



ASIAN UNIVERSITY
FOR WOMEN

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to share with you the 2019 Annual Report of the Asian University for Women (AUW).

For over ten years, women representing a wide diversity of social strata, economic backgrounds, ethnicities, and religions have entered AUW's doors. Our students come from garments factories and refugee camps, cities and farmland, church halls and madrasas. Their passions range from epidemiology to moral philosophy, and AUW provides routes of exploration for interests even more unique than what they originally thought possible. After passing through the University's innovative program, one woman emerges: a leader.

We make exceptional happen by challenging traditional thinking and defying conventional boundaries. Our ability to transform lives and society underpins who we are and what we do. This year, we graduated our seventh class of students, creating an alumnae body of more than 800 young women. A large number of our graduates progress to higher studies in some of the top elite universities in the world, while others choose to work for non-profit organizations, private corporations, government agencies, teaching, and research institutes. Virtually all of our graduates return to their home countries, determined to be of service to their communities and the world.

This edition of the Annual Report focuses on the impact our graduates make as role models, pioneers, and visionaries. Their achievements would not have been possible without the 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.

We also take time in this publication to acknowledge, with thanks, all those external stakeholders who contribute to AUW's success. AUW has enjoyed tremendous loyalty from a wide network of alumnae and friends from across the world who support our students and faculty with great generosity of spirit. In the last year, AUW has been welcomed into new academic, corporate, and personal partnerships that allow us to continue to offer high-quality and equitable education to some of the region's most talented young women. New local non-profit and government partners have opened access to many marginalized communities of applicants, as well, knowing that leadership potential is not limited to any one population.

It has been my very great pleasure to serve as Vice-Chancellor for the last three years and see the University grow from its already strong position to a more agile and directed organisation, addressing successfully the compelling challenges of today. As we continue to move forward, we hope you will join us in our unrelenting focus on our mission to inspire enquiring minds and transforming lives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nirmala Rao". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'N' and 'R'.

Professor Nirmala Rao, OBE FAcSS

Vice Chancellor, Asian University for Women

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AUW looks for distinct leadership qualities in the most unexpected of places.

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“To love. To be loved. To never forget your own insignificance. To never get used to the unspeakable violence and the vulgar disparity of life around you. To seek joy in the saddest places. To pursue beauty to its lair. To never simplify what is complicated or complicate what is simple. To respect strength, never power. Above all, to watch. To try and understand. To never look away. And never, never to forget.”

–Arundhati Roy, from “The End of Imagination”

MAKING A LEADER

Written & Edited by Ingrid Lustig

ANYONE A CHANGE- MAKER

EVERYONE A CHANGEMAKER: ENDING THE NEW INEQUALITY

We all sense that society is at a profound, indeed historic, turning point. Turning points like this are one time, life-defining opportunities. Missing such a turning point is a big mistake.

Asian University for Women, itself a marvelous example of social entrepreneurship, enables those it touches to see and have the skills to seize and serve this transition.

To the degree that women do so, they can leapfrog ahead.

I hope this paper will help you see this turning point more clearly — and therefore be better positioned to seize the moment. Key for all of us, this is essential for any young person who wants to contribute in a world that in most ways even now is the opposite of what was the norm for many past centuries.

Here are two questions that will help you see the underlying forces at work: Why are income differences getting worse everywhere — regardless of the nature of the economy or ideology? Why are “us versus them” politics spreading across the globe?

Each country thinks local factors are to blame—but these facts are universal.

Here are two other universal facts: The rate of change and the extent and degree of interconnection have been accelerating exponentially since 1700. The demand for repetitive work has been falling exponentially since 1700.

In the past, value came from efficiency in repetition (think assembly lines and law firms). People learned a skill (e.g., banker or baker) and repeated it for life in a workplace with many walls. All this is dying.

Now, value comes from contributing to and adapting to change. In an everything-changing (and thereby causing all around to change) world, one must be a changemaker to play.

However, being a changemaker requires sophisticated skills that are almost the opposite of those required in the disappearing world of repetition. And an everything changing and therefore an “everyone a changemaker” world must everywhere be organized in fluid, open teams of teams.

Cognitive empathy is an example of the new skills required. One has to train one's mirror neurons (feeling others' pain) to work together with the cerebral cortex so that one can consciously understand the sea of interconnected, all-changing contexts in which we now live. This foundational skill then allows highly complex teamwork and the radically different leadership now required. Indeed, as change continues to accelerate, rules cover less and less. That means that anyone not guided by cognitive empathy-based mapping will hurt others and disrupt groups. Which means marginalization and failure. This is the first era when it is not possible to be a good person by diligently following the rules.

A large part of humanity is successfully playing in the new change game. They are doing very well. There is a bidding war for anyone with changemaking skills.

However, those who do not have these skills face the grim fact that demand is going away.

That's why income inequality is getting worse everywhere.

And that's why "us versus them" politics are fast spreading across the world. When society tells so many people: "Go away; we don't need you; it's your fault; and, by the way, your kids don't have a future," we are hurting them in the deepest way possible. And they respond with lasting fury.

The world, in other words, is being divided by what is increasingly being recognized as "the new inequality"—between those who can contribute in the new reality of a world defined by change—and those who cannot.

Can we tolerate a world so divided? A world that is so profoundly hurtful to so many?

I am sure that everyone in the Asian University for Women community has but one answer: "No!"

Let's all work together to build an everyone a giver, everyone powerful, everyone a changemaker world.

Bill Drayton
Founder and CEO, Ashoka: Everyone a Changemaker



AYW students from Timor Leste and Lao PDR

At AYW, we know that leadership potential is not bound to one particular population or community. In fact, we believe that exposure to diversity is essential to developing the skills necessary for steering meaningful change. Our student recruitment and admissions strategies are guided by a commitment to offering empowerment opportunities where few are typically extended.

RECRUITMENT

In the last year, we have collaborated with the governments or organizations of Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR) and Timor-Leste to recruit young women from remote, socioeconomically-disadvantaged provinces; ethnic groups; and other first-generation university entrants from these countries. Graduate excellence and an awareness of limited domestic educational opportunities have motivated us to intensify our focus on Cambodia and Palestine, as well. Wherever we go, local partners help us identify prospective students with a particular aptitude for change.

Oftentimes, the most effective and positive change is led by individuals within the community of need. This year, AYW began targeted admissions campaigns within the Bangladeshi madrasa system—a system of religious education that may not fully prepare students for the secular world—and regions of Nepal that experience high instances of human trafficking. These students are committed to creating sustainable solutions and movements of change in their communities as graduates of AYW.



ADMISSIONS

Admission to AYW is contingent on an applicant's propensity for leadership. In addition to strong academics, we look for demonstrations of empathy, courage, and outrage at injustice—three characteristics that we believe are essential for social leaders. AYW also offers full scholarships to all students who demonstrate financial need, ensuring that a young woman's potential is not hampered by her ability to pay tuition. All first-generation university entrants admitted to AYW are awarded full scholarships.

MATH & SCIENCE SUMMER SCHOOL

AYW seeks to empower female leaders not only from marginalized regions, but also within underrepresented professions. While more women are enrolled in university than ever before, women remain a minority in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields in every region. However, closing the global gender gap in STEM is crucial to empowering women economically and socially. This summer, AYW endeavored to augment the early interest of aspiring female scientists and mathematicians through an inaugural Math & Science Summer School. Powered by Chevron, the Summer School hosted 61 of the brightest female high school students from across Bangladesh to participate in an intensive five-week program focused on STEM subjects. The summer program helped equip students with the competence to excel in further STEM-oriented studies and careers.

DID YOU KNOW?

AYW is accessing remote communities in Afghanistan by partnering with a local mobile phone provider to send texts about application opportunities.

The curriculum of the Math & Science Summer School focused on Physics, Mathematics, and Statistics and emphasized critical thinking and problem-solving within the disciplines. These courses were taught by a cohort of international and local faculty with academic backgrounds from Stanford, MIT, Notre Dame, and the Russian Academy. The program included remote lectures by prominent international scientists and mathematicians including Alan Lightman (MIT), Bruce Alberts (University of California, San Francisco), Deborah Hughes Hallett (Harvard), Tim DeVoogd (Cornell), and Shomit Ghose (ONSET Ventures).

AUW partners with the Alliance Française of Chittagong to direct the AUW Choir, which will tour internationally in 2020.





CULTIVATING THE NEXT GENERATION

OUR DIVERSE STUDENT BODY:



Afghanistan	127
Bangladesh	465
Bhutan	37
Cambodia	7
China	3
India	26
Indonesia	5
Laos	6
Myanmar	88
Nepal	44
Pakistan	15
Palestine	1
Senegal	1
Sri Lanka	17
Syria	15
Timore Leste	5
Vietnam	17
Yemen	3

Asian University for Women's academic program is one-of-a-kind. It is inspired by the most successful liberal arts institutions in the world and adapted to support the university's unique population. At the core of the program lies our commitment to liberal arts and sciences as a pedagogy that fosters independent thinkers, bold researchers, and inquisitive citizens.

