Reflecting on the AWER summit, as an Afghan woman, the realities discussed resonate on a personal level. The summit itself was a blend of hopefulness and honesty. There were two speakers that especially stood out to me– Muqaddesa Yourish and Roya Rahmani because they cut through performative narratives. Yourish's call for investment in the agency of Afghan women was particularly impactful, especially after she mentioned that Afghan women do not want to be treated like victims, they should be seen as sophisticated agents. Rahmani's commentary on the binary perception of Afghanistan—as either a security risk or a charity case—challenges us to adopt a more nuanced and empowering narrative.

The summit has not only deepened my understanding of the complexities surrounding the empowerment of Afghan women but also reaffirmed my belief in the power of education and international collaboration to foster change. I am optimistic that the partnership between BU and AWER will be transformative. I think it is commendable that BU is a partner of AWER because this can raise awareness within the BU community and beyond. As an academic institution BU has a responsibility to educate the community on global challenges. This partnership serves as a platform for BU to fulfill this duty, and more particularly by highlighting the challenges that Afghan women face.