



## July 2023 Newsletter

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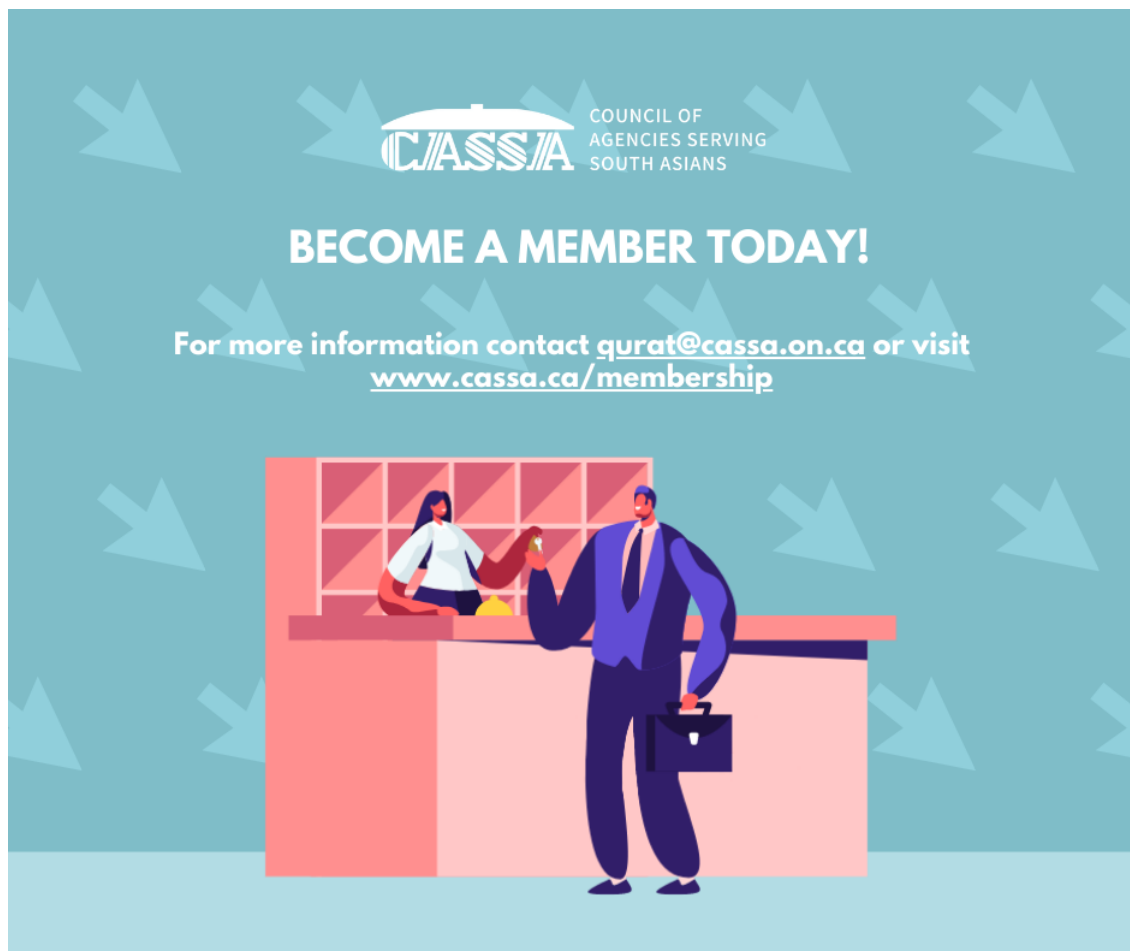
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The graphic features a teal background with several light blue arrows pointing towards the center. At the top center is the CASSA logo, which consists of a white umbrella icon above the word 'CASSA' in a bold, white, sans-serif font. To the right of the logo, the text 'COUNCIL OF AGENCIES SERVING SOUTH ASIANS' is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. Below the logo and text, the phrase 'BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!' is displayed in a large, bold, white, sans-serif font. Underneath this, the text 'For more information contact [qurat@cassa.on.ca](mailto:qurat@cassa.on.ca) or visit [www.cassa.ca/membership](http://www.cassa.ca/membership)' is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. At the bottom of the graphic is an illustration of a woman in a white shirt and dark skirt standing behind a red counter, and a man in a dark suit and tie standing in front of the counter, holding a briefcase and looking towards the woman.