For those students from historically underserved communities, AUW offers *Pathways for Promise*, a preparatory program that delivers skills for confident global citizenship: English language fluency, cultural sensitivity, and social-emotional awareness. Most students begin their academic journey in Access Academy, where globally-oriented courses and an emphasis on critical thinking imbue students with a commitment to service. Students bring this passion into their undergraduate studies, delving deeply and courageously into topics that are often societally-censored, progressive, and immensely important. AUW's academic program is a formula that we believe cultivates many aspects of developing the next generation of leaders: an empathic outlook, a courageous spirit, and a service-oriented approach.

PATHWAYS FOR PROMISE

We know that leaders exist in all sectors of society. In 2016, AUW launched a pre-university preparatory program to make our education and empowerment experience accessible to women from the most marginalized communities. Women from garments factories, tea estates, Rohingya refugee camps, remote mountain villages, and conflict-affected countries such as Afghanistan and Syria join AUW through *Pathways for Promise*. With the right social, emotional, and academic tools, these students have the potential to affect large-scale change for their communities. Classes emphasize group work, creating a space for students to understand and develop their leadership style. Through intensive English-language courses, students are encouraged to express themselves, while also learning to respect and empathize with others' stories. Students gain critical computer literacy and mathematics skills, building the core of academic skills and personal qualities.

ACCESS ACADEMY

As the entry point for most AUW students, Access Academy plays a foundational role in acclimating students to the liberal arts and sciences pedagogy. The curriculum emphasizes critical thinking, problem-solving, and strategies for lifelong learning through courses that expose students to global issues, spanning topics such as vaccines, poverty, ethnic conflict, and genetically modified organisms. The pedagogy and subject matter work in tandem to cultivate purpose-driven learners and students who contextualize academic material within their unique personal experiences.



SERVICE LEARNING

AUW integrates service-oriented programs within its academic framework to promote socially-motivated leaders. In fact, one requirement to graduate is that an AUW student teaches at least five local children or illiterate adults how to read. This year, AUW established a weekend community school on the AUW permanent campus site, where students will gather to teach local children living just outside the campus.

PATHWAYS FOR PROMISE ENROLLMENT

-  19 Students from Madrasas
-  60 Former Garments Workers
-  11 Daughters of Tea Leaf Pickers
-  11 Students from Bangladeshi Indigenous Communities
-  103 Rohingya Students

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

Majors in **Bioinformatics; Environmental Sciences; Economics; Public Health; and Politics, Philosophy, and Economics** allow AUW students to engage with the most pressing issues of the day. Building on their critical thinking skills and moral system, students are encouraged to be brave in their research and writing. Across subject areas, AUW students speak up for what they believe in — gender equity, human justice, and societal advancement — and often take their passions out of the classroom through extracurricular activities and internships.



SENIOR THESIS PROJECTS

As a final year project, the senior thesis allows students to conduct unique research related to their major and compile it into a comprehensive, academically relevant report. Students embark on field research with the guidance of their professors, exploring the real-world applications of the theories they have learned and sharpening their critical thinking and practical skills. Below are a few senior theses from the Class of 2019.

Assessing the Influence of Human Settlements on the Plant Diversity in the Wetlands of Phobji and Gangtey, Bhutan



Pema chose to assess the influence of human settlement on the biodiversity in the wetlands of Phobji and Gangtey in Bhutan. She found that protected areas of the wetlands had more plant diversity than areas near human activity.

In the areas near human settlement, more invasive plant species were found, clearly pointing to the risks human activity poses to natural biodiversity.

Pema Lhamo

Environmental Sciences | Bhutan

Role of Male Migration on Female Empowerment

“I think this research helps in defining and refining what it is to be empowered for women, without having preconceptions about this word. Women themselves are the ones who define what empowerment is, and this does not necessarily mean resisting gender and cultural norms in society. It’s how women and girls find what it is that best meets their needs and interests.”

— Abreshmi Nowar

A curiosity about the dynamics of migrant workers in Bangladesh led Abreshmi to explore the impacts of their

work on women’s empowerment, specifically the women that stay behind. While expatriate workers in Bangladesh are generally men, she asked: where are the women? Her research looked at whether or not women’s empowerment was positively affected by men leaving the home. Her most important findings were around the concept of empowerment, noting that for many women who locate power and agency in their gender and societal roles, there is no wrong to it despite common perceptions.

Abreshmi Nowar

Politics, Philosophy & Economics | Bangladesh

Would the implementation of an absentee ballot system help prevent election fraud,



increase voter participation, and improve electoral legitimacy in Bangladesh?

“Without a doubt, I have departed from

AUW not only with a degree, but with several years worth of the most important development of my professional and educational life.”

— Tajkiya Ahmad

After experiencing first-hand the violence, insecurity, and voter fraud that plagued the last general elections in Bangladesh, Tajkiya was inspired to take a deeper look at the country’s voting and electoral systems. By conducting quantitative and qualitative research of a 300-person sample size, she found that there was almost unanimous desire for change towards a secure, electronic-based absentee voting system. Tajkiya began her Master’s in International Relations at the University of Sussex (UK) in September 2019, and hopes to one day continue her research on a larger scale to motivate stakeholders to reform the electoral system in Bangladesh.

Tajkiya Ahmad

Politics, Philosophy & Economics | Bangladesh

INTERNSHIPS

To engender our students with the professional, practical, and leadership skills needed to enter their careers well-equipped to effect change, they are encouraged to seek internships in non-profit, for-profit and entrepreneurial settings during their undergraduate years. Internships are completed in virtually every country that AUW draws students from, in addition to Hong Kong, Japan, the United States and the EU, thanks to corporate partners that recognize our students' talent and seek to foster their potential.

Mashiat Sharif / Bangladesh

Class of 2019 / Economics



“Mashiat was warm and interested from Day 1; asking pertinent questions, offering help where she could, and immersing herself in the company culture. Within a short amount

of time, this translated to a standard of delivery that surpassed her experience — writing, developing and delivering strong, engaging communications for colleagues across the team. Mashiat demonstrated her ability to be both proactive with her creativity, and reactive with her pace and prioritisation.” — Victoria Jackson, Group Head of Internal Communications, AIA

Thanks to Mashiat's support on a number of ongoing projects, **AIA Hong Kong** extended her internship past the initial eight week timeframe so that she could see her hard work through to finish. AIA has been a partner in the AUW internship program since its launch in Hong Kong in 2015, supporting internships for 14 students and graduates over the years.



Zannatul Munmun / Bangladesh

Class of 2019 / Public Health

After graduating from AUW in May, Zannatul interned for the brand manufacturer and retailer Englebert Strauss, where she learned everything from design and production to marketing and sales. Upon completion of her internship, Zannatul was offered a full-time role as a Trainee in their German office.



SEEKING INTERNSHIP HOSTS

Help us continue to build peace and prosperity in Asia one woman leader at a time! AUW is currently looking for organizations to host AUW students as interns. If you are interested, please contact our Center for Career Development & International Programs at cdip@auw.edu.bd.

EXTRA CURRICULARS

Performing Arts

Two elements central to leadership are confidence and self-expression. This fall, AUW bolstered its offerings of courses and programs in the Performing Arts to set the stage for students to build self-esteem and a sense of personal agency. Many AUW students come from conservative backgrounds where artistic or athletic activities may be frowned upon by their communities. Others may be burdened by experiences of trauma or instability. Courses in classical South Asian dance, narrative storytelling, and theatrical performance will offer these students a supportive setting to express themselves, learning to recognize, reflect upon, and articulate their personal stories within the discourses to which they are exposed at AUW.

Credit-Worthy or Not: How To Derive Ratings?

This fall, **Moody's Singapore** offered a remote course on Financial Ratings for AUW students. Sessions on 'Rating Sovereigns,' 'A Day in the Life of a Credit Analyst,' and 'Rating Structured Finance Transactions' complemented courses offered for AUW's Minor in Finance and Management.

East Asian Languages

This year, AUW began offering Korean and Chinese language classes (left) to prime students for internship and professional placements in some of Asia's business hubs.

FACULTY RESEARCH

AUW faculty are dedicated to advancing knowledge and engaging with issues of global and local importance. They are drawn to research because of its ability to contribute to society, whether their work is primarily theoretical or aimed at a direct application. Through the lens of their specific areas of expertise, they are actively conducting research, publishing papers, and collaborating with academics and practitioners around the globe. In addition to their research, our professors teach undergraduate courses and help nourish a learning-centred campus. From the perspective of our students, our professors are at the heart of learning at the institution.

