“I insisted to come out and vote, even if I get killed! We must vote for a person who will work for education, job creation, security, and our children.”
- Mohammed, Bamiyan, Afghanistan

Greetings!

According to us at Bond Street Theatre, getting out to vote is the first step to civic engagement! Voting is not a privilege to be taken for granted; we need to recognize the value of our right to vote and use our voices through voting.

As we saw in Afghanistan, however, citizens need to have confidence in the election system, and believe that their ballot will make a difference...
So, our performances promoted just that!

In 2014, after training our Afghan theatre troupes - male and female - for over 2 years, the troupes performed in villages across six provinces to encourage Afghans to vote in the second presidential election the country's history. True to our purpose, we focused on women's participation in the process!

Through our comedy-laced shows, community performance venues, and post-show role-play exercises, thousands of youth and women learned that they had the right to vote! The shows provided information on registration, how to vote, signs of fraud, and where to report it - all through the joy of entertainment.

At shelters, markets, women's prisons, public parks, high schools, and even in women's homes, our troupes presented 285 performances, and reached over 150,000 people. The overwhelming majority of audiences changed their minds after seeing our shows from “Why Vote?” to “I MUST VOTE”!
“What struck me was that many of the issues identified in Afghan culture are common issues in American elections - folks do not believe that one vote matters, do not trust the democratic system, and so, choose not to vote at all.”
- Olivia Harris, BST Artist/Trainer, 2013

Bond Street Theatre played a crucial role in promoting the election process in Afghanistan, as youth and women gained the confidence to take their first steps within their new democracy!

Voting is the pinnacle of social justice, and a right that shouldn't be shaped by race, gender, location or status. As US citizens, we cherish our ability to use our voice.

As we say to our theatre partners across the globe, "use your voice!"
And for those who say “my vote doesn’t count, what is the use?”, watch the link below!

**Watch the Full Story:**
We thank the US Institute of Peace for their support for the election project.
Bond Street Theatre, active in Afghanistan since 2002, stands out amidst the country's most committed cultural ambassadors. We want to use our global experience to educate, empower, and bridge the divides right here at home...

Please donate today to help us to continues to fight for freedom of expression in Afghanistan, Malaysia and Myanmar - and now, right here in the US!

Please email us directly if you are interested in helping us coordinate projects for social justice in the US!

With love,
the Bond Street Theatre Team

Please Support our Work for Justice!

Help us help others!

A sustained donation ensures that we continue to speak out for justice!

Donate

Become a monthly donor

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Bond Street Theatre is a non-profit organization and an NGO in association with the United Nations. Your donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law.