## CASSA Project Updates

# #EradicateHate 2.0

## Download EradicateHate on Google Play Store and Apple Store Anti-hate App for Children and Youth to Combat Online Hate



The App includes content such as tutorials, reflection activities, and infographics to equip youth-focused organizations, educators, parents and young victims of online hate with digital literacy tools to combat online hate.

The content also addresses hateful attitudes and beliefs which stem from racist and xenophobic ideologies which result in online hate content.



[CASSA.CA/ERADICATEHATE-2-0/](https://CASSA.CA/ERADICATEHATE-2-0/)



### #EradicateHate 2.0

We are excited to share with you that we are now ready for the launching of our Anti-hate App for Children and Youth to Combat Online Hate.

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focused organizations, educators, parents and young victims of online hate with digital literacy tools to combat online hate. The content also addresses hateful attitudes and beliefs which stem from racist and xenophobic ideologies which result in online hate content. The Toolkit can be found in the form of an App and Web Page and is intended for children between 8-14 years old, youth between 15–24 years old, educators, and parents.



# GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE RESEARCH IN THE GTA

## **Toxic Masculinity and Its Impact on Gender-Based Violence**

Last month, CASSA's Gender-Based Violence research team received feedback from CREO on our first draft of the ethics application, and worked on incorporating the feedback into the application with intermittent guidance from our ethics consultant. This month, the team will focus on finalizing any revisions and changes before the final draft of the application will be officially

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the project so far. Finally, the team has been working to recruit volunteers to support the project in various capacities and has received great interest. If you are interested in learning more or have any questions, please contact Dinoba Kirupa at [dinoba@cassa.on.ca](mailto:dinoba@cassa.on.ca).

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# WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS!

**The Coalition of Racial Equity in Education is recruiting Muslim high school students and parents/guardians with children attending schools in York and Durham Region.**

Join us in promoting equity and inclusivity for Muslim students and staff! Combat racism and Islamophobia to create a welcoming and just future together.

**APPLY NOW:** [www.cassa.ca/apply-to-join-the-coalition-for-racial-equity-in-education-project/](http://www.cassa.ca/apply-to-join-the-coalition-for-racial-equity-in-education-project/)



## The Coalition for Racial Equity in Education

The Coalition for Racial Equity in Education is currently seeking parents and youth volunteers from the YRDSB and DDSB regions to join their efforts. These volunteers will undergo training while sharing their personal experiences with Islamophobia in schools.

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On April 26, 2023, the TDSB School Board officially passed a motion to address Islamophobia in schools, thanks to the tireless advocacy of the Council of Agencies Serving South Asians (CASSA), TDSB Trustee Neethan Shan, and Trustee Liban Hassan. The motion calls for the development and implementation of a comprehensive plan to combat Islamophobia.

This development marks a significant milestone in creating safe and inclusive learning environments for all students, regardless of their religious beliefs. It is inspiring to witness collaborative efforts between community groups like the Coalition for Racial Equity in Education and CASSA, as they work together to effect positive change.

If you are a high school student or a parent residing in the York or Durham region and are interested in contributing to this important project, we invite you to sign up [here](#). Should you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to [samaha@cassa.on.ca](mailto:samaha@cassa.on.ca).

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# What is BILL 21?

- Bill 21 was passed on June 2019 in Quebec. The law restricts public servants from wearing **religious garments or symbols** while at work.
- The law was approved based on Section 33 yet also acknowledged that **the law restricts religious liberty**.
- Section 33 of the constitution allows the government to **ignore** a provision of the Charter, hence the bill is constitutionally acceptable.
- Numerous organizations have voiced their opposition to Bill 21.
- The case has been jointly brought to the highest court in Quebec by NCCM and CCLA.



Policies that Perpetuate Systemic Racism

Canadian  
Race Relations  
FoundationFondation  
canadienne des  
relations raciales

## How is that RACIST?

- Bill 21 is targeting racial and religious minorities in Canada.
- Bill 21 takes away one's religious freedom by not allowing those impacted to practice their religion.
- Bill 21 has caused a large departure of religious minorities, who are clearly visible, from professions in the public sector, notably in teaching positions.
- In addition to this, violence and incidents of discrimination against visible Muslims and Sikhs have drastically increased in Quebec and across Canada during the discussion over Bill 21.



Policies that Perpetuate Systemic Racism

Canadian  
Race Relations  
Foundation

## Current IMPACTS

- The negative impacts of these policies affect people on an **individual, institutional, and systemic level**.
- Muslim women who wear the hijab have a higher risk of being victims of hate crimes.
- Outside of Quebec, **39%** of Canadians have a negative opinion of Islam. In Quebec, that percentage is at **50%**.
- Due to a lack of understanding, Quebecers are reportedly unaware of how Bill 21 affects religious minorities.



