose ring and is wearing a black stud earring. Her clothing features a white top with a black polka-dot collar and a pink and blue patterned shawl. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green.

*“It’s time to make  
non-standard the new  
standard! Women as  
leaders, entrepreneurs,  
changemakers, and  
rebels.”*

**ANILA SHAHEEN**  
Pakistan  
Class of 2017

**Student from Bangladesh**





# Achieving Excellence: Leaders in Liberal Arts and Sciences

*Ask the right questions and do the right thing; at AUW, we prepare students to do both. We are reimagining liberal arts to meet the demands of a changing region in the digital age. We are fostering an intercultural residential campus where art, technology, and civic engagement permeate every room and corridor. Through an integrated common core curriculum and interdisciplinary majors spanning the humanities and sciences, we are equipping our future leaders – women – with the broad knowledge and technical skills they need to question assumptions and change the world.*

At the heart of this academic enterprise is our faculty. They lead AUW by taking seriously their roles as educator, mentor, advocate, and friend; by modelling compassion and constructive criticality in their teaching and research; and by giving everything they have to support our students and those who are counting on our students to lead. They hold Ph.D. qualifications from top institutions including Harvard, Oxford, and the London School of Economics. They represent myriad nationalities and research specialties; half are women.

## ***What do the great liberal arts institutions of the world have to learn from AUW?***

*"One of the things that is happening in older liberal arts universities, and one of the reasons why I left these liberal arts institutions, is that they're becoming more and more elite enterprises, educating people who can afford to pay for them. That is not, for me, what college is supposed to be about. University is supposed to be about finding bright and gifted people from all sorts of backgrounds and figuring out how to get them into places where they can affect policy, governance structures, and other people's lives in a more meaningful way. And fortunately, you find that in AUW."*



**HELEN DELFELD**

Associate Professor of Politics, Philosophy, and Economics  
Ph.D. Political Science, Rutgers University, USA

***"University is supposed to be about finding bright and gifted people from all sorts of backgrounds and figuring out how to get them into places where they can affect policy, governance structures, and other people's lives in a more meaningful way. And fortunately, you find that in a place like AUW."***

**PROF. HELEN DELFELD**



# Reflections on Teaching

*"The atmosphere of AUW is one of high energy, innovation and drive. I've often felt a strong entrepreneurial spirit amongst staff and students and a very real sense underlying the daily activities that we are all committed to a truly meaningful cause. This sense of energy and commitment is reflected in the number of community outreach initiatives, cultural festivals and social enterprises that students develop on their own, and the leadership roles that students take on through internships and summer projects.*

*"It can also be felt in the classroom space. It is very rare to teach in an institution where students are so earnest and eager to learn, consistently striving to better themselves and their knowledge of the world. Their curiosity, coupled with the extraordinary cultural diversity in the classroom, also consistently challenges you as faculty to be critical and self-reflexive in your teaching and in your research.*

*"Specifically, after coming to AUW I became very motivated to conduct research projects that engage with tangible real-world concerns. I wanted to be able to respond meaningfully to the very real, profound and pragmatic anxieties and challenges faced by the community in front of me. This is a shift in research focus that will stay with me into the future."*



**TIFFANY CONE**

Assistant Professor of Cultural Anthropology  
Ph.D., Cultural Anthropology, Australian National University, Australia



***"The liberal arts pedagogy takes place in a smaller classroom setting with more interactive teaching and learning. Students and faculty are more engaged not just inside the class, but***

***also outside the class. And AUW takes this to a different level."***

**MEHERUN AHMED**

Associate Professor of Economics  
Previously Assistant Professor of Economics at Carleton College  
Ph.D. Economics, University of Washington, Seattle, USA



# AGAINST ALL ODDS: Student And Alumnae Impact



**38** alumnae working at the forefront of refugee support in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

**20** graduates have been placed in Afghanistan's Ministry of Counter Narcotics since 2012

**85%** of graduates return to their home country, counteracting 'brain-drain' in the region

**95%** of 2017 graduating class who are employed are working in their home country

**25%** of alumnae pursue graduate school

**10M+** people provided health care due to graduate-led initiative in rural communities

**100%** of the 12 Bhutanese students who took the civil service exam in 2018 passed

**5** local community members made literate as part of each student's graduation requirements

**693** jobs placed as a result of university education

**725+** summer internships completed

**2008:** The first cohort of A UW students arrives on campus to attend Access Academy. The inaugural cohort consists of 130 young women from six countries: Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

**2009:** Distinguished academics and advisors establish the liberal arts curriculum of the Undergraduate Program.

**2010:** A workshop titled "Understanding of the Ethnic Conflict in Sri Lanka" is held for 25 students from Sri Lanka, which built awareness of the history and causes of the Tamil-Sinhalese conflict.





**700+** graduates

**800+** current students

**25+** languages spoken

**35+** ethnicities

Students from **17** countries in Asia and Middle East

*By equipping women with the tools to achieve change in their communities, an investment in AUW yields social returns well beyond the impact of one young woman's education. Such an investment is felt in the halls of government in nations where women have historically been deprived a voice, in the boardrooms of multinational companies that have been male-dominated for decades, and in communities that have been stuck in the rut of poverty for generations.*

**2012:** AUW realizes its first full complement of classes - a total student body of 535, with cohorts in the Access Academy and each Undergraduate year.

**2013:** The University graduates its first cohort of students.

**2016:** AUW launches Pathways for Promise to increase its recruitment of students from marginalized populations including garment factory workers, Rohingya refugees, and women from the hill tribes of India and Myanmar.

# STORIES OF IMPACT



**“I work on projects related to gender equality and the needs of women with disabilities.”**

As an intern at UN Women in New York City, I researched South-South cooperation and its role in the development of Asian countries. I also worked on projects related to gender equality and the needs of women with disabilities. This experience prepared me for a career in my home country, Afghanistan, where several decades of war have left many women and children disabled and with few personal or professional opportunities. After the internship, I returned to Kabul to complete a post-graduate fellowship with a non-profit social services organization.

**Tooba Shahsawar** | Afghanistan | Class of 2018 | Economics



**“I used media, journalism, and documentary filmmaking to affect attitudes about the role of women in peacebuilding processes.”**

After taking political science courses throughout my interdisciplinary degree in AUW, I’ve reached the conclusion that not letting people express themselves freely and preventing their political and social participation is one of the major causes of conflict and war. One cannot bring change without being able to state his or her opinions on matters of social concern, and my society needs to change attitudes about the role of women in peacebuilding and democracy.

