



**BOND STREET
THEATRE**

Peacebuilding,
empowerment and healing
through theatre



“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 continue 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](#)

Stay Connected



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.