Policies that Perpetuate Systemic Racism

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## WHAT IS CANADA CHILD BENEFIT?



- The Canada Child Benefit is a tax-free monthly payment available to low-income families with a child or children under the age of 18.
- This benefit was introduced in 2016, replacing the Universal Child Care Benefit and Canada Child Tax Benefit.
- The eligibility criteria for this benefit is limited to Canadian citizens, permanent residents, protected persons, individuals registered under the Indian Act, or temporary foreign workers who have resided in Canada for at least the previous 18 months (1.5 years).

## RACIST?

- This **excludes** thousands of families already living in poverty with precarious status including refugee claimants, asylum seekers, migrant workers and others.
- Most of these families are racialized, already facing discrimination on multitudes of levels.
- This also compels women with precarious status in abusive conditions to stay with their partner who may have status.
- It creates a **second-class status for children** whose parents have precarious status, perpetuating cycles of poverty and racism.

Discrimination based on immigration status contradicts Canada's obligations under UN Conventions on the Rights of the Child which states that all children have the right to equal opportunity without discrimination on parents' status.

Thousands of families are currently unable to apply for CCB or were forced to pay this benefit back.

## What is the ZERO TOLERANCE FOR BARBARIC CULTURAL PRACTICES ACT?

- "Zero Tolerance for Barbaric Cultural Practices" Act was introduced in 2014, by the Federal Government of Canada.
- The act enforces a clause that states forced marriages, polygamy, honour killings, or female genital mutilation are grounds for deportation and inadmissibility.
- In addition to this, there was a hotline introduced, where people would call in to report incidents of "barbaric practices". There is no record of exactly how many calls were made to this hotline, but there are an estimated 1,000 calls that were made.

## How is that RACIST?

- The Bill received criticism for its name, which was changed. However, the way in which it addresses gender-based violence remains **problematic**.
- The Bill views gender based-based violence from a culturalized stand, which has further led to stereotyping communities, specifically **South Asian** and **Muslim communities**.
- In addition to this, the term "honour killing" is a misnomer, and it is mentioned multiple times, in regards to this Bill.
- This Bill further perpetuates the "**Us and Them**" rhetoric, which has further led to racial profiling and stigmatization. Moreover, it asserts a **Western dominance**, as it demonstrates a white saviour complex and does not serve and support the victims.

## Current IMPACTS

- This Bill reinforces cultural racism by portraying gender-based violence as an issue that is unique to immigrant communities rather than a problem within Canadian society.
- Additionally, it stereotypes immigrant communities.
- The act criminalized incidents of gender-based violence by changing three separate laws, making it **more difficult for survivors** to get assistance.
- Unfortunately, gender-based violence continues to be an urgent issue in our society with little foreseeable impact and reparations

### Policies that Perpetuate Systemic Racism

We have started our public awareness campaign on the negative impact of the three policies. To learn more about our findings, please visit the project webpage at <https://www.cassa.ca/policies->

# Opportunities

## Toronto Area Solidarity Summer Alliance (TASSA).

I'd like to introduce [Toronto Area Solidarity Summer Alliance \(TASSA\)](#).

TASSA's 2023 Workshop Series is open for applications! The due date for submissions is July 12th, 2023.

The TASSA 2023 summer workshop series is a two-day program for South Asian and Indo-Caribbean youth aged 15-20 who want to grow as community changemakers. Through interactive workshops, youth participants will:

- Connect intersecting identities and lived experiences as South Asian and Indo-Caribbean youth to social movements
- Explore how systems of oppression impact our communities
- Build community with peers and mentors who care about issues of justice and solidarity
- Learn and practice skills to build youth power and create real-world change, including critical thinking, collective leadership, and community organizing
- Earn \$100 and volunteer hours for participating

Choose from: Toronto (Scarborough): September 1-2 or Peel (South Brampton): September 9-10

Learn more at [www.torontoareasolidaritysummeralliance.ca](http://www.torontoareasolidaritysummeralliance.ca).

Help spread the word! Here are shareable [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#) posts, as well as printable [flyers](#) for our [Toronto](#) and [Peel](#) programming. Please follow, post, reshare, tell a friend and auntie, and share with youth in your life.

Reach out at [TOareasolidaritysummeralliance@gmail.com](mailto:TOareasolidaritysummeralliance@gmail.com) with questions.