Dr. Elena Popa (Romania)

***Assistant Professor of Philosophy | Ph.D. Philosophy,
Central European University, Hungary***



Dr. Popa studied philosophy of science, with a particular focus on the philosophy of psychology and cognitive science. Classroom experience and literature taught in lectures are the starting points of Dr. Popa's research. Topics such as liberal arts education in the South Asian context and cross-cultural

issues in the philosophy of science brings together the interdisciplinary nature of Politics, Philosophy, and Economics and propel her research endeavours. Dr. Popa's forthcoming publication aims to understand the concept of mental health and its normative implications within the context of the Global South.

Dr. Selim Reza (Bangladesh)

***Assistant Professor of Development Studies | Ph.D.
Migration, Flinders University, Australia***



Dr. Reza's field of research comprises of development issues in Asia including labor migration, remittances and poverty, labor recruitment practices, precarious work conditions, human trafficking, and human slavery. Dr. Reza's key

research interests span labor migration and employment relationship issues that are theoretically founded in the political economy of migrant labor and contingent employment practices. He is keen on academic research into the growing inequalities and exploitation of migrant laborers, as a working class, within the neoliberal economic and social model. Currently Dr. Reza is under a book contract with Taylor & Francis (Routledge), UK to expand his doctoral thesis into a book. He is an affiliated faculty member of the Global Labour Research Centre (GLRC) at York University, Canada. Dr. Reza is also currently involved in a research project on cross-border migration, trafficking, and human security of Rohingyas in Bangladesh.

Dr. Sharin Shajahan Naomi (Bangladesh)

***Assistant Professor of Social Sciences and Humanities |
Ph.D. Philosophy, Murdoch University, Australia***



Dr. Naomi is drawing on her extensive knowledge of gender studies and human rights to research the life story of Rohingya refugee adolescent girls. Her analysis of Rohingya refugee girls, through autoethnography and life story based

research, will give insight into the vulnerabilities and needs of this marginalized group of young women. In parallel, Dr. Naomi's forthcoming publication, in collaboration with the National University of Singapore, is titled, "Purdah in an in-between space: An auto-ethnography of a Bangladeshi woman." At AUW, she teaches Women and Autoethnography and Feminism. She challenges students to connect their personal narrative with feminist theories to understand the world through a critical lens.



*John Sexton, President Emeritus
of New York University,
will be the Keynote Speaker
at the upcoming 2020
Commencement Ceremony.*



Jack Meyer (middle), Co-Founder of AUW, accepts his honorary degree from Vice Chancellor Nirmala Rao, joined by Professor Henry Rosovsky (left) and Young Joon Kim, Chair of AUW Support Foundation (right).



Gita Gopinath,
Chief Economist at the IMF



Andrea Schenker-Wicki,
President of the University of Basel



Meesha Shafi,
Pakistani Actress and Singer

HONORARY DEGREES

AUW Honorary Degree recipients are role models of exceptional leadership in a diversity of fields. They are chosen for the growth and good that they have accomplished through their work, research, and passions. Past recipients of Honorary Degrees* from AUW include:

2016

Henry Rosovsky, Dean Emeritus of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences of Harvard University, Doctor of Humane Letters

2017

Danielle Allen, Harvard University, Doctor of Humane Letters

Anson Chan, Former Chief Secretary of Hong Kong, Doctor of Laws

Rula Ghani, First Lady of Afghanistan, Doctor of Humanities

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

2018

Tawakkol Karman, Nobel Peace Laureate, Doctor of Humanities

Ismail Serageldin, Founding Director of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Doctor of Humanities

2019

Rezwana Choudhury Bannya, Musician, Doctor of Arts

Mohammad Humayon Qayoumi, Minister of Finance and Chief Advisor to the President in the Government of Afghanistan, Doctor of Laws

Special Presentation: Jack R. Meyer, Co-Founder, AUW, Doctor of Laws

Upcoming on May 9, 2020

Gita Gopinath, Chief Economist and Director of the Research Department at the International Monetary Fund, Doctor of Laws

Andrea Schenker-Wicki, President of the University of Basel, Doctor of Humane Letters

Meesha Shafi, Actress and Singer, Doctor of Arts

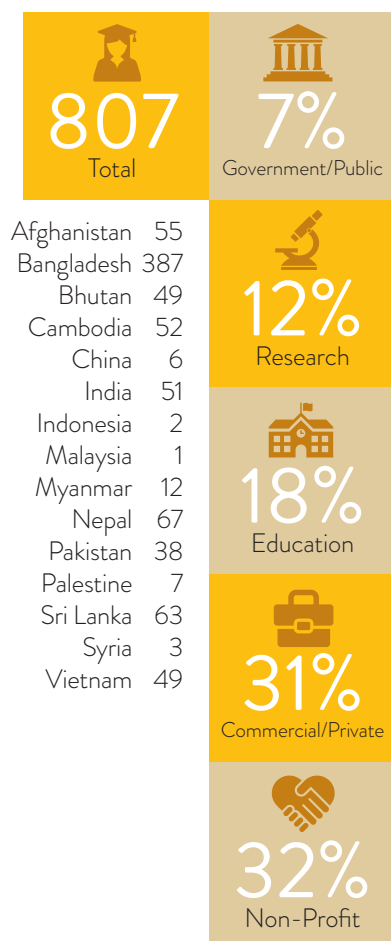
John Sexton, President Emeritus, New York University, Doctor of Humane Letters

**Titles written represent the titles held at the time of conferral.*

VISIONARIES IN ACTION

No matter where they land, AUW graduates are symbols of momentum and hope for their communities. We are proud to highlight a few exceptional graduates impacting their fields and to spotlight the full post-AUW picture of alumnae from Afghanistan, Bhutan, and Cambodia. In subsequent annual reports, we will spotlight graduates of some of the other 16 countries at AUW. Stay tuned!

OUR GRADUATES AND EMPLOYMENT BY SECTOR:



The **Lisianthus Manifesto** is a reflective, inspired, and public declaration of the beliefs and intentions of the Class of 2019. Written collectively by all members of the graduating class, it reflects what students have learned and become as students of AUW. It expresses what they believe in and what they will achieve as graduates, both in terms of service to AUW and the world at large.

WE ARE Lisianthus—100 petals of a versatile flower, sown together with the seed of unity, breaking the wall of stereotypes with our growth. Though we may have different roots, when we emerge from the dirt, we rise above all towards the sun.

Each year, the graduating class selects a metaphor to represent their community. This year, the AUW Class of 2019 voted to call themselves Lisianthus after a flower that requires specific conditions to germinate, but then grows into a resilient and bloomful plant.

We are shards of a fragment, hues of a colour, an assembly of the languages, dress, food and representations of our cultures. Different, yet so similar. One heart in different bodies; open hearts and fresh minds. We are sisters and daughters of the forgotten souls of an unjust world. Rising above all towards a new beginning like a wind that knows no border.

We are women. Fearless. Strong. Empowered. Liberated. Resilient. Rebellious and never settling for the ordinary. The innovatively creative. The changemakers. Those who are ready to fight injustice and be the voice of the unheard.

WE BELIEVE in standing up against discrimination; in pioneering a real Utopia, a world where gender, race, religion, and social issues are no longer barriers for who we truly are. We believe in disagreements; in voicing our true opinions to perfect the imperfect world.

We believe in justly ruling, not being unjustly ruled — shining like the brightest star, guiding the wandering humanity while sailing through the sea, to ultimately rise above all odds.

We believe our strong friendships ingrained the roles we will play on our lone journey — towards self-awareness, justice, compassion and love — that has just begun.

We believe that we have saved the best for last.

WE WILL be the guiding star: paving the way for a better world, setting ideals, and being the change we wish to see. One day, we will be in a position where people will look up to us as individuals who will be remembered by her name and work rather than someone's shadow. With our entrepreneurial spirit, we will take initiative for the unheard voices.

We will break the glass ceiling. Using the tools and skills gained at AUW and beyond, we will tackle whatever comes our way. We will be bold, ambitious, and independent women.

We will never stop asking questions like the way we do in our classes. We cannot change the whole world at once, but we will do our bits. We will take good care of our home—the Earth. We will stand up against the stigmatization of womanhood. We will stay true to our roots and never back away from challenges in the future to come.

We will always shine in dust and rust.

— AUW CLASS OF 2019



LEADERS ACROSS SECTORS

Since opening our doors in 2008, we have graduated more than 800 young women, 75% of whom pursue jobs in government, non-profits, or corporations; the remaining 25% advance to graduate studies at institutions around the world. In roles ranging from research and data analysis to environmental advocacy and sustainability consulting, AUW women are impacting organizations across industries and continents.

SUSTAINABILITY

Archana Somasekharan

Class of 2018 | Environmental Sciences | Sri Lanka

Archana has been working as an Environmental and Sustainability Consultant for Environmental Resources Management (ERM) for over a year, focusing on projects related to Contaminated Site Management across India. Armed with an Environmental Sciences degree from AUW, Archana entered the role well-versed in climate change and waste and water management issues. Within six months of joining, she was honoured with an Exemplary Performance Award for her project on Water & Materials Mass Balancing Exercise in South India.

