

#6 | EMPOWERING AFGHAN GIRLS



Your gift will provide school supplies.

One March morning in 2016, two dozen girls walked onto SOLA's campus in Kabul – Afghanistan's first and only all-girls boarding school – for the first time. This inaugural class of 6th graders had chosen a path unthinkable under the Taliban's regime just 15 years earlier. With the return of the Taliban to Afghanistan in 2021, SOLA now operates in Rwanda.

In the Pashto language, *sola* means peace.

At its heart, SOLA is the story of the bravery of its students, their families, and the people of Afghanistan. SOLA's mission is to educate Afghan girls, grades pre-6 through 10, to be compassionate, curious, confident women with leadership skills that will one day help to rebuild Afghanistan and guide their homeland into a better future.

While operating in Kabul, SOLA drew students from every ethnic group and nearly every province in Afghanistan, aiming to create a network of Afghan sisterhood stronger than any geographic or cultural barrier. This work continues in Rwanda, where new students represent the Afghan diaspora, especially from communities forced from home by the Taliban's return.

In 2023, SOLA received 1,950 applications for a class of 25, dwarfing its high of 264 in 2021.

sola-afghanistan.org

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