Canadian Council of Muslim Women (CCMW)  
Le conseil canadien des femmes musulmanes (CCFM)

## CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

### Barriers to Employment for Canadian Muslim Women PROJECT ASPIRE

#### THE STUDY

The purpose of this study is to better understand the employment experiences of Canadian Muslim women. Specifically, this project will focus on experiences of finding, retaining, and advancing in paid work.

#### THE RESEARCHER

Dr. Sarah Shah is a research associate at the Muslims in Canada Data Initiative (MiCDI), the Institute of Islamic Studies, and an assistant professor at the Department of Sociology, The University of Toronto Mississauga. MiCDI has been engaged by the Canadian Council of Muslim Women to conduct this study.

**For more information, or to participate in the study, please contact:**

Dr. Sarah Shah, PhD  
647 637 8514  
sarahshah@ccmw.com

#### PARTICIPANTS

You are invited to participate if you are a Muslim woman residing in Canada (including self-identified and trans women) and have experience with the employment sector.

#### PARTICIPATION DETAILS

- Online group discussion
- Online pre-interview questionnaire
- Some participants may be interviewed one-on-one
- Participants will receive honoraria

#### CONFIDENTIALITY AND ANONYMITY

*Your information will be kept completely confidential.*

*You can withdraw your participation (and anything you shared during the study) at any point, even after the interview.*



# APPEL AUX PARTICIPANTES

## Obstacles à l'emploi des femmes musulmanes canadiennes

### PROJET « ASPIRE »

#### L'ÉTUDE

L'objectif de cette étude est de mieux comprendre les expériences professionnelles des femmes musulmanes canadiennes. Plus précisément, ce projet se concentrera sur les expériences de recherche, de rétention d'emploi et d'avancement pour un poste rémunéré.

#### L'AUTEURE DE LA RECHERCHE

Sarah Shah, Ph. D, est associée de recherche à Muslims in Canada Data Initiative (MiCDI), Institute of Islamic Studies, et professeure adjointe au département de sociologie de l'Université de Toronto Mississauga. Le Conseil canadien des femmes musulmanes a chargé le MiCDI de réaliser cette étude.

**Pour plus de renseignements ou pour participer à l'étude, veuillez contacter:**

Mme Sarah Shah, Ph. D  
647 637 8514  
sarahshah@ccmw.com

#### PARTICIPANTES

Vous êtes invitée à participer si vous êtes une femme musulmane résidant au Canada (sont incluses les personnes qui s'auto-identifient comme femmes et les femmes transgenres) et si vous avez de l'expérience dans le secteur de l'emploi.

#### DÉTAILS DE LA PARTICIPATION

- Discussion de groupe en ligne
- Questionnaire de pré-entrevue en ligne
- Certaines participantes pourront être interviewées individuellement
- Les participantes recevront des honoraires

#### CONFIDENTIALITÉ ET ANONYMAT

*Vos renseignements resteront complètement confidentiels. (Vous pourrez annuler votre participation (et tout ce que vous aurez partagé durant l'étude) à tout moment, même après l'entrevue.*





Canadian Council of Muslim Women (CCMW)  
Le conseil canadien des femmes musulmanes (CCFM)

# WE'RE HIRING!

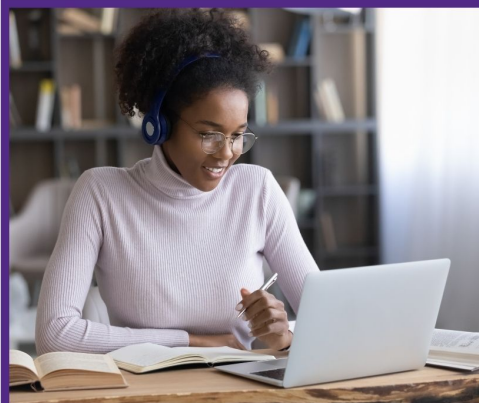
We're hiring an Education  
Coordinator. Send your resume and  
cover letter to [info@ccmw.com](mailto:info@ccmw.com)



## **CCMW: Education Coordinator Hiring**

The Canadian Council of Muslim Women (CCMW) is seeking an experienced educator to develop, deliver and coordinate its education programs. Candidates will be expected to work from an analytic framework encompassing principles of gender equality, intersectionality, human rights and countering racism, including anti-Black and anti-Indigenous racism, Islamophobia and hate.

Apply [here](#)

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## Epilepsy & Seizure First Aid Public Education Workshop

Via Zoom

Please email [leah@epilepsytoronto.org](mailto:leah@epilepsytoronto.org)  
for further information.