REGIONAL ISSUES

Samasti Tandukar

Class of 2016 | Public Health | Nepal



Upon graduating from AUW, Samasti returned to Nepal with a role as the South Asia Regional Senior Monitoring Evaluation Accountability and Learning Officer for Renewable World. The organization aims to tackle poverty in

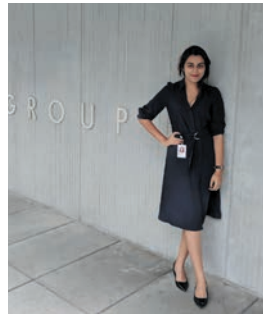
Nepal through affordable renewable energy technologies that provide services to improve income, health, and education in developing nations. Samasti leads the South Asia Team, studying the need for renewable energy in rural communities, monitoring existing projects, and conducting research on new renewable technologies that are being piloted by the organization. She is now working to

launch a program that is solely dedicated to school children; specifically girls and children with disabilities. By using solar energy to pump clean water into the schools and constructing disability-friendly latrines, her goal is to boost enrollment and retention of students who are at high-risk of dropping out.

ECONOMICS

Sabiha Subah Mohona

Class of 2016 | Economics | Bangladesh



Sabiha began her professional career at the World Bank in Dhaka as a Research Analyst in Macroeconomics, Trade and Investment in the Global Practice. During her time at the World Bank, Sabiha was involved in a project entitled “Modeling

Projection of Revenue.” Sabiha’s findings in the project report helped inform tax policy adjustments in the Bangladeshi government’s annual budgets, and this project marked the first ever attempt to model revenue in Bangladesh.

After two years with the World Bank in Dhaka, Sabiha was awarded a Women Lead Fellowship to pursue her Master’s at Johns Hopkins University in International Economics and International Relations. She is continuing her work for the World Bank in their Global Headquarters as a consultant, leading a project that analyzes the quality of World Bank models for forecasting GDP for all South Asian countries.

“My professors at AUW did not just teach me economics, research or whatever the syllabus dictated; they went beyond coursework to teach us what life dictates...When I flip through the newspaper sipping my morning coffee, I can relate the theories and principles I have learned with the policies being applied to the current and future economic state of the whole country.” — Sabiha Subah Mohona

ACADEMIC RESEARCH

Aswathy Vijakaykumar

Class of 2013 | Biological Sciences | India



Aswathy is currently a postdoctoral fellow at the Queen's University Belfast, working on a study involving dietary patterns and brain health. After receiving her Bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences, Aswathy pursued her PhD at

Ewha Womans University, South Korea in Nutritional Sciences and Food Management with a focus on Nutritional Epidemiology. As a postdoctoral fellow, she is currently analyzing data for a study on dietary intervention in elderly adults to improve cognitive impairment and decline. Aswathy hopes that her research will one day allow her to improve the quality of life for the elderly in India.

SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Alinery Lalngilneii

Class of 2015 | Environmental Sciences | India



Growing up in Mizoram, India, Alinery taught herself to read and write using hand-me-down books from her four older siblings. Upon her acceptance to AUW, Alinery was the first female from her community to study abroad, and

the only person in her family to be admitted to university. Upon graduating from AUW, Alinery reflected on the difficult start she had in her educational career — if not for her older siblings' school books, Alinery would not be where she is today. Alinery decided to support her hometown by building the first ever school library in her community. After knocking on doors to collect books, Alinery built her first library. To take her project to the next step, Alinery pursued an MBA from the University of Sussex in the United Kingdom as the inaugural recipient of the 'International Female Leaders' scholarship for MBA students. Alinery also started a social venture called

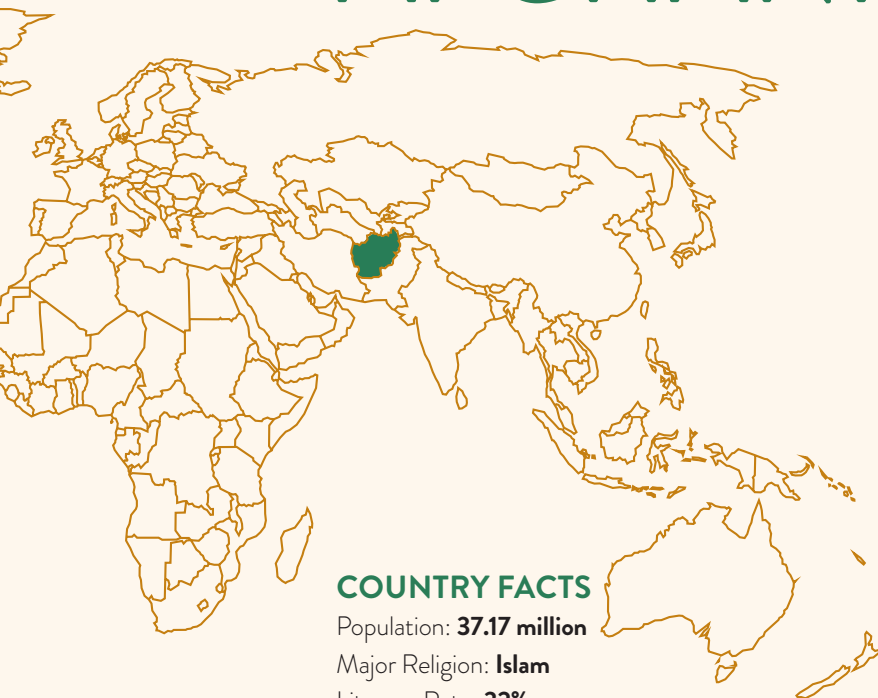
"Rochun: Pay it Forward," which establishes libraries in high schools and rural communities across Mizoram and runs a leadership academy and consulting program for youth with opportunities to connect with mentors, participate in international conferences, and pursue further and higher education.

"Alinery's work as a social entrepreneur is exemplary and I am impressed by her drive to set up libraries and empower young people in rural zones in India." — Isabel Fischer, Director of Internationalisation for the University of Sussex Business School and Course Director for the Sussex MBA.



Dr. Dipu Moni, Chair of the AUW Board of Trustees, former Foreign Minister of Bangladesh, and Minister of Education of Bangladesh, wishes AUW students well on their post-graduate journeys.

AFGHANISTAN



COUNTRY FACTS

Population: **37.17 million**

Major Religion: **Islam**

Literacy Rate: **32%**

Women with at least some Secondary Education: **11%**

Average Life Expectancy: **64**

COHORT FACTS

1 in 4 Afghan graduates have obtained a Master's Degree

8 Afghan graduates are currently working at the Afghan Ministry of Counter Narcotics

55 AUW graduates from Afghanistan

MURSAL HAMRAZ

Class of 2014 | Economics | World Bank Afghanistan, Gender Equality Officer

Mursal, the youngest of nine children, grew up in Kabul watching her sister secretly teach young Afghan girls in their home. When questioned by Taliban authorities on the frequent visits from neighboring girls, Mursal's sister lied, claiming she was only teaching from the holy Qur'an. Although it was a risk, Mursal's thirst for education motivated her to study in this secret school between first and fourth grade.

Mursal never lost this eagerness to engage while at AUW; she majored in Economics to cultivate her interest in developing economies. She volunteered at multiple local organizations to promote the rights and living standards of the underprivileged in Bangladesh. In 2011, she attended the US-Afghan Women's Council meeting in New York City as the AUW representative.

Since graduating from AUW, Mursal has made significant contributions to the advancement of women while working for and alongside the Afghan government. In her first job after graduating from AUW, Mursal co-organized a campaign against sexual harassment in the workplace in cooperation with her female colleagues at the Ministry of Counter Narcotics. Mursal's courageous and forward-thinking spirit then landed her a position in the Office of the First Lady of Afghanistan, where she sat in on meetings concerning women's issues, provincial problems, and youth affairs; and organized an Afghan Women Symposiums held by the office.

Currently, Mursal is employed as a Gender Equality Officer for the World Bank in Kabul where she helps to develop, strengthen, and track indicators that gender gaps are being meaningfully closed in Afghanistan.



JAN AFZA SARWARI

*Class of 2017 | Politics, Philosophy & Economics /
MA in Sustainable International Development at
Brandeis University*



Jan Afza grew up in a remote, mountainous village many hours from Kabul. In her first years of high school, Jan Afza and her sister would walk almost two hours to and from school each day. Ever dedicated to their education, the sisters would walk a distance apart, using the journey time to study; at home in the evenings, time was spent maintaining their family farm.

While Jan Afza was at AUW, many of her friends sought asylum in Europe as the political situation in Afghanistan worsened. Jan Afza, however, had hope for Afghanistan and in her ability to help her country through her profession. After graduating from AUW, Jan Afza began working for TetraTech on a project, jointly funded by USAID, called “The Initiative to Strengthen Local Administration in Kabul.” The aim of this project was to improve provincial governance in the areas of fiscal and development planning, representation of citizens—particularly women—and enhanced delivery of public services. This work built on an interest cultivated at AUW regarding the use of foreign aid to boost developing economies.