In the Spring of 2018, I started my work in the Yala Academy’s Aileen Getty School of Citizen Journalism. Throughout the course, I discovered that pluralistic and free mass media can be a powerful and far-reaching tool to advance peace, justice, conflict resolution, democracy, freedom, and women’s participation in society. I used media, journalism, and documentary filmmaking to affect attitudes about the role of women in peacebuilding processes. I told the stories of emerging women leaders from seven different countries and their impact on their communities.

I have always valued and admired the effect of independent media in the democratization process and peace negotiations. After graduation, I want to contribute to peacebuilding activities by becoming involved in media and journalistic enterprises. I want to continue my work as a storyteller and documentary filmmaker to challenge the status quo and promote mutual understanding and coexistence within my community and beyond.

**Aziza Roshani** | Afghanistan | Class of 2019 | Politics, Philosophy and Economics

***“One cannot bring change without being able to state his or her opinions on matters of social concern.”***

**AZIZA ROSHANI**  
Class of 2019





## **“I help to ensure that Rohingya women are heard.”**

As a Research Assistant for Translators Without Borders (TWB), I work to ensure that Rohingya women are heard and understood by those who help to support the Rohingya community. Using my knowledge and language skills, I frequently discuss challenges pertaining to women’s health and gender-based violence. My main responsibility is to help TWB identify the words related to emotions, health, gender-based violence, and protection that are easily understood by Rohingya refugees in Cox’s Bazar. TWB will include these words in their multilingual glossary web app.

**Asia Khanam** | Bangladesh | Class of 2018 | Environmental Sciences



## **“I had the honor of meeting Hazera Begum, a former sex-worker.”**

In Bangladesh, children of sex workers are often left out of public campaigns to bring underprivileged students to school. Without education, these children can never break out from the invisible chains of the brothel in which they were born.

Last December, I had the honor of meeting Hazera Begum, a former sex-worker. Today, Hazera Begum is dedicated to giving children of sex-workers a better life. She has taken 42 children under her wing. Although she struggles to feed them, you will not find a single child of age who does not go to school. All of Hazera Begum’s adopted children are studying in different schools, and she is never tired of caring for them.

Nevertheless, keeping everyone fed at home and enrolled in school is not easy. Listening to Hazera Begum’s powerful story, I decided to make a short film about her as an attempt to bring her story to this world. While interviewing her, the strength of her voice motivated me to move forward and join her cause. Hazera Begum’s story made me wonder: Like Hazera Begum, would I have the courage to take on the responsibility of raising these children alone? Would anyone?

At that moment, it was more than a film to me. I really wanted to do something for Hazera Begum and her children. Thankfully, my film received an overwhelmingly positive response and won first place at the ConnectHer film competition. Later, ConnectHer decided to financially support Hazera Begum, and we were able to co-initiate a project to support the education of Hazera Begum’s adopted daughters.

As we became more involved with Hazera Begum, we decided to gather more support for her children. These children have just as much a right to education as other Bangladeshi children, and as this project continues, we aim to keep these children in school and provide as much support as required to give them an equal chance to thrive with the other kids of their age.

