



## The New South Wales Bar Association

### Nasima Rahmani

Nasima Rahmani is a young lawyer who graduated from the Faculty of Law and Political Science in Kabul University in December 2003.

She grew up in a war devastated country, where people faced violation of human rights day by day. She went to school and university during a time where there was no peace and security because of bombing and rocket attacks in Kabul and other major cities of Afghanistan. Because of this situation, schools and universities were shutdown from time to time not only for days or months, but even for years.

Instead of graduating from the Law School in the normal period of four years, she graduated after 12 years from her first admission to the faculty. She completed her first year of study in 1991 but due to the Islamic Revolution and the change in government the university was shutdown for three years. When it re-opened in 1995, most families did not send their girls back to university out of fear their daughters would be kidnapped.

She joined the faculty again in 1996, after two years of postponement, however unfortunately at the beginning of the second semester that year the Taliban came to power and obliged women and girls to stay behind shut doors. This deprivation lasted five years.

This isn't just Nasima's story, but the story of thousands of Afghan women and the misery is not just because of the war.

During the period of her deferred study, Nasima taught in the women's literacy campaign and also worked as a volunteer activist with the Afghan Women Lawyer's Council, and as legal counsellor for women in conflict with the law in three provinces – Kabul, Parvan, Kapisa for the Afghan Women Judges' Association.