During an internship in South Korea, Jan Afza noted that strong national policies allowed foreign aid to boost the country’s economy; however, her own country was still unstable after significant injections of foreign aid. This fall, Jan Afza began a Master’s in Sustainable International Development at Brandeis University to delve more deeply into this topic.

CLASS OF 2014

Fatima Sabri, MA | Asian Studies
Kubra Panahzada | Economics | Entrepreneur
Marvah Shakib | Asian Studies
Mursal Hamraz | Economics | World Bank
Afghanistan, Gender Equality Officer

CLASS OF 2015

Amena Jafari | Politics, Philosophy & Economics |
Afghan High Peace Council, Field Coordinator
Fatima Rizae, MBA | Politics, Philosophy & Economics
| Creative Associates International, Education Research
Officer
Hakima Afzaly | Asian Studies | MA in Critical Gender
Studies, Central European University, Hungary
Latifa Ayazi | Politics, Philosophy & Economics
Masooma Maqsoodi | Politics, Philosophy & Economics
| MA in International Development Policy, Duke
University, USA
Najma Qurbani | Politics, Philosophy & Economics |
Afghanistan Center for Excellence, Consultant |
*As a consultant, Najma helps private stakeholders bring
about reforms to promote an entrepreneurial culture
and innovation in Afghanistan.*
Nargis Hajran | Asian Studies
Rabia Salihi | Politics, Philosophy & Economics | Danish
Refugee Council (Afghanistan), Program Specialist
Raihana Raha | Asian Studies | The Colombo Plan,
Project Assistant for Drug Advisory Program
Razia Rezaie | Asian Studies | Afghanistan Center at
Kabul University, Social Science Research Officer
Shekofa Muhebbi | Asian Studies | Ministry of Counter
Narcotics, Fellow
Sughra Amiry, MBA | Politics, Philosophy & Economics
| First Microfinance Bank (Afghanistan), Executive
Assistant
Zahra Rostami | Politics, Philosophy & Economics |
Independent Joint Anti-Corruption Monitoring and
Evaluation Committee; Vulnerability to Corruption
Assessment Research Officer
Zahra Saifey | Asian Studies

AFGHANISTAN (CONT)

CLASS OF 2016

Fariba Housaini | Politics, Philosophy & Economics | Ministry of Counter Narcotics, International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs Advisor

Fatima Hashimi | Politics, Philosophy & Economics | Canadian Embassy of Afghanistan, Political/Public Affairs Officer

Gulsom Mirzada | Politics, Philosophy & Economics | Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit, Research Assistant

Munira Hayat Sharifi | Politics, Philosophy & Economics | Canadian Embassy of Afghanistan, Assistant to Canadian Ambassador to Afghanistan

Mursal Juya | Politics, Philosophy & Economics | MA in International Social Policy at the University of Nottingham, UK

Nafasgul Arezo | Politics, Philosophy & Economics

Nazifa Alizada, MA | Politics, Philosophy & Economics | University of Gothenburg, Sweden, Administrative Assistant

Zainab Hassanpoor | Politics, Philosophy & Economics | Ministry of Counter Narcotics, Research Coordinator

CLASS OF 2017

Batool Askari | Politics, Philosophy & Economics | MA in International Development Policy, Duke University, USA

Fatima Saadat | Politics, Philosophy & Economics | American University of Afghanistan, Mentorship

Coordinator

Jan Afza Sarwari | Politics, Philosophy & Economics | MA in Sustainable International Development at Brandeis University, US

Mitra Hussaini | Politics, Philosophy & Economics | UN-Habitat

Parvin Hejran | Politics, Philosophy & Economics | MA in Governance and Economics at OSCE Academy, Kyrgyzstan

Raihana Saidy | Politics, Philosophy & Economics | Norwegian Refugee Council (Afghanistan), Executive Assistant to the Country Director

Shaiesta Ehsani | Economics | Khatib & Alami, Stakeholder Coordinator

Tahmina Raoufi | Politics, Philosophy & Economics

CLASS OF 2018

Farishta Afzaly | Politics, Philosophy & Economics | Afghanistan Cartoon and Satire Club, Board Member

Through her work, Farishta promotes critical journalism, freedom of the press and expression through cartoons and satire writing.

Fatema Hosseini | Economics

Fatima Muradi | Politics, Philosophy & Economics | Ministry of Counter Narcotics, Fellow

Hosai Barakzay | Politics, Philosophy & Economics | Ministry of Counter Narcotics, Associate Research and Policy-Making Fellow

Khadija Hussaini | Politics, Philosophy & Economics | Norwegian Refugee Council (Afghanistan), Program Coordinator

Maryam Alizada | Economics | Flexibility and Implementation Assessment Team (FIAT), Report Specialist

Marzia Habibi | Economics

Marzia Saramad | Politics, Philosophy & Economics | Ministry of Counter Narcotics, Fellow

Masouda Qasimi | Economics | Women for Afghan Women, Finance Fellow

Najia Ibrahimi | Politics, Philosophy & Economics | Ministry of Counter Narcotics, Fellow



Farishta Afzaly (right) cooks with friends as a student in an AUW student lounge.



As President of the Women Across Borders Club, Shekeba (center, in a blue headscarf) and her peers provided education to children deprived of formal schooling in slum regions and orphanages of Chittagong.

Shekeba Ahmadi | Politics, Philosophy & Economics |
The Liaison Office, Junior Research Officer

Shekeba works with this non-governmental organization to promote Research, Peace-building, Justice, and Livelihood in Afghanistan.

Tooba Shahsawar | Economics

Zahra Rezai | Economics | Ministry of Counter Narcotics

Zeinab Noori | Politics, Philosophy & Economics

CLASS OF 2019

Aziza Roshani | Politics, Philosophy & Economics |
Afghanistan Public Policy Research Organization

This summer, Aziza completed an internship with the French Institute for International and Strategic Affairs in Paris, France.

Batool Behnam | Environmental Sciences | World Vision (Afghanistan)

Friba Kaiwan | Politics, Philosophy & Economics |
The Asia Foundation, Fellow

Shagufa Habibi | Economics | Women for Afghan Women, New York City, USA

Shayan Nazary | Public Health | Ministry of Counter Narcotics, Fellow

Yalda Battori | Public Health | World Vision (Afghanistan)

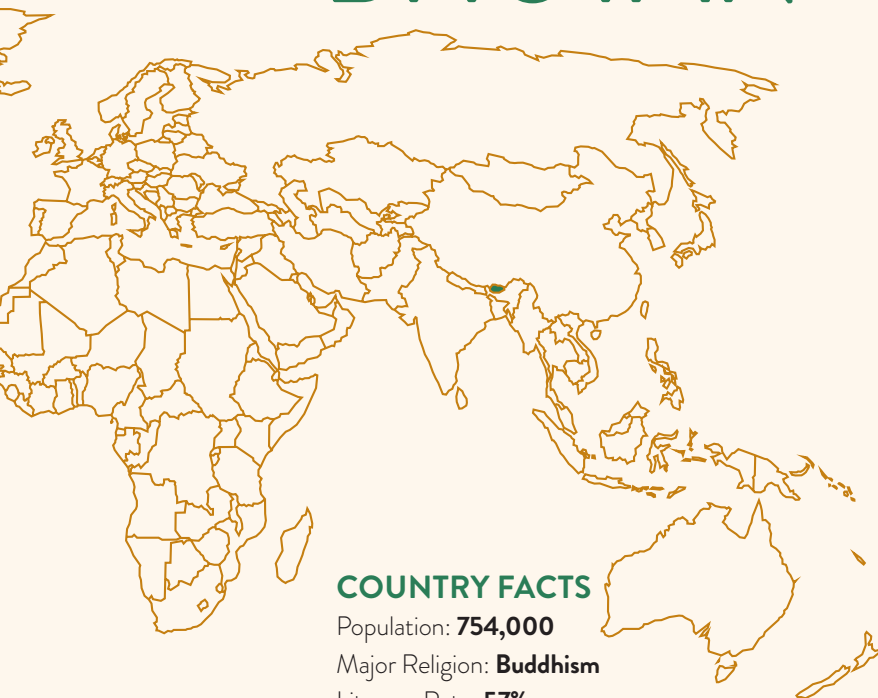
Zainab Bakhshi | Public Health | Ministry of Public Health, Fellow

**Please note that all graduate information is self-reported.*

Shagufa Habibi accepts her diploma from Chancellor Cherie Blair (left) and Vice Chancellor Nirmala Rao (right).