**Shafiqua Nawrin Oishi** | Bangladesh | Class of 2019 | Public Health



*“AUW has given me the tools to dare to be who I am and what I can be.”*

**TI HO**

Vietnam

Class of 2015



**Student from Cambodia**



# STUDENT AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS\*

## **British Council Writing Competition 2016, Top 10 Winner**

Kranti Joshi, Nepal, Class of 2017

## **Chevening Scholarship**

Sadeka Tasmin, Bangladesh, Class of 2013

Mursal Hamraz, Afghanistan, Class of 2014

## **Commonwealth Shared Scholarship to Oxford University**

Ponnampalam Suthagini, Sri Lanka, Class of 2013

## **Dalai Lama Trust Scholar 2018**

Gayatri Kumari, India, Class of 2015

## **Ewha Womans University, Best Master's Thesis Award**

Nishat Mowla, Bangladesh, Class of 2013

## **Fulbright Fellowship**

Masooma Maqsoodi, Afghanistan, Class of 2015

## **Girls Impact the World Film Festival 2018, Judge's Choice**

### **Winner for Original Documentary**

Shafiqua Nawrin Oishi, Bangladesh, Class of 2019

## **International Entrepreneurship Forum Conference, Best Paper Award for Original Insights into Good Practice**

Triveni Chand, Nepal, Class of 2016

## **National Conference on Science and Technology, Bangladesh, Best Oral Presentation**

Nusrat Jabin, Bangladesh, Class of 2015

## **Roundtable of Emerging Young Leaders from ASEAN with President Barack Obama**

Duth Kimsru, Cambodia, Class of 2013

## **Swedish Institute Study Scholarship**

Momota Hena, Bangladesh, Class of 2015

## **UN Winter School 2016, Youth Scholarship**

Jyoti Shrestha, Nepal, Class of 2013

## **US Department of State, Emerging Young Leader Award**

Tanzil Ferdous, Bangladesh, Class of 2017

## **Weidenfeld-Hoffmann Trust Scholarship to Oxford**

Mowmita Basak Mow, Bangladesh, Class of 2013

Savitri Kumari, India, Class of 2015

## **World Health Summit 2015, New Voices in World Health Award**

Jyoti Shrestha, Nepal, Class of 2013

*\*This is not a comprehensive list.*



# GRADUATE SCHOOL PLACEMENTS

Al-Shifa School of Public Health	Johns Hopkins University	Umea University
American International University Bangladesh	Julius Maximilians Universität Würzburg	Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia
American University of Afghanistan	Khulna University	University for Peace, Costa Rica
An-Najah National University of Palestine	Kiel University	University of Alberta
Ashoka University	La Trobe University	University of Bradford
Asian Institute of Management	Liverpool John Moores University	University of Canberra
Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management	London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine	University of Colombo
Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology	Lund University	University of Colorado Denver-Anschutz
Bangladesh University of Professionals	Macquarie University	University of Denver
Beijing Language and Culture University	Mahidol University	University of Dhaka
Beijing Normal University	Manonmaniam Sundaranar University	University of Duisburg-Essen
Berlin School of Economics and Law	Marquette University	University of East Anglia
BRAC University	Nalanda University	University of Edinburgh
Central European University	National Institute of Education	University of Gothenburg
Chittagong University	Nepal Engineering College	University of Guelph
Christian Albrechts University	New York University	University of Heidelberg
College of Natural Resources	North South University	University of Liberal Arts, Bangladesh
Columbia University School of Journalism	OSCE Academy	University of Liverpool
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Duke University	Ruhr-University Bochum	University of Passau
Durham University	School of International Training	University of Peradeniya
East Delta University	School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London	University of South Dakota
East West University	Sorbonne University	University of Surrey
Eastern Illinois University	South Asian University	University of Sussex
Ewha Womans University	St. Xavier's College	University of Trento
Florida International University	State University of New York	University of Witwatersrand
Foundation of Montessori Education	Stockholm School of Economics	University of York
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Goethe University	Tehran University of Medical Sciences	Vrije University Brussels
Holmes Institute	Tezpur University	Wageningen University
Illinois State University	Thammasat University	Westminster University
Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisation	The Arctic University of Norway	Wright State University
International Institute of Social Science of Erasmus University Rotterdam	The Energy and Resource Institute, India	Yonsei University
Jahangirnagar University	Tribhuvan University	York University

\*This is not a comprehensive list.



# CURRENT AND PAST EMPLOYERS

360ed	Bangladesh Center for Advanced Studies	Changzamtog Lower Secondary School
Abbott	Bangladesh Edible Oil Limited	Chemists Without Borders
ABC Consulting	Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies	Chevron Bangladesh
ACBT Kandy Campus	Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center	Christian Aid
ACI Group	Bargad Organization for Youth Development	Citibank
ACI Limited	Bawm Silent Activist Movement	Clinical Health Promotion Centre
Across Health	BBC Media Action	Concern WorldWide
AECOM Engineering	Bhutan Cancer Society	Creative Associates International, Inc.
Afghanistan Center at Kabul University	Biodiversity Sri Lanka	CyberCustomerCare
Afghanistan Forensic Science Organization	Bismillah International Shipping and Trading Co. Ltd	Daayitwa
Afghanistan Human Rights and Democracy Organization	Bonshoe Bangladesh Limited	Daily Asian Age
Afghanistan Institute for Civil Society	Boomerang International Educational Services	DanChurchAid
Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit	BRAC Afghanistan	Danish Refugee Council
Aga Khan Agency for Habitat	BRAC Bank Limited	Decathlon Bangladesh
Aga Khan Development Network	BRAC Institute of Governance and Development	Deloitte Tohmatsu Consulting Inc
Aga Khan Rural Support Programmes Network Pakistan	BRAC James P. Grant School of Public Health	Democracy International
Aga Khan University Examination Board	BRAC University	Depart Art Magazine
Aga Khan University Professional Development Centre	Brighton Hospital and Diagnostic Center	Development Alternatives
Aga Khan University-Institute for Educational Development	British American Tobacco, Bangladesh	DevResonance Ltd.
Agility	British Council	Disaster Management Watch
AIA Group	Bung Phra Phitsanulok Commercial College	Drug Advisory Programme, Colombo Plan, Afghanistan
Airtel	Business for Social Responsibility	Druk Holding and Investments
Al-Hidaayah International	Cambodia Disabled People's Organization	Drukair Corporation Limited
American University of Afghanistan	CARE Cambodia	E&T Asia
Anhui Tainying Group	Caritas	Efficient Engineering
Antoree	Catalog Publicity	Emirates Technical and Safety Development Center
Aparajita Literacy Program	CBC Optical Industries-BD Co Ltd	English For Tomorrow
Artland Photography	CEB	ESOFT Metro Campus
Ashoka University	Center for Environmental and Geographic Information Services	European Parliament
Asian Floor Wage	Center for Injury Prevention and Research Bangladesh	Ewha Womans University
Asian University for Women	Center for Leadership Assistance and Promotion	Fagligt Fælles Forbund
ASSIST Asia	Center for Mass Education in Science	Falck Safety Service UAE
Astoria Values	Center for Policy Dialogue	Financial Express
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Backpack	Ceyoka Health (Pvt) Ltd.	Flextechs Nepal Pvt. Ltd.
BadClay Studio	Changing Stories	Florida International University
		FOCUS Humanitarian Assistance

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Fuse

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Government of Bangladesh

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Greenwave China Water & Air Solutions Senior Consultant

GRIHAYAN Ltd

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Gru Security and Detective Bureau

Gulf Flex General TRDG.L.L.C

H&M

Habitat for Humanity International

Hashoo Foundation

Ha Pvt Ltd

Health Coach

Heart Beat Organization

Herald College

Hebron Chamber of Commerce and Industry

High Peace Council, Mothers of Peace

Hootum Bangladesh Limited

Huawei Technologies

Humanity & Inclusion Sri Lanka

Toys-R-Yours Project

International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh

ICT Sector Development Project of Afghanistan

Identity Inclusion

Illinois State University

Imprint

Independent Joint Anti-Corruption Monitoring and Evaluation Committee

Institute for Research and Development

Innovations for Poverty Action

Institute of Policy Studies

Institution for Suitable Action for Prosperity

International Committee of the Red Cross

International Finance Corporation, World Bank Group

International Labour Organization

International Organization for Migration

International Rescue Committee

International Union for Conservation of Nature

Internews

Invest Nepal Pvt.Ltd

IPDC Finance Limited

Islington College, Nepal

Japan International Cooperation Agency

Jeeon

Jeevan TV

JLanka Technologies

Joint Institute of Innovation Policy

JPGSPH-BRAC

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Kalapas Biotech Pvt. Ltd

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Koide India

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Korea Eximbank

Kumon

Lalan Engineering Pvt

Legend Elastic Company

L'Oreal

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Marquette University

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Medecins Sans Frontieres

Medical Action Myanmar

Mekong Migration Network

Mass General Hospital

Ministry of Counter Narcotics, Afghanistan

Ministry of Health, Bhutan

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Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs, Bhutan

Monsoon Accessorize Limited

mPower Social Enterprises Ltd

My/Puthukkudiyiruppu Central College

Mutual Assistance Network

National Environment Commission Secretariat

Nepal Health Research Council

Neurosoft Technologies Limited

New York University, Abu Dhabi

New York University, Shanghai

Nijera Kori

Ninh Binh Seed Plants & Livestock JSC

NKSoft BD Limited

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Ogilvy and Mather

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OpenM Vietnam

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Pelchat & Gravel Investments Inc

PEPY Empowering Youth

Phase Nepal

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Promise Bangladesh

Promote:Women in Economy

PT. Kendal Industrial Park

Purkal Youth Development Society

Qatar Building Engineering Company W.L.L.

