



انستیتوت مطالعات استراتژیک افغانستان
Afghan Institute for Strategic Studies



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بیمکاری فرهنگ با برای صلح
AVICENNA Peace Award-VI

Thursday, 26 June 2025 | London

Thursday, June 26, 2025

18:00-18:30	Guests' Arrival / Registration / Light Reception
18:30-18:35	Shared Praying - Video clip (Song performed by Muslim, Christian, and Jewish singers in the presence of late Pope Francis and the King of Morocco)
18:35-18:40	Welcoming Remarks by Director General of AISS, Dr Davood Moradian
18:40-18:50	Keynote Speech by The Honourable Wendy Chamberlain MP, Member of the House of Commons
18:50-19:05	Screening the documentary " The Sharp Edge of Peace " by Ms Roya Sadat , Afghan film producer and director
19:05-19:15	Speech by Ms Fawzia Koofi , Afghan Politician & Former Member of the Afghan Parliament
19:15-19:30	Music Performance by Elaha Soroor , Afghan Singer and Composer
19:30-19:40	Speech by Ms Zehra Zaidi , Lawyer & founder of Dark Matter Labs & Planetary Civics contributor
19:40-19:45	Video Clip: " Thank You Honourable Edi Rama "
19:45-19:55	Video Message by HE Prime Minister Edi Rama
19:55-20:00	Presenting the award to HE Ambassador Uran Ferizi , Ambassador of the Republic of Albania to the UK
20:00-20:15	Flavours of Albanian music by Ms Greta Papa , Renown Albanian Musician; Mr Bruno Heinen , London-based Pianist; & Mr James Kitchman , London-based Guitarist.
20:15-21:00	Dinner

Avicenna:

Abu 'Ali al-Husayn ibn Sina is better known in Europe by the Latinized name "Avicenna." Avicenna is probably the most significant philosopher in the Islamic tradition and arguably the most influential philosopher of the pre-modern era. Born in Afshana near Bukhara in Central Asia in about 980, he is best known as a polymath as a physician whose major work, the *Canon (al-Qanun fi'l-Tibb)*, continued to be taught as a medical textbook in Europe and the Islamic world until the early modern period, and as a philosopher whose major *summa* the *Cure (al-Shifa')* had a decisive impact upon European scholasticism and especially upon Thomas Aquinas. Primarily a metaphysical philosopher concerned with understanding the self's existence in this world in relation to its contingency, Avicenna's philosophy is an attempt to construct a coherent and comprehensive system that accords with the religious necessities of Muslim culture. As such, he may be the first prominent Islamic philosopher.



Avicenna

Avicenna Peace Award:

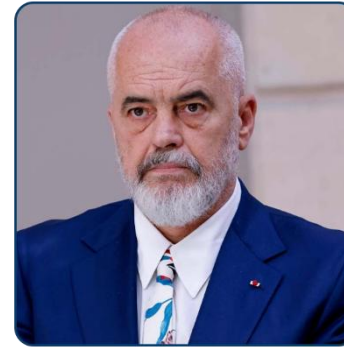
Real and often perceived differences contribute to and drive conflicts within and across societies and nations. Bridging such differences through dialogue is vital in preventing, resolving, and transforming disputes and realizing our collective potential in building a more humane, just, and peaceful world. To this end, there are inspirational personalities that can help transcend our self-imposed isolation by broadening our mutual understanding and recognizing the abundant commonalities that exist across different societies and cultures. In line with the AISS' core objective in promoting awareness and cooperation through dialogue, the Avicenna Award honors distinguished individuals, institutions, initiatives, and projects, advocating dialogue, intercultural exchange, mutual coexistence, and non-violent approaches. The Award is named after one of the World's renowned scholars, Avicenna, whose life and work transcended cultural and geographical boundaries.

Previous winners include:

- Professor Michael Barry (USA/2018).
- The Honorable Rashid Al Ghannouchi (Tunisia/2019).
- Senator Anarkali Kaur Honaryar (Afghanistan/2020).
- The Jewish Federations of North America, HIAS + JCORE, IsraAID World Jewish Relief (USA/UK/2023)
- Professor John BAILY & Ms Veronica Doubleday (UK/2024).



This year's Winner



This year's Avicenna International Award will be presented to **His Excellency Edi Rama**, Prime Minister of Albania, in recognition of his leadership in promoting intercultural and interfaith understanding, and Albania's vital support to the people of Afghanistan, especially Afghan women. A former artist and professor, Mr. Rama entered public service in 1998 and gained international acclaim as Mayor of Tirana for his urban transformation efforts. Since becoming Prime Minister in 2013, he has championed pluralism, European integration, and humanitarian diplomacy. His government's principled decision to welcome Afghan refugees in 2021 marked a rare act of global solidarity. The Award honours both this commitment and his broader vision of inclusive leadership and cultural openness, reflected in Albania's growing international role, including its service on the UN Security Council.

Speakers' and Performers':



Wendy Chamberlain is a Liberal Democrat MP and former police officer, Wendy Chamberlain champions carers' rights, social justice, and rural services. She chairs parliamentary groups focused on Afghan women, food poverty, and the environment.



Roya Sadat is an Award-winning Afghan filmmaker and women's rights advocate, Roya Sadat gained recognition with *Three Dots* and *A Letter to the President*. She co-founded Roya Film House and the Women's Film Festival in Afghanistan.



Fawzia Koofi is Afghan women's rights activist and former MP, Fawzia Koofi helped draft the EVAW law and took part in peace talks with the Taliban. She's survived multiple assassination attempts and speaks globally.



Zehra Zaidi is British lawyer and policy adviser, Zehra Zaidi founded "We Too Built Britain" and co-led the Action for Afghanistan coalition. She was appointed OBE for her work in inclusion and refugee advocacy.



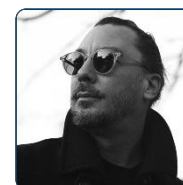
Uran Ferizi is the Albanian Ambassador to the UK, Uran Ferizi holds a PhD in Computer Science and has worked in research at NYU and Stanford. A former asylum seeker, he combines science and diplomacy.



Elaha Soroor is a London-based Afghan-Hazara singer and activist, Elaha Soroor rose to fame with protest songs challenging patriarchy. Her album *Songs of Our Mothers* has received international acclaim.



Greta Papa is a Greek-Albanian violinist and Oxford Philharmonic leader, Greta Papa has performed at Wigmore Hall and led prize-winning chamber ensembles. She trained in London and performs internationally.



Bruno Heinen is a Jazz pianist and professor at Trinity Laban, Bruno Heinen fuses classical and jazz traditions. He has performed with the LSO and jazz legends, earning praise from major outlets.



James Kitchman is a Northumberland-born jazz guitarist, James Kitchman is known for his unique tone and collaborations with artists like ESKA and Laura Jurd. His debut album earned critical recognition.



Meetra Qutb is a former lecturer at Kabul university and a human rights researcher. She has an LL.M and a journalism background. She's currently working as a Communications Specialist at Afghan Witness, a project of the Centre for Information Resilience.



Annie Levy is a humanitarian professional with expertise in gender, conflict and peace building. She has worked in research, programme management, communications, advocacy, and strategy development across diverse regions. Her recent work includes research into gender apartheid in Afghanistan.