BHUTAN



COUNTRY FACTS

Population: **754,000**

Major Religion: **Buddhism**

Literacy Rate: **57%**

Women with at least some Secondary Education: **6%**

Average Life Expectancy: **71**

COHORT FACTS

2/3rds of Bhutanese graduates majored in Public Health or Environmental Sciences

7 Bhutanese alumnae currently working in the Bhutanese Ministry of Health

48 AUW graduates from Bhutan

UGYEN TSHOMO

Class of 2016 | Environmental Science | National Environment Commission Secretariat, Assistant Environment Officer, Waste Management Division

After graduating from AUW, Ugyen earned two competitive positions in the Academic Affairs Department at the Royal Thimphu College, Bhutan, and the Gross National Happiness Commission Secretariat. In 2017, she was one of 3,000 Bhutanese graduates to take the Royal Civil Service Examination, hoping that this distinction would help her advance a career in environmental science. Ugyen scored a perfect mark on the exam, an achievement she credits to her undergraduate education.

As an Assistant Environment Officer, Ugyen is currently managing a project called Waste and Climate Change. This effort aims to strengthen the capacity of Bhutan, Mongolia, and Nepal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other climate pollutants. “I aspire to reach communities through bottom-up approaches integrated within the top-down approaches as a policy maker and environmental advocate,” says Ugyen. Ugyen’s organization was recently recognized for its waste-removal initiative called the Zero Waste Hour. Since the start of the campaign, in which volunteers across Bhutan dedicate one hour per month to mass clean up, volunteers have collected about 24.4 metric tons of solid and organic waste. With the intention of achieving a Zero Waste Society by 2030, Ugyen and the National Environment Commission Secretariat work to change the public’s attitude and habits toward waste generation, as well as to reduce waste generation at its source.

“AUW has equipped me with job-based skills that are [critical] in my current job,” says Ugyen. “For instance, research proposal writing skills, intensive writing classes, oral presentations, work-study programs, summer internship programs, and closely working with professors as a research assistant and thesis advisee.” — Ugyen Tshomo



CHOGYEL WANGMO

Class of 2013 | Environmental Science | College of Natural Resources, Royal University of Bhutan, Lecturer



After graduating from AUW, Chogyel earned a Lecturer position at the College of Natural Resources, Royal University of Bhutan. There, she helped develop the B.Sc. Environment and Climate Science program, which launched in 2015. Chogyel led the Environment and Climate Science program for four years while also pursuing her post graduate diploma in higher education from Samtse College of Education, Bhutan. Currently, Chogyel is in the final year of a second Master's in Forestry and Environment with AgroParisTech and University of Lorraine, Nancy, France. She hopes to continue her education through a PhD, collaborating with international universities and organizations in the field of environmental sciences.

“Studying at AUW has equipped me with the confidence and determination to continue working and developing myself so that I can be in a better position to help others. My learning has not stopped after AUW, and I am grateful that AUW provided me with a multicultural, interdisciplinary social and learning environment. My experience at AUW has enabled me to have the strength to adapt to and overcome different challenges in my life.” — Chogyel Wangmo

CHONEY DEMA

Class of 2018 | Public Health | Ministry of Health, Assistant Program Officer

Out of Choney's eight siblings, she is the first to attend a university. Choney's interest in applying to AUW stemmed from many reasons. “I really liked the idea of a liberal arts university,” she says. “Being in a country like Bhutan, which is still at the verge of developing in terms of the educational system, we are rarely encouraged to choose what we want to study. I was also amazed at the idea of a girls' college. Being alongside other girls from other Asian countries, getting to learn new cultures every day, and most importantly, standing together to become women leaders in our respective countries really opened my eyes.” While at AUW, Choney completed her senior thesis in Public Health on “Language Development in Children of Ages 18-35 months in Thimpu, Bhutan.” Over one year, she surveyed 150 participants from Thimpu and worked with supervisors from AUW and Bryn Mawr College, Pennsylvania. Currently, Choney is working as an Assistant Program Officer in the Ministry of Health in Bhutan.

CLASS OF 2013

Chogyel Wangmo | Environmental Sciences | MSc in Forestry and Environment at AgroParisTech and University of Lorraine, France

Kelzang Wangmo | Environmental Sciences | Gross National Happiness Commission Secretariat, Project Coordination Officer

CLASS OF 2014

Deki Peldon | Politics, Philosophy & Economics | College of Language and Cultural Studies, Royal University of Bhutan, Lecturer

Tshering Eudon, MA | Politics, Philosophy & Economics | Gross National Happiness Commission Secretariat, Project Officer

Yangchen Lhamo | Environmental Sciences | ELC High School, Teacher

Yangdon | Public Health | Ministry of Health, Program Officer

Jamyang Choden | Public Health | Ministry of Health, Program Officer



Bhutanese students

CLASS OF 2015

Dechen Zangmo | Politics, Philosophy & Economics

Dorji Om, MBA | Politics, Philosophy & Economics |
Druk Holding & Investment, Associate Analyst

Tshering Denkar | Environmental Sciences | RENEW
(Respect, Educate, Nurture, and Empower Women),
Field Officer

Yogeeta Dahal, MPP | Environmental Sciences |
College of Natural Resources, Royal University of
Bhutan, Associate Lecturer

Pema Lhamo | Public Health | Ministry of Health,
Program Officer

*"AUW turned me into a professional woman, and this is
the reason I am where I am today. Now, I am part of the
policy makers in Bhutan. I am bringing changes to my
country."*

Pema Yangzom | Public Health | Ministry of Health,
Program Officer

CLASS OF 2016

Wangchuk Dema | Environmental Sciences | Ministry
of Home and Cultural Affairs, Gewog Administration
Officer

Kencho Zam | Public Health | RENEW, Assistant
Program Officer

*Kencho works to empower survivors of domestic, sexual,
and gender-based violence in Bhutan.*

Tandin Pem | Environmental Sciences | Bhutan
Simpatico Travels, Manager

Tandin Zangmo | Asian Studies | Drukair Corporation
Limited, Assistant Officer- Ticketing and Reservation

Ugyen Tshomo | Environmental Sciences | National
Environment Commission Secretariat, Project Manager
for Waste and Climate Change Projects

Sarala Pradhan (left) at Commencement 2019.

CLASS OF 2017

Dorji Wangmo | Environmental Sciences

Karma Pema Wangmo | Environmental Sciences

Karma was selected to represent Bhutan at the Asia Pacific Youth Parliament for Water in Korea in 2017.

Tenzin Wangmo | Environmental Sciences |

Changzamtog Lower Secondary School

Thinley Wangmo | Public Health

Seldon | Economics | Ministry of Education, Primary School Teacher

CLASS OF 2018

Chhimi Lhamo | Environmental Sciences

Chimi Dema | Environmental Sciences

Chimi Yuden | Public Health | Ministry of Economic Affairs, Economic Development Officer

Choki Wangmo | Economics

Leingdrön Tshomo | Politics, Philosophy & Economics

Sonam Yangki | Politics, Philosophy & Economics | English Language Teacher in Thailand

Tashi Tshomo | Politics, Philosophy & Economics

Tashi Wangmo | Economics

Tshering Zam | Politics, Philosophy & Economics

Chandra Wati Nirola | Public Health | Ministry of Health

Choney Dema | Public Health | Ministry of Health, Assistant Program Officer

Kinley Yangzom | Environmental Sciences | AFCONS Infrastructure Limited, Junior Environmental Officer

Lisha Subba | Public Health | Preparing for the Royal Service Examination

Sonam Wangden | Public Health | Jigme Dorji Wangchuk National Referral Hospital, Program Officer

Ugyen Dema Dorji | Public Health | Ministry of Health, Assistant Program Officer



CLASS OF 2019

Kinley Zam | Environmental Sciences | Applying for a Masters in Environmental Science and Business

Kinley aims to start her own sustainability enterprise that turns waste products into biodegradable materials.

Dawa Zam | Public Health

Tshering Yangdon | Public Health | Nazhoen Career Kinley Bidha | Public Health

Sarala Pradhan | Politics, Philosophy & Economics | The Ritz Carlton Hotel Company (India), Sales Executive

Passang Dema | Public Health

Kinzang Yangden | Public Health | Manulife (Hong Kong) | Intern

Sonam Deki | Public Health | Manulife (Hong Kong) | HR Intern

Ugyen Samdrup Lhamo | Politics, Philosophy & Economics

Choki Dolkar | Public Health

Pema Lhamo | Environmental Sciences



Dawa Zam (middle, red shirt) participates in a student government meeting during her first undergraduate year.

**Please note that all graduate information is self-reported.*

CAMBODIA



COUNTRY FACTS

Population: **16.25 million**

Major Religion: **Buddhism**

Literacy Rate: **74%**

Women with at least some Secondary Education: **15%**

Average Life Expectancy: **69**

COHORT FACTS

44% of Cambodian graduates pursued Master's degrees

50% of Cambodian alumnae majored in Public Health

17 A UW graduates from Cambodia

DUTH KIMSRU

Class of 2013 | Politics, Philosophy & Economics



Duth Kimsru comes from a Cambodian village of only 50 families. There was no electricity, running water, or a hospital; the local school only taught students up to Grade 6. In order to afford her schooling when she was growing up, Kimsru helped with her mother's second job, laundering neighbors' clothing by hand. In her final year of high school, Kimsru was given a brochure for A UW's Access Academy, which showed photos of women of many nationalities doing science experiments and using computers. "The brochures were written in English," Kimsru

remembers, "and I knew only a little bit [of] English. But, I was so excited at the pictures that I had seen, that I sat with the brochures and an English dictionary to check almost every word until I could understand what it said." When Kimsru enrolled in A UW, majoring in Politics, Philosophy, and Economics, she was the first person in her family to attend university.