Quay Asia Ltd

ReThink Bangladesh Rethink

Reed Consulting Bangladesh Ltd.



Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit	Sunaulo Parivar Nepal	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
RENEW (Respect, Educate, Nurture, and Empower Women)	Sutherland Global Service	UNICEF
Renewable World	Swedish Secretariat for Gender Research	Unilever
RHSTEP	Taeyoung Engineering and Construction Company	UNIQLO
Rights Jessore	Teach For Bangladesh	United Nations
Rinzing Financing Group	Teach for India	United Nations World Food Programme
Robi Axiata Limited	Teach For Nepal	University of Colorado Denver-School of Medicine
Roles Association for Social Change	Teach Water Pvt	University of Illinois
Royal Educare Limited	Techuire Islamabad Pakistan	University of Malaya
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Rural Access Programme 3	Thames Water	Ural Federal University
S. W. Nepal Pvt. Ltd (Scott Wilson Nepal)	The American Corner, Sri Lanka	Urban Residential (BD) Ltd
SAARC Secretariat	The Asia Foundation	USAID Feed the Future Bangladesh Rice and Diversified Crops, ACDI/VOCA
Safe Child Thailand	The Embassy of the State of Qatar	USAID Initiative to Strengthen Local Administration
SARUS, Beyond the Border	The Jane Goodall Institute Nepal	Uttara University
Save The Children	The Learning Barn	Vacasa
Schneider Electric Energy and Sustainability Services	The New Indian Express	VF Corporation
Scope Global Pty Ltd	The NorthCap University	VNG Corporation
SD ASIA	The Norwegian Centre for ICT in Education	VSO
Search of Common Ground, Pakistan	The Skyscraper Now	Wageningen University
Shakti Foundation for Disadvantaged Women	The World Association of Chinese Elite	Wedu Organization
Shanmuga Maha Vidyalaya School	Thirst	Welthungerhilfe
Shenzhen Pattison Education Group	Tianjin Transways Limited	Women for Women International
Sibly Inc	TM Grow International Corporation	Women's League of Burma
Sihanouk Hospital Center of Hope	TMA Solutions	Work for a Better Bangladesh Trust
Singapore Institute of Clinical Sciences	TMF Group	World Bank
Skyscrapers Pvt. Ltd.	Total Credit Recovery Limited	World Health Organization
SMEC International Pty Ltd	Tradeasia International Pte Ltd	WorldLearning
Social Safety and Social Protection Organization	Training and Technology Transfer	World Vision International Cambodia
South Asian Partnership Nepal	Transparency International Cambodia	Wright State University
Sri Lanka Teachers' Service	Tropical Institute of Ecological Science	WSUP_Water and Sanitation for the Urban Poor
SSL Wireless Limited	Turkish Hope International School	WWF- Pakistan
Standard Chartered Bank	Two Acres Care Home	Young Power in Social Actions
Storrea	UK Cabinet Office	Youngone
Strategic Typhoid Alliance Against Typhoid in Asia and Africa	Ullens School	Yuwa India Trust
Strategy XXI	United Nations Assistance to the Khmer Rouge Trials	Z Publications
	United Nations Development Programme	Zygo-Ametek
	UNESCO	
	UN-Habitat	

\*This is not a comprehensive list

# OUTRAGE AT INJUSTICE

## Stepping Up to Social Reform

By Christina Tamang, Nepal, Class of 2017

After graduating with a Biology degree from AUW, I returned to my community to start a career in science. However, as I readjusted to life in the Nepalese community, I felt increasingly more uncomfortable with the way my society discriminates against people on the basis of their caste, class, and gender. This discrimination affects individuals' employment, education, and inheritance rights, but gender discrimination in particular leads to the exploitation and trafficking of vulnerable girls.



*"In Nepal, one girl is trafficked every hour. The notion that women are inferior to men, or that women are merely objects of male satisfaction, has given men an implicit license to take advantage of women in my country."*

### CHRISTINA TAMANG

Pictured right with Former Chief Secretary of Hong Kong and AUW Patron, Anson Chan

In Nepal, one girl is trafficked every hour. The notion that women are inferior to men, or that women are merely objects of male satisfaction, has given men an implicit license to take advantage of women in my country. Nepal's patriarchal society values sons as assets and negates daughters as liabilities, leading to discriminatory attitudes and behaviors. As a result, girls have fewer chances to access education and employment opportunities. Due to financial insecurity and social vulnerability, many Nepalese girls are lured into the trafficking trade. Most come from poor families in indigenous, lower caste, and minority groups.

**Unable to accept such norms, I chose to work for social reform.**

**Through my first job at Steps Foundation Nepal, I developed workshops for women to identify their strength and dignity and to mitigate stigma against menstruation in my village.**

Later I joined Nepal Jesuit Social Institute (NJSI), which supports infrastructure projects and vocational and empowerment training for disadvantaged people in 11 districts of Nepal. Recently, I initiated a partnership project between AUW and NJSI to identify 15 high-potential young women from highly trafficked regions of Nepal for admission to AUW with full scholarship support. As an AUW graduate, I am optimistic that the education and opportunities at AUW will equip these women with skills they need to fight trafficking in their communities. Having closely experienced the methods and consequences of trafficking, these women will be able to transform and channel their outrage into a movement to eradicate trafficking at its roots.

**2008:** AUW introduces Access Academy, a revolutionary, pre-university bridge program equipped to introduce students to the liberal arts curriculum.

**2012:** AUW begins to build relationships with Rohingya leaders in Myanmar with the hope of recruiting Rohingya students.

**2014:** Access Academy students begin to teach English to Bangladeshi street children as part of their service requirement.

