



Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America

<http://www.fezana.org>

Representing 26 Zoroastrian Associations in the United States and Canada

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ZOROASTRIAN DELEGATION TO DELIVER PANEL DISCUSSION AT UN HEADQUARTERS AS PART OF THE 56TH COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (CSW)

NEW YORK, January 11, 2012 – FEZANA will be participating at the 56th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) Conference to be held at the UN Headquarters in New York, USA.

Tanya Bharda, Kaizad Cama, Homi Gandhi, Afreed Mistry, Behram Pastakia and Freyaz Shroff from FEZANA will be representing the Zoroastrians at the UN. Joining them from the Gram Seva Foundation will be Jay Boziceveh. The group will be presenting a panel discussion titled, **“NGO Learnings: Empowering Rural Women to Overcome Poverty & Hunger.”**

Using specific case studies from field work in rural India, panelists will showcase successful projects addressing poverty and hunger eradication. The work of Gram Seva Foundation, well established rural NGO, will be highlighted. We will also be showcasing some of the good work being done by World Zoroastrian Organization Trust Funds (WZOTF). Attendees will be able to take back ideas and strategies that can empower women in living healthier, happier lives.

The panel discussion details are:

Date: Thursday, March 1st, 2012

Time: 6:15 pm to 7:45 pm

Location: Church Centre, Boss Room, 8th Floor, 777 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY

The Church Center is open to the public and visitors, so please encourage Zoroastrians and their friends to attend and support the presentation.

About United Nations

The United Nations is central to global efforts to solve problems that challenge humanity. Cooperating in this effort are more than 30 affiliated organizations, known together as the UN system. For more information visit www.un.org

About Zoroastrians

Zoroastrians serve as effective bridge builders as they see from their own faith, traditions of truth, righteousness, charity, beneficence and respect for creation reflected in traditions of the religions of both the occident and the orient. Zoroastrianism, founded circa 1500 BCE, credited to be the oldest monotheistic religion, is believed to have transmitted percepts such as the ultimate victory of good over evil and the resurrection of souls, through Judaism to Christianity, and later to Islam. Zoroastrianism flourished as the imperial religion of three Persian empires, those of the Achaemenians, Parthians and Sasanians, and was the dominant religion from Turkey, and eastward to China during those times. North America's Zoroastrian community includes those who arrived from the Indian subcontinent, known as Parsis, and those who came directly from Iran seeking religious freedom.

About FEZANA

Founded in 1987, FEZANA serves as the coordinating body for 26 Zoroastrian associations and 10 small groups throughout the United States and Canada. FEZANA promotes the study, understanding and practice of the Zoroastrian faith in North America., represents the interests of its member associations, and carries out philanthropic and charitable activities worldwide. The *FEZANA Journal*, FEZANA's publication of record, circulates to Zoroastrian households in more than 22 countries, as well as to scholars, academicians and religious organizations worldwide. For more information visit: www.fezana.org.