In March of 2018, Kimsru was selected as one of ten emerging leaders of Southeast Asian nations to meet with Barack Obama, former president of the United States. After receiving a Master's in International Development, Environment, and Conflict from City University in Dublin, Kimsru was recognized for her work with Cambodian youth as a Project Coordinator for the non-profit Promoting Education Empowering Youth (PEPY). Her next venture involves integrating new medical supply chains into Cambodia from other nations to ensure that those in rural parts of her country have access to better quality healthcare products.

"The knowledge and skills I gained from A UW allow me to create real impact through my work," Kimsru says. "A UW has shown me the power of education."

SAREN KEANG

Class of 2014 | Asian Studies



Saren Keang is the daughter of a sugar-maker and organic foods seller who had survived the Khmer Rouge genocide as well as the Cambodian civil war. Her parents' eldest daughter had to drop out in the fourth grade to support their family, but Saren's teachers convinced her parents to let her stay in school. After graduating from A UW, Saren pursued a dual Master's degree in Sustainable

International Development and Coexistence & Conflict at Brandeis University. Her research looked at the state policies of ethnic recognition in Cambodia and Myanmar, particularly as they relate to the Vietnamese minority in Cambodia and the Rohingya in Myanmar. Saren now conducts research at Nuppun Economic Research and Consulting.

SREYMOM POL

Class of 2013 | Public Health



Born in Kampong Thom Province in Cambodia, Sreymom is the youngest of five siblings, brought up by her mother after losing her father at a young age. After learning about AUW from an advertisement on a school bulletin, she applied and was accepted on full scholarship. Sreymom began working as a research assistant at the Angkor Hospital for Children in Cambodia after graduation, and was soon running her own projects on antibiotic resistance and research ethics. After four years with the hospital, she applied for her Master's and is now studying International Health and Tropical Medicine at Oxford University. Upon completing her program, she will return to Cambodia to join the Siem Reap COMRU (Cambodia Oxford Medical Research Unit) as a researcher, continuing her focus on antibiotic resistance.

CLASS OF 2013

Endear Van | Politics, Philosophy & Economics | E&T Asia (Cambodia), CEO

Eng Sreymom | Public Health

Hour Samouy | Politics, Philosophy & Economics

Ney Someta | Computer Science | Freelance Translator, Cambodia

Res Phasy | Politics, Philosophy & Economics

Sorya Seang | Public Health

Duth Kimsru | Politics, Philosophy & Economics | PEPY Empowering Youth, Program Manager, Cambodia

Sreymom Pol, MA | Public Health | Cambodia Oxford Medical Research Unit (UK), Research Assistant

CLASS OF 2014

Duong Leakena | Politics, Philosophy & Economics | World Vision International (Cambodia), Youth Specialist

Oy Sreymom, MA | Public Health | MPH, UCLA Fielding School of Public Health

Sreymom researches maternal and childhood nutrition and the implementation of vaccination programs.

Vylyny Chat | Public Health | PhD Candidate in Epidemiology, New York University, USA

Saren Keang, MA | Asian Studies | Nappun Research and Consulting, Research

Saren earned two Master's degrees from Brandeis University in Sustainable International Development and Conflict Resolution and Coexistence. She is currently also managing her own passion project to empower rural school girls in Cambodia.

CLASS OF 2015

Rasmeykanyka Bin | Politics, Philosophy & Economics | Konrad Adenauer Foundation (Cambodia), Program Manager

CLASS OF 2016

Ly Chhay Loem | Politics, Philosophy & Economics | GmbH, Advisor

CLASS OF 2018

Rithea Reth Leang | Politics, Philosophy & Economics | Entrepreneur

CLASS OF 2019

Choronai Reth Leang | Economics | Point72 (Hong Kong), Intern

Sreymom Sen | Environmental Sciences

**Please note that all graduate information is self-reported.*



Saima Siddiq | Program Assistant, World Food Program | AUW Class of 2016 | Economics

CREATING A NEW GENERATION OF HUMANITARIAN LEADERS

“I currently work at the World Food Program in the Partnerships Unit, where I manage various partnerships with NGOs to implement programs for the Rohingya community. The AUW community in Cox’s Bazar is full of young, lively, energetic, hardworking girls who are creating an impact through their work, whether it is field-based work or office-based work. I have complete faith in them; they will be able to create a lasting change in the Rohingya community and elsewhere.” — Saima Saddiq

Since 2017, nearly a million Rohingya people have fled systematic discrimination and targeted violence in Myanmar to seek refuge across the border in Bangladesh. Many arrive in Cox’s Bazar, a port city on the southeast coast of Bangladesh, in desperate need of emergency food, medical care, and protection. Those fleeing the most recent spur of violence joined almost 300,000 people already in Cox’s Bazar from previous waves of displacement, effectively forming the world’s largest refugee camp. This unprecedented number of refugees has caused a humanitarian crisis.

AUW cultivates a culture of empathy and understanding in students, empowering them to go back to their communities to make a positive impact. Currently more than 45 alumnae are working in the Rohingya refugee camps, at organizations including the UNHCR, World Food Program, Translators without Borders, the International Committee of the Red Cross. Their work includes response to sexual and gender based violence, translations services, protection of refugee rights, health and hygiene maintenance and more. AUW alumnae stand out in remarkable ways as they contribute to resolving the crisis with their strong humanitarian spirit and professional skills.

PETER GUEST

Emergency Coordinator | WFP Rohingya Refugee Response

“[AUW alumnae working for the World Food Program] possess immense confidence and knowledge that has been an absolute asset to our work here and made us want to reach out to the University to find out more about what makes these graduates who they are.”

ANJUMAN TANHA

Humanitarian Officer, BBC Media Action |
AUW Class of 2018 | Politics, Philosophy & Economics

“[At BBC Media Action], we use communications and media as a tool to enhance the capacities of the communities. I can very much translate my AUW education [to my work] because in our classes, we used to engage in constructive discussions; we used to question the policies and think through the system. So, when I’m working here, I can find myself in a similar place where I am critically thinking.”

This fall, Anjuman will begin her Masters in Refugees and Forced Migration from the University of Oxford.

Mrittika Barua | Emergency Coordinator's Assistant,
World Food Program | AUW Class of 2018 | Computer Science

SAIBA SAHIRA

Field Monitoring Assistant, World Food Program |
AUW Class of 2018 | Politics, Philosophy & Economics

“AUW gave us an opportunity to explore ourselves and get involved with working at organizations like the United Nations World Food Program. It built our ideas around how we can contribute to humanity. This motivation that I get from AUW is what drives me to go and work to benefit people.”

SHAGUFTA TAZIN SHATHY

Senior WASH (Water, Sanitation, Hygiene, Health)
Assistant, UNHCR | AUW Class of 2019 | Environmental Sciences

“The main change that I made in the whole unit is that I’m the first woman to work in the WASH unit at UNHCR [Bangladesh].”





THE RIPPLE EFFECT

In an institution of leaders, a drop of support creates ripples of change. We are grateful to the international network of partners, supporters, and advocates who catalyze A UW student and graduate success.

TOGETHER FOR GOOD

The **University of Cambridge** (United Kingdom) has recognized the A UW undergraduate degree as a qualification for entry into its postgraduate programs of study. A UW graduates will now be eligible to apply directly upon completion of their undergraduate degree to a range of subjects offered by Cambridge.

McGill University (Canada) and A UW will also collaborate on an inaugural, joint McGill-A UW Fellows program. Recent doctoral students from McGill will teach for one year at A UW in the subjects of Computer Science, Economics, History, Literature, or Physics.

In early 2019, A UW was awarded the prestigious 2018 ERASMUS 'Capacity Building in Higher Education' Grant from the European Union. With this grant, A UW will collaborate with the **BRAC School of Public Health, the Institute of Development at the University of Sussex, and The University of Maastricht** in the Netherlands on a project called "Transformative Competency-Based Public Health Education for Professional Employability in Bangladesh's Health Sector."

University students in the US and UK have committed themselves to campus-to-campus support as Student Ambassadors of Asian University for Women. Groups from **Carnegie Mellon, Tufts, Duke, Imperial College London, Santa Clara, and Wellesley** held fundraising and advocacy events in honor of A UW on International Women's Day 2019. Many of these students are part of the **WHEN Alliance**: Students for Women's Higher Education Now! — a network of students committed to bringing awareness to the need for equitable global women's higher education through support of A UW.

We asked a few of A UW's long-standing supporters:
Why do you support A UW to create ripples of change?