**2016:** Pathways for Promise is launched as a recruitment-based program targeting the most marginalized populations in Asia.





*2016: The first cohort of garment workers enter into Pathways for Promise. Over 1,000 garments workers apply and 68 women enroll.*

*2017: AUW begins plans for recruitment of tea plantation workers in Assam, India and Sri Lanka.*

*2018: AUW holds admissions tests for women studying in Madrasas. Over 300 eager young women sit for the entrance exams.*



**Education is a human right.  
Its absence is an *injustice*.**

**Education makes a difference – in the life of a person, their family, and their community. It affords myriad opportunities – from labor market success to preparation for democratic citizenship and personal fulfillment. As the greatest equalizer, educational opportunities should not be allotted on the basis of arbitrary circumstances such as a person’s gender, ethnic background, or socio-economic status at birth.**

But what does “equality of education” look like on the ground? How can institutions make high-quality education accessible to women from the hardest to reach areas of Asia?

Since 2008, our response has been threefold: revolutionize the university admissions process, transform the region’s standard university curriculum, and invest heavily in financial aid. We actively seek students from communities that are difficult to reach by conventional means of travel and communication. From daughters of microfinance borrowers and garment factory and tea estate workers to Rohingya refugees; madrasa students; and women from the hill tribes of Bangladesh, India, and Myanmar, we work with community leaders to establish trust and ensure that our programs are relevant to their local context. We offer admissions exams and interviews in the students’ native languages to ensure that English is not a barrier to entry. And we seek indicators of leadership potential, such as courage, empathy, and outrage at injustice, that predict success better than any exam ever could.

Once our students are admitted, we enroll them in academic programs called **Access Academy** and **Pathways for Promise**, as needed, to ensure that disruptions in their primary and secondary education – such as forced displacement or extreme poverty – do not preclude them from succeeding in our English-medium liberal arts and sciences undergraduate program. Supported by scholarships, they are free to learn without the shame of being who they are, achieving their wildest dreams. **This is equity in action and it anchors everything we do.**

*“I want to prove that girls and refugees are just as capable in every aspect of life.”*

**HALIMA AKTER**

Rohingya Student, Bangladesh  
Class of 2020



*In an effort to level the 'learning' field upon which young women stand, AUW offers two preparatory programs: **Pathways for Promise** and **Access Academy**.*



*“My advice to young women is to look beyond what is present, to dream and to never be ashamed to dream, and to understand that we are worth more than what we receive today.”*

ASWATHY VIJAYAKUMAR  
India  
Class of 2013

Student from Syria



## MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN OUR SECOND DECADE

You can help us achieve educational equity. Full scholarship support for over 85% of our students ensures that each has the opportunity to thrive. For many, it will be the first time that financial status does not affect their dreams. Contribute to a student's scholarship today by visiting our website: <https://donate.asian-university.org/>



# PATHWAYS FOR PROMISE:

## Fighting Injustice Through Education

As a pre-university preparatory program that focuses on academic skills building, Pathways for Promise provides a bridge for highly-talented young women to claim the education that is well within their right but not within their means. This program employs targeted recruitment in the most marginalized communities and equips its students with the English-language and learning skills needed to flourish in our Undergraduate Program.



*"I feel like everything is possible now."*

### Tea Garden Girls Turn a New Leaf

On most tea gardens in India and Sri Lanka, tea pluckers and their family members live in dormitories near the garden. Space is crowded, sanitation is poor, and opportunities are few and far between. The eldest of three children, Pollovi Das Panika grew up on the Hokunguri tea gardens in Upper Assam, India, where her father works. This particular tea garden sources leaves for Typhoo Tea, the UK's third largest tea brand. Pollovi was able to attend a school run by the tea garden for secondary education but knew her options would be limited afterwards due to financial constraints. After taking the AUW entrance exam on the garden and earning a full scholarship, that financial barrier was entirely lifted and Pollovi's intellectual potential was free to flourish at AUW. "I feel like everything is possible now," Pollovi says.

**Pollovi Das Panika** | India | Class of 2023



- 1.1M** Workers on Indian tea estates
- 90%** Of tea workers harrassed by supervisors
- 4x** Suicide rate on tea plantations compared to area average
- 90%** Malnourishment rate on Indian tea estates
- 65%** Illiteracy rate on Indian tea estates
- 55 lbs** Tea picked per day by hand



### Beyond the Factory Floor

In Bangladesh, poor families often turn their daughters to early marriage when finances are tight; studies show that about 65% of Bangladeshi girls are married before the age of 18. Sometimes, employment is a preferred alternative to early marriage for young women - even if the job has issues of its own. When Rubina Yeasmin was 13, her father's sudden death prompted others to encourage her to leave



- 4M** Female Bangladeshi garment workers
- 11** Hours worked per day, on average
- 32¢** Minimum wage per hour
- 7** Years of education, on average



*"I never imagined this could happen to someone like me. It's a dream come true."*

school and get married to lighten her family's financial burden. But Rubina fought back-- she finished her high school education and moved to Dhaka upon graduating to work as a quality control inspector in a garment factory. Although the factory's minimum wage was barely enough to support herself, Rubina worked overtime to send money home, allowing her younger brother to go to school. When AUW came to her factory with the opportunity to apply for full scholarships, Rubina was the first to raise her hand. "I never imagined this could happen to someone like me," she says. "It's a dream come true."

**Rubina Yeasmin** | Bangladesh | Class of 2017



*"I feel like I am riding my way to success. There will be no looking back now."*

## Finding Refuge in Higher Education

Today, over one million Rohingya remain displaced between Myanmar and Bangladesh. The Rohingya are a Muslim ethnic minority group that has been living primarily in Myanmar's Rakhine State for generations. The Government of Myanmar considers them illegal immigrants and stripped them of citizenship in 1982. Since then, Rohingyas' experiences of neglect and human rights abuses have escalated significantly. When unrest broke out in Formin Akter's remote village of Rakhine State, she and her friends walked for four days and four nights through dense jungles and mountains to seek refuge in Bangladesh. If it rained, there was no other option than to be drenched. If there was food, it was shared; if there was not, they starved. Formin was frequently vulnerable to theft and sexual assault. Along the journey, Formin saw villages burned to the ground, distinguishable only by the remains of homes. She watched bullets fly through the air, some making lethal contact with their target, others narrowly missing. After days of walking, Formin finally reached the Naf River and boarded a crowded boat that would take her to the refugee camps in Bangladesh. Now 18-years-old, Formin believes that she can achieve her dreams at AUW. "I feel like I am riding my way to success," she says. "There will be no looking back now."

