

Reading Guide for **New Choices**
Text by Aurora Almendral and photographs by Saiyna Bashir

Summary: "New Choices" explores the stories of women from Pakistan who move to a new city to pursue their education.

A. Review the key vocabulary words:

Shiite, Taliban, religious minority, patriarchal

B. As you read, use details from the text to respond to the following questions:

1. Why did Farheen's family migrate from Afghanistan to Pakistan in the 1960s?
2. How were Farheen and the Hazara community treated in the area of Pakistan where she was born? Why?
3. How does Farheen feel about education, and why?
4. Where does Farheen travel to pursue her education?
5. What impact did Farheen's education have on her goals for the future?

C. Write or discuss your responses to the following questions:

1. Farheen talks about living in "perpetual fear of violence" and being "terrified" in her home city of Quetta, Pakistan. How did fear impact her life and identity? How did migration change her attitude and mindset?
2. What perspectives, skills, and insights might migrant women like Farheen or Haleema uniquely offer institutions and communities in places like London, Korea, or the United States? How can their experiences of war and migration contribute to communities that have not had those experiences?