Session will cover:

- ✓ Myths and Misconceptions about Epilepsy
- ✓ Difference Types of Seizures
- ✓ Epilepsy Toronto's Services
- ✓ Treatment
- ✓ Seizure first aid
- ✓ Client stories

[www.epilepsytoronto.org](http://www.epilepsytoronto.org)

### **Social Services Network: Program Aide Adult day program.**

Part-time: Weekend ( Saturday & Sunday)

Location: Unionville Home Society Markham Starting in September

The Adult Day Program is a community day program for frail, elderly, and individuals with Alzheimer disease or related disorders.

#### Responsibilities:

- Facilitate recreational and socialization activities
- Engage, encourage, and assist clients with activities, individual and group needs.
- Assist with activities of daily living.

#### Qualifications:

Personal Support Worker (PSW) Certification from an accredited institution or demonstrated experience in community support services/working with older adults and individuals with special needs. Must speak a South Asian language ( Hindi, Tamil, Panjabi, or Gujarati).

Please connect with Naz Arain - Director of Operations

Phone: 416-786-5085

## Findhelp Information

At Findhelp | 211 Central, we connect individuals and families with information and referral to the complete range of government, health, community and social services in their communities and help them navigate the complexities of the human services system, quickly and easily. Our Service Navigator position is great for people with social service or social work backgrounds. The position involves support for diverse service users and complex problem solving to ensure people are connected to the right services quickly and easily and that barriers to service are reduced whenever possible. Please take a look at our postings on our website, [found here!](#)





### **Durham Tamil Association (DTA) celebrated Canada Day.**

Durham Tamil Association (DTA) proudly celebrated Canada day with the people of Durham by setting up booths in Pickering, Ajax, Whitby and Oshawa.



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Within the past 5 years, have you experienced one or more of the following in a way that has impacted your daily life for a sustained period of time...?



We are interested in hearing from people Toronto-based, 18+ who have answered YES to the question above and were:

Born in Canada and have both parents descended from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, or Sri Lanka and at least one parent born in one of these countries

OR

Were born in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, or Sri Lanka, migrated directly to Canada as an adult, and have lived in Canada for at least 5 years

Participation involves a private and confidential 1 hour interview, either online or in person and filling out a brief information sheet about yourself. All participants will be given a small token of appreciation for their time.

If you are interested in participating in the study, please contact Ruchika Jain

[ruchika.jain@sinahealth.ca](mailto:ruchika.jain@sinahealth.ca)

If you have any questions or concerns please call Dr. Daisy Singla at 416-586-4800 Ext. 6121

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“Policies Perpetuating Systemic Racism” is a 10-month-long project funded by the Canada Race Relations Foundation through the Anti-Racism Fund. This initiative delves into the detrimental effects of three legislations in Canada: Quebec’s Bill 21, formerly known as the “Zero Tolerance for Barbaric Cultural Practices Act,” and the immigration status contingency of the Canada Child Benefit.

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### [Celebrating Canada Day: Reflecting on the Significance of a Nation’s Journey](#)

Canada Day celebrated on July 1st of each year, holds a special place in the hearts of Canadians across the globe. It is a day of immense significance; it marks the birth of a nation and commemorates the rich history, diverse culture, and shared values of the Canadian people.

## In the News

### [‘We are afraid.’ Asylum seekers sleeping on the street amid tug of war between city and feds](#)

Outside Toronto’s downtown shelter referral centre, a bitter governmental tug-of-war over who should foot the bill to shelter asylum seekers has left throngs of newcomers sleeping on the sidewalk.

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### [Over 500 Roxham Road asylum seekers settled in Atlantic Canada, vast majority in Quebec](#)

Atlantic Canada has so far welcomed 504 asylum seekers who entered Canada using the former Roxham Road irregular border crossing in Quebec.

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### [Olivia Chow says Ottawa to blame for Toronto’s refugee housing crisis](#)

Looking directly into news cameras on Wednesday, mayor-elect Olivia Chow put the blame for unhoused refugees sleeping on the street on the shoulders of the federal government.

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### [Canada’s best story might be immigration](#)

In the run-up to Canada’s 156th birthday celebrations there were reports, based on what people were telling pollsters, saying that Canada has never been more divided.

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### [This farm introduced Toronto to gai lan and bok choy 70 years ago. Four generations on and the family keeps the tradition alive](#)

Ken Chong remembers weekends spent at his parents’ farm, loading up the wagon with winter melon and storing them in the greenhouse.

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