**Formin Akter** | Myanmar | Class of 2022



**52%**

Rohingya refugees from Myanmar are women and girls

**1M**

Refugees in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

**58K**

Rohingya women pregnant in refugee camps, as of March 2018

## PATHWAYS FOR PROMISE

**105**

**ROHINGYA STUDENTS**

**5**

**TEA GARDEN WOMEN**

**61**

**GARMENT WORKERS**

**19**

**MADRASA STUDENTS**

**4**

**YEMENI WOMEN**






Students from Palestine

## ACCESS ACADEMY: From Rote Learning to Critical Thinking

Access Academy is an essential step in our approach to creating leaders. Access Academy molds orators, team players, and critical thinkers. It teaches students how to learn and question assumptions. Through cultural programs, discussion-based courses, and a residential campus, students learn what it means to be a compassionate and engaged member of an international community. Students master academic writing in English, practice skills in quantitative reasoning, become competent in use of computers, and gain an understanding of world history. Additionally, Access Academy teaches martial arts lessons, ensuring that students become empowered in both mind and body. Access Academy teaches the qualities that are essential for the future leaders of our world.





*“I used to think in a very small box, but now when I look at a situation, I try to look at it from every angle.”*

**SUMAYEA SHAFIUL**

Bangladesh  
Class of 2018

# SUSTAINABILITY



*“When you try to treat just one issue — such as providing clean drinking water for a*

*single community — it can get overwhelmed by all the other problems on the list: poverty, disease, violence, sanitation, and climate change. We need something to treat these problems across the board — a silver bullet. For me and many others, that silver bullet is women’s education.”*

## **JACK MEYER**

Senior Managing Partner & CEO of Convexity Capital Management

Co-Founder of AUW

Chairman Emeritus of AUW Support Foundation


*An investment in AUW is the best use of a philanthropic dollar.* By investing in the education of women who live in the margins of society, we leverage their resilience, local knowledge, and outrage at injustice to solve a range of interconnected global issues, extending from hunger, health, inequality, and unemployment to economic stagnation, poor governance, and climate change. We improve their life outcomes and those of their families. We prepare them to lead fulfilling lives and to participate more fully in their communities.

Since 2008, our partners have supported AUW because this model of sustainable development works. Our partners have championed student and faculty recruitment, academic and leadership program development, and fundraising. Through their example, they have inspired the next generation of global leaders to outthink, out care, and outwork the status quo.

As we enter our second decade, we will continue to be bold. We will expand enrollment to 3000 students, invest heavily in science programs, and establish a lab school and graduate programs. To sustain this growth, we will construct our permanent campus, grow our endowment, and enroll students from all strata of society. Because AUW has always been a community effort, we will continue to engage partners who exemplify the ethical and innovative leadership that we seek to instill in our students — the kind of leadership that our world so desperately needs.







*"I no longer think just  
for myself, I think for my  
community and society."*

**NHU THI HUYNH NGUYEN**

Vietnam

Class of 2019

**Student from Myanmar**



## GOVERNANCE

Asian University for Women is governed by its Board of Trustees in accordance with the Charter of the University. The Board of Trustees bears the ultimate responsibility, fiduciary and otherwise, for the University's policies, programs and other activities. AUW is supported by a Council of Patrons who serve as public advocates for the institution. The University relies on a number of independently constituted but affiliated support foundations or groups incorporated in different jurisdictions to mobilize financial resources for it. An International Council of Advisors, chaired by the Nobel Physics Laureate Professor Jerome Friedman, provides counsel to the university on a variety of matters important in the life of the University. A Bangladesh Board of Advisors chaired by the Foreign Minister and composed of other senior Government representatives and civic and academic leaders help support the Vice Chancellor's agenda for institutional development.

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*\*ex-officio*

LIFETIME GIVING SOCIETIES

Fiscal Year 2002 – 2018

The individuals and organizations listed below have contributed to AUW with commitment and generosity over the years. We would like to recognize their impact by acknowledging our gratitude for their level of cumulative giving, as of June 30, 2018, shown in the societies below.

VISION SOCIETY

Cumulative Support of \$10 million or more

Jack and Beth Meyer

Stichting /IKEA Foundation

WISDOM SOCIETY

Cumulative Support of \$8 million to \$9,999,999

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

RESILIENCE SOCIETY

Cumulative Support of \$4 million to \$7,999,999

Anonymous

Fast Retailing Foundation/Tadashi Yanai

Open Society Institute/Open Society Foundations

United States Department of State and other Government Agencies

SERVICE SOCIETY

Cumulative Support of \$1 million to \$3,999,999

Abbott Fund/Abbott Laboratories Fund

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Kathy Matsui and Jesper Koll

Takeda Pharmaceutical Company

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

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Victor and William Fung Foundation

COURAGE SOCIETY

Cumulative Support of \$500,000 to \$999,999

Chevron Corporation

JPMorgan Chase Foundation

MetLife Foundation

Roy Y. Chen and Yuk Lynn C. Woo

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COURAGE SOCIETY

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Kathleen Pike

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MSST Foundation

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Cumulative Support of \$500,000 to \$999,999

The Government of Bangladesh

Dorsey & Whitney

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Google.org

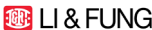
Mayer Brown

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP

Sotheby's

OUR SUPPORTERS

Since its inception, the success of AUW has been a community effort. In celebration of our 10th Anniversary, we are humbled to give recognition to all past corporate and foundation donors who have helped sustain this ambitious venture since planning began in 2002.





# ANNUAL GIVING SOCIETIES

July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018

We gratefully acknowledge support from the following individuals, corporations, foundations, and governments from the past year. The following giving societies are based on contributions in Fiscal Year 2018 and exclude pledges.

