



**Kamela Sediqi** began her first company, a tailoring business, under Taliban rule in Afghanistan to support her mother and brother. She set up at a time when women were forced into the home and were prohibited from attending school, teaching school, practicing medicine, working in an office, or serving in government.

Her story is chronicled by Gayle Tzemach Lemmon in *The Dressmaker of Khair Khana*. The novel describes how Kamela and other Afghani women had to navigate the restrictions placed by the Taliban to support their families.

Kamela now runs Kaweyan Business Development Services, a consulting firm that operates in Kabul, Herat, and Mazar-e Sharif. Her firm employs 25 men and women, more than half of them full time, and trains adults in basic business skills such as idea development, marketing, and accounting. Her goal is to grow Kaweyan into one of South Asia's leading consultancies.