Kathy Matsui, Vice Chair of Goldman Sachs Japan

We live in a world that is filled with tremendous challenges. One way to comprehensively combat these challenges is by unleashing the potential of half the world's popu-

lation. A UW is uniquely positioned to train and nurture the next-generation of leaders. A UW's 800+ alumnae around the world have already demonstrated the enormous ripple effect female leaders can have. Armed with the ability to think critically and problem-solve, A UW graduates are fully prepared to tackle the world's biggest challenges.



Kapil Jain, Partner at Ernst & Young

By catalyzing a young woman's ability to access higher education, I know that my investment in A UW will yield returns across generations. A UW students are role models

for girls in their communities and manifestations of untapped potential for employers in every sector. Investing in leaders is just the beginning.



Young Joon "YJ" Kim, Former Partner (Retired) at Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy LLP

Education is transformative for ourselves and others. I am a prototypical product of education, myself—it is what made me and contin-

ues to make me. I can see the ripple effect of my own education in the values that have been instilled in me, and in my desire to make this transformation possible for others through support of A UW.

FACES OF CHANGE

Over US\$900,000 was raised at the third annual fundraising benefit for AUW in Hong Kong titled “Faces of Change,” an evening that showcased the measurable impact of our graduates around the world. Alumnae from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Pakistan, Palestine, Nepal and Vietnam traveled to Hong Kong to share their stories. Speakers included Guneet Monga, Executive Producer of the Oscar-winning short documentary “Period. End of Sentence” as well as Pansy Ho, Ronnie Chan and others. The Chief Guest was Ms. Carrie Lam, the Chief Executive Officer of Hong Kong SAR.

Pansy Ho



Carrie Lam (center), Chief Executive Officer of Hong Kong SAR



Ronnie Chan



Lynne Anne Davis, Chair of AUW Hong Kong Support Foundation



Hong Kong Support Group with AUW Alumnae



AYW Board of Trustees

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

On November 9, 2019, the AYW Board of Trustees convened in Dhaka to plan for the upcoming year. Pictured top from left: Dave Dowland (Registrar), Shiv Shankar Mukherjee, Md Abdullah al Hasan Chowdhury, YJ Kim, Kapil Jain, Kamal Ahmad; bottom from left: Meenakshi Gopinath, Lale Kesebi, Nirmala Rao, Marina Mahathir, Shelly Maneth, Laura Deal Lacey.



Singapore Support Group with AYW Alumnae

IVY BALL SINGAPORE

The Singapore Support Group held its first event on November 16th, 2019. More than 350 people attended to hear the inspiring stories of AYW graduates Israth Azim and Neealana Nausin. Kathy Matsui was the keynote speaker at this event.



Japan Support Group with AYW Alumnae

DECADE OF DARING

Asian University for Women's Japan Support Committee hosted its tenth annual fundraising event at the Tokyo American Club. More than 300 guests gathered for the program, which featured speeches by Dr. Sachiko Kuno, President and CEO of S&R Foundation and Co- Founder and Chairman of Halcyon; AYW graduate Moury Rahman (Class of 2017); and AYW Vice-Chancellor Professor Nirmala Rao. The event raised nearly \$1.2 million, which will be directed toward supporting AYW scholarships.

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July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019

(In alphabetical order and donations received in US, UK, Japan and Hong Kong)

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Giving - Matching Gift

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Alan Linning
Alexi Brogden (Viacom)
Alison Pinn
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Amber Morse
Amita HaylockK
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Cora Neilon
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History to date (Fiscal Year 2002 - 2019)

(In alphabetical order and donations received in US, UK, Japan and Hong Kong)

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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

Annie Chen
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

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Fast Retailing Foundation
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COURAGE SOCIETY:

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The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
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IN-KIND

The Government of Bangladesh
Dorsey & Whitney
FleishmanHillard
Google.org
Jack Morton
Mayer Brown

FINANCIALS

AUWSF, REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE - 2018-2019*

Statement of Activities and Change in Net Assets 2019 2018

REVENUES

Contributions and Grants	\$1,828,820	\$1,341,092
Donated services	\$80,504	\$133,715
Interest and dividend income	\$217,588	\$75,962
Miscellaneous income	\$7,701	\$9,353
Net assets released from restrictions	\$2,521,307	\$4,582,010
TOTAL REVENUE AND SUPPORT	\$4,655,920	\$6,142,132

EXPENSES

<i>Program Services</i>		
University	\$1,795,503	\$2,583,450
Access Academy	\$816,852	\$947,478
Campus Planning and Operations	\$527,502	\$504,052
TOTAL PROGRAM SERVICES	\$3,139,857	\$4,034,980
<i>Supporting Services</i>		
Management and general	\$329,879	\$345,173
Fundraising	\$923,918	\$909,605
TOTAL SUPPORTING SERVICES	\$1,253,797	\$1,254,778
Donated Legal Services	\$20,656	\$24,256
Donated Outreach, Public Relations	\$12,660	\$13,050
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$4,426,970	\$5,327,064

NET ASSETS

Net assets, beginning of year	\$15,783,370	\$14,968,282
Increase (decrease) in net assets	\$228,950	\$815,088
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$16,012,320	\$15,783,370

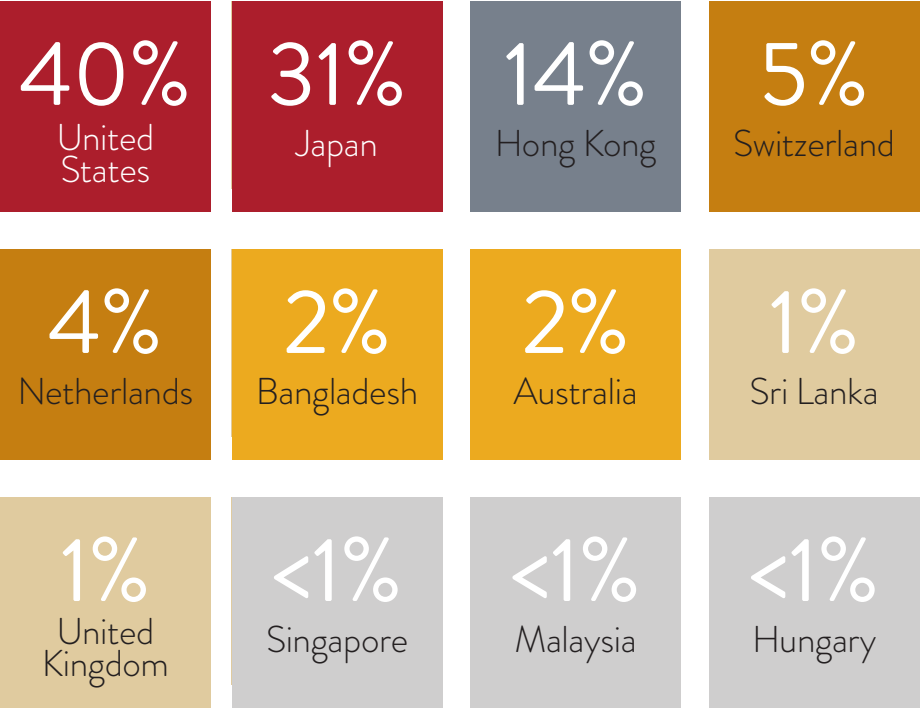
ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$3,663,566	\$3,022,458
Unconditional promises to give	\$6,970,995	\$9,156,455
Other Assets	\$5,483,486	\$3,740,673
TOTAL ASSETS	\$16,118,047	\$15,919,586

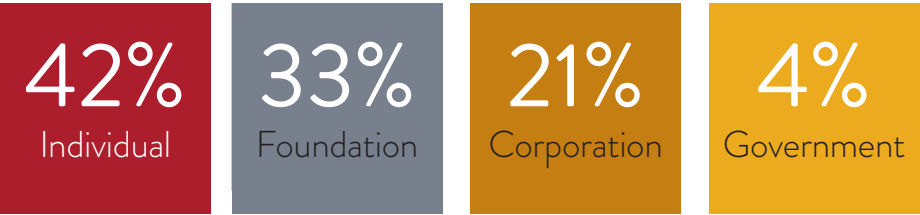
AUWSF makes its past audited financial statements publicly available here: <https://asian-university.org/financials/>. Above is a breakdown of revenues and expenses for Fiscal Year 2019 solely for the Asian University for Women Support Foundation, a U.S. 501(c)3 organization. For audited financial statements of AUW, AUW Hong Kong Support Foundation, and AUW UK Support Foundation, please see: <https://asian-university.org/financials/>.

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

CASH DONATIONS BY COUNTRY FY 2019:



DONATIONS BY CATEGORY FY 2019:



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Secretary of Education, Government of Bangladesh

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Shruti Soni

Shanti Taweel

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Nobuko Tsutsui

Mie Ward

Maggie Yamasaki

**ex-officio*

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: +880-31-285-4980
Fax: +880-31-285-4988

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: <https://asian-university.org>