## IN KIND

Dorsey & Whitney  
FleishmanHillard  
Google.org  
Jack Morton Worldwide  
Mayer Brown  
MediaOutreach

## CHANGE SOCIETY

Annual Gifts of \$1,000,000 or more  
Takeda Pharmaceuticals

## EMPOWERMENT SOCIETY

Annual Gifts of \$500,000 – \$999,999  
IKEA Foundation  
UNIQLO

## IMPACT SOCIETY

Annual Gifts of \$200,000 – \$499,999  
MetLife Foundation  
Open Society Institute  
Tadashi Yanai  
U.S. Department of State – DRL

## IMAGINATION SOCIETY

Annual Gifts of \$100,000 – \$199,999  
Abbott Laboratories  
Donations from Hong Kong Gala  
Kapil Jain  
Richard Folsom  
The Colombo Plan  
U.S. Department of State – GWI  
Victor and William Fung Foundation

## JOY SOCIETY

Annual Gifts of \$50,000 – \$99,999  
AbbVie Foundation  
Green Leaves Education Foundation  
Levi Strauss Foundation  
Point72 LP  
Rubana Huq  
Taisuke Sasanuma  
Yidan Holdings Limited

## TRUTH SOCIETY

Annual Gifts of \$15,000 – \$49,999  
All Stars Foundation  
American School in Japan  
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Anthony Miller and Cecilia Melin  
Beedee and Ed Ladd  
Benjamin Ferguson  
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VF Asia Limited  
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White & Case, LLP  
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Annual Gifts of \$5,000 – \$14,999  
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Asia Alternatives Advisor HK Ltd  
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Karen Thomas  
Lisa Wong  
L'Oreal Hong Kong Limited  
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NPO Empowering Women Empowering Society (JKSK)  
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Spark of Hope Foundation  
Stacey Keare (Girls Rights Project)  
The Morrison & Foerster Foundation  
Tsumie Yamaguchi  
Walmart Foundation  
William Bruce Hicks  
Yumiko Murakami

## SUPPORTERS SOCIETY

Annual Gifts of \$1,000 – \$4,999  
Advantage Partners  
Alice Lin  
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Armel Cahierre  
Benevity Spark Support  
Betty and Bruce Alberts  
Betty Chen and Peter Coombe  
Canadian International School of Hong Kong  
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Chatherine Chou & Joe Carannante  
Christine Dunkle Edman  
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COSMO Health Care  
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Lady Sake Project  
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Yuen-San Setzer

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Annual Gifts of up to \$999  
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Akiko Maeda  
Akiko Shimada  
Alan Kearn  
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Alison Eaton  
Aliza Knox  
AmazonSmiles Foundation  
Amie Chen  
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Female Entrepreneurs Worldwide  
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Gary Hyman  
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Ichikawa Gakuen  
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Trista Bridges  
Tsukasa Takagi  
Verna Holder  
Vicky Fujii  
Vincent Duhamel and Anne Charron  
Wendy Cohen  
Yan Long  
Yasuo Kamei  
Yoko Chang  
Yoko Mueller  
Yoshie Toriya  
Yuto Doya

## AUW & ITS AFFILIATES, REVENUE & EXPENDITURE 2013-2018

The below table shows combined Revenue and Expenditures over the past 5 years of the Asian University for Women (AUW) and its affiliates.

\* Fundraising expenses include those incurred by the Asian University for Women Support Foundation and other Support Groups.

(in US\$ in 000's)

Year	Revenue	Expenditures						
			University	Access Academy	Pathways for Promise	Campus	Management	* Fundraising
2013-14	10,358	7,355	5,417	875		17	425	621
2014-15	3,047	6,150	4,155	866		1	406	723
2015-16	6,633	5,972	3,602	960			514	896
2016-17	10,341	6,387	3,543	679	490		442	1,232
2017-18	7,628	6,394	3,638	947	504		369	936
Total	38,007	32,258	20,355	4,328	994	18	2,155	4,407

Asian University for Women and each of its independently constituted affiliates conduct their separate annual financial audits. These audit reports are published on AUW's website and available for review from <http://asian-university.org/financials/>





## SUPPORTER COUNTRY BREAKDOWN FY 2018



**38%**  
JAPAN



**27%**  
UNITED  
STATES



**15%**  
HONG  
KONG



**13%**  
NETHERLANDS



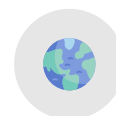
**1%**  
SRI  
LANKA



**1%**  
SWITZERLAND



**1%**  
BANGLADESH



**3%**  
OTHER

---

## SUPPORTER TYPE BREAKDOWN FY 2018



**34%**  
CORPORATION



**32%**  
INDIVIDUAL



**26%**  
FOUNDATION



**8%**  
GOVERNMENT

# HOPE

*"Our graduates and students have lighted a beacon of hope that is bound to stir every girl who faces opposition to her right to equal treatment."*



**KAMAL AHMAD**

Founder of Asian University for Women  
CEO of Asian University for Women  
Support Foundation

*More than ten years have passed since March of 2008 when AUW started its journey of educating young women from across Asia and the Middle East.* We set out to do what no one in the region had ever tried: create a liberal arts university of high standards that strives, in particular, to educate women from some of the most challenging backgrounds in the world. The task became even larger as we located AUW in a setting where an institution of its type was clearly needed but which remained hobbled by pervasive poverty, limited human resources and inadequate physical infrastructure. To operate effectively, AUW, in effect, had to create its own "city" with its own back-up utilities, security and health care. Although we started out with an enormous amount of goodwill and very generous seed supporters, there was no single benefactor who guaranteed the financial demands of an institution serving largely students who needed full aid.

Ten years on, we have graduated 750 women from 15 countries, most of whom are first in their family to enter university; our enrollment has increased from 130 from six countries to 800 in 2018 from 17 countries. We have gone deeper and farther in the last mile of human geography to find our extraordinary students. Our graduates have broken endless barriers to successfully enter careers in journalism,

human rights advocacy, banking and civil service in Kabul or Herat or Jaffna or Thimphu or Phnom Penn or Cox's Bazar, start their own enterprises, and enter into some of the most prestigious graduate programs around the world. Most significantly, our graduates and students have lighted a beacon of hope that is bound to stir every girl or young woman who faces opposition to her right to equal treatment. Our academic leaders and faculty have enthusiastically taught a student body like no other, both in their demands for learning as well as in the well of inspiration that they carry. Our Chancellor, our boards and other supporters hailing from many far-flung places have rarely let up even in the wake of our failures to meet expectations at times. Our host country, Bangladesh, and all its political and civic leaders, have unfailingly supported AUW. To all of them, AUW is deeply grateful.

