



**Asia Almas Ashraf**

World Federation Against Drugs  
*VNGOC member organisation since 2013*

**Supported by:**

Drug Free America Foundation

**Candidate for:**

Secretary

I am writing to express my sincere nomination for the position of Secretary in the upcoming board election. My name is Asia Ashraf, and I bring a wealth of experience in the field of substance abuse and mental health disorders' treatment, recovery, rehabilitation, and advocacy. With a Fellowship in substance abuse education, treatment, policy and prevention and Master's in Applied Psychology I have dedicated 18 years to this crucial cause.

Throughout my career, I have held various roles, including Director of Rehabilitation and Head of Psychology Department at Sunny Trust Addiction Treatment and Rehabilitation Centre, where I initiated the first-ever female unit. Currently, I serve as Director of Rehabilitation and Consultant Psychologist at Greenfield Hospital of Psychiatry, focusing on evidence-based, culturally sensitive treatment for young girls and women.

As an internationally certified addiction professional and a national trainer for the UNODC, Colombo Plan Drug Advisory Program, I have actively contributed to the development and implementation of Universal Treatment Curriculums. Additionally, my involvement in the Gender Working Group by WFAD reflects my commitment to addressing the unique challenges faced by women in the context of substance abuse.

My extensive experience includes a year-long fellowship in Substance Abuse, Education, Treatment, Policy, and Prevention from Virginia Commonwealth University, USA. This opportunity allowed me to engage at a global level, participating in key events such as the UN Informal Interactive Stakeholder Consultation and UNGASS session, providing me with a comprehensive understanding of international drug policy.

In addition to my nomination for the position of Secretary on the VNGOC board, I would like to emphasize my active involvement in two essential networks that have significantly enriched my perspective and expertise in the field. As a member of the Asia-Pacific Working Group for VNGOC, I have been engaged in collaborative efforts to address substance abuse issues specific to our region. This role has allowed me to contribute to the development and implementation of strategies tailored to the unique challenges faced by countries in Asia-Pacific, leveraging my experience in both national and international contexts.



## Board Elections 2024

Furthermore, my participation in the Global Recovery Network has provided me with a global platform to advocate for evidence-based treatment, recovery support, and the destigmatization of individuals overcoming substance abuse. Serving as a link between the local and global arenas, this network has been instrumental in fostering international collaboration, sharing best practices, and promoting a compassionate approach to recovery.

If elected as Secretary on the VNGOC board, I am committed to leveraging these roles to facilitate effective communication and collaboration between the Asia-Pacific region and the global recovery community. My experience in these networks positions me well to contribute to the formulation of inclusive and culturally sensitive policies that address the diverse needs of individuals struggling with substance abuse worldwide.

Motivated by the need for gender-sensitive and humane drug policies, I am eager to represent South Asia on the VNGOC board. My unique perspective as a female advocate in a predominantly male-dominated field, coupled with my dedication to evidence-based treatment, fighting stigma, and facilitating the reintegration of recovering individuals, positions me as a valuable candidate for the role of Secretary. I am enthusiastic about the opportunity to contribute to the VNGOC's mission and vision.