As we look to our next decade, we will pursue six objectives: (i) we will continue to improve the quality of our academic programs through recruiting the most talented faculty and enhancing our learning and teaching practices; (ii) we will establish graduate professional programs in education; leadership & management; and environmental engineering; (iii) we will build out our academic and residential facilities (with all the requisite technological access) for at least 3000 students; (iv) we will deepen our ability to identify and recruit women from communities that suffer systemic injustice; (v) we will strive to ensure AUW's financial sustainability; and (vi) we will create and support an effective platform for AUW graduates to launch into their careers and other ambitions.

We hope in the ensuing years AUW will be the most desired higher education destination for young women from across Asia who have the talents and the commitment to change their societies. It is a tall order but we are confident that, with your support, we can achieve our goals.


Sincerely,

Kamal Ahmad

Founder, Asian University for Women

President & CEO, Asian University for Women Support Foundation





*"I want to show my father that becoming an Indonesian woman who is interested in politics will not hamper my career in the future."*

**MARESA GUMAY**

Indonesia  
Class of 2017

Student from Bangladesh



# A DECADE OF DARING

## 2008 - 2018

### AUW Symposia

**In the last decade, AUW has been a gathering place for innovative ideas and surprising solutions. Here is a glimpse of the symposia and conferences hosted by AUW:**

**November, 2002:** Asian University for Women Planning Conference at Wellesley College

**October, 2008:** Asian University for Women Inaugural Symposium, with discussions on 'Breaking Old Molds' & 'Womenomics and Ethics'

**September, 2011:** Changing Nature of Forced Migration: Vulnerabilities and Responsibilities in South and South-East Asia

**January, 2011:** Imaging Another Future for Asia: Ideas and Pathways for Change

**April, 2012:** Passover Conference: Reflections On The Self And The Other

### Looking Back: 10th Anniversary Symposium From Survival to Sustainability: Overcoming Challenges for Achieving a Just World

#### Featured Speakers:

**Dr. Izzeldin Abuelaish,** Professor at the University of Toronto and Founder of Daughters For Life Foundation

**Tawakkol Karman,** 2011 Nobel Peace Laureate

**Dr. Ismail Serageldin,** former Vice President of the World Bank and Founding Director of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina

**Pramila Patten,** Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and UN Under Secretary-General

#### Session Topics:

Persecution and Forced Migration  
Extreme Poverty  
Violence and Vulnerability  
Unequal Terms: Understanding the Impact of Gender Discrimination  
Art as Liberation; Art for Liberation  
Pathways for Promise



140 acres of land have been allocated to AUW by the Government of Bangladesh for our permanent campus, designed by world-renowned architect Moshe Safdie.

### AUW in the Media

"There was such a dramatic change in the status of women in Bangladesh...that it was ripe for the Asian University for Women. Women could not afford to stay veiled up at home. They responded to every chance." (Kamal Ahmad) -- *"The Education of Kamal Ahmad," The Boston Globe, 2008*

"Stepping into the university lets a person visit 'a dozen different countries all at once,' said Chogyel Wangmo, one of the 23 students from the mountain kingdom of Bhutan. "There are no prejudices, no assumptions." -- *"Deprived, but Full of Determination," The New York Times, 2012*

"She could not imagine her situation improving, until she was called to a meeting at the factory and learned of a scheme -- the first of its kind-- launched by the Asian University for Women to provide free university education to women working in Bangladesh's garment factories." -- *"Dresses to Degrees: University Opens its Doors to Bangladesh Garment Workers," The Guardian, 2016*

"The university has spent years working to gain the trust of the community's leaders, and Rohingya women now make up just under 10 per cent of AUW's student body." -- *"Asian University for Women Helping Rohingya Refugees Into Higher Education as it Marks its 10th Anniversary," The South China Morning Post, 2018*

### Honorary Degree Citations, *Honoris Causa*

**Henry Rosovsky,** *Doctorate of Humane Letters*

**Rula Ghani,** First Lady of Afghanistan, *Doctorate of Humanities*

**Anson Chan,** Former Chief Secretary of Hong Kong, *Doctorate of Law*

**Danielle Allen,** Harvard University, *Doctorate of Humane Letters*

**Leigh Morgan,** Chief Operating Officer of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, *Doctorate of Humane Letters*

**Tawakkol Karman,** Nobel Peace Laureate, *Doctorate of Humanities*

**Ismail Serageldin,** Founding Director of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, *Doctorate of Humanities*

### AUW Commencement 2018

In May, AUW celebrated its 6th Commencement Ceremony. The occasion marked the graduation of 183 students.

Vice President Emeritus of the World Bank, **Dr. Ismail Serageldin,** and Nobel Peace Laureate, **Tawakkol Karman,** received Doctorates of the Humanities, *honoris causa*, and delivered the commencement addresses.





*"I want to deeply say thank you for supporting us. Education is an important matter to brighten someone's future. We have been lit up, and we will shine in the future because of your contribution."*

**MAY KHINE PHYO SHWE**  
Class of 2019  
Myanmar

## JOIN OUR COMMUNITY

Help us sustain our efforts to build peace and prosperity in Asia one woman leader at a time! If you are interested in partnering with AYW to host interns, build academic programs, or otherwise, please contact Katsuki Sakai at [katsuki.sakai@asian-university.org](mailto:katsuki.sakai@asian-university.org).



Across Asian cultures, the lotus has come to symbolize enlightenment and rebirth. Native to the deep, muddy rivers of South Asia, the lotus blooms to beauty each night, unscathed by its harsh environment. We hold the lotus as a symbol of the potential in our students, and the growth that we hope to cultivate in them, regardless of the challenging waters from which they may come.

**Asian University for Women**  
20/A M.M. Ali Road  
Chittagong — 4000, Bangladesh  
Phone: +880-31-2854980-7  
Fax: +880-31-2854988

**Asian University for Women Support  
Foundation**  
1100 Massachusetts Avenue, Suite 100  
Cambridge, MA 02138, USA  
Phone: +1-617-914-0500  
Fax: +1-617-354-0247  
Web: [www.asian-university.org](http://www.asian-university.org)

