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August 2026 Newsletter

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Ethical AI for Nonprofits: Using AI with Accountability and Care

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CASSA AGENCIES SERVING
SOUTH ASIANS

Expertise in Action: Building Skills for Systems Change

Capacity-Building Series
Ethical AI for Nonprofits: Using AI
with Accountability and Care



August 11, 2026



11:00 am - 12:00 pm



Zoom (Link will be provided)

Only for CASSA and South Asian
Social Justice Network members

About the Session

- Ethical and responsible AI use in nonprofit and community work
- Privacy, confidentiality, and what not to share with AI tools
- Acceptable and prohibited uses of AI for charity work
- Human oversight, fact-checking, and verification
- Bias, equity, and anti-oppression considerations
- When and how to acknowledge AI use
- Drafting Ethical AI Use policy
- Practical scenarios for applying Ethical AI Use Policy

Special Guest

**Samya Hasan**Executive Director, Council of
Agencies Serving South Asians
(CASSA)

Samya Hasan has been with the Council of Agencies Serving South Asians (CASSA) since 2015 and has served as Executive Director since 2017. She leads initiatives focused on anti-racism, anti-hate, health equity, civic engagement, and systems change for South Asian and other racialized communities across Canada. Samya contributes to advisory groups and research initiatives that advance equity and community-informed policy. She was recognized as a "Democracy Superhero" by Toronto Metropolitan University in 2020 and was a CivicAction DiverCity Fellow (2020-2021). She holds a Master of Public Policy, a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Toronto, and a Master's degree in Islamic Studies. Her work is dedicated to advancing equity and empowering communities through leadership and advocacy.

CASSA Upcoming Capacity Building Series Workshop: Ethical AI for Nonprofits: Using AI with Accountability and Care

Artificial Intelligence is transforming the nonprofit sector. This virtual Capacity Building Series Workshop will explore how AI can be used responsibly, ethically, and safely while keeping privacy, human oversight, and equity at the centre of nonprofit work.

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- Virtual

Exclusively for CASSA and South Asian Social Justice Network members.

CASSA AGM: Save the Date



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Summit: Save the Date!



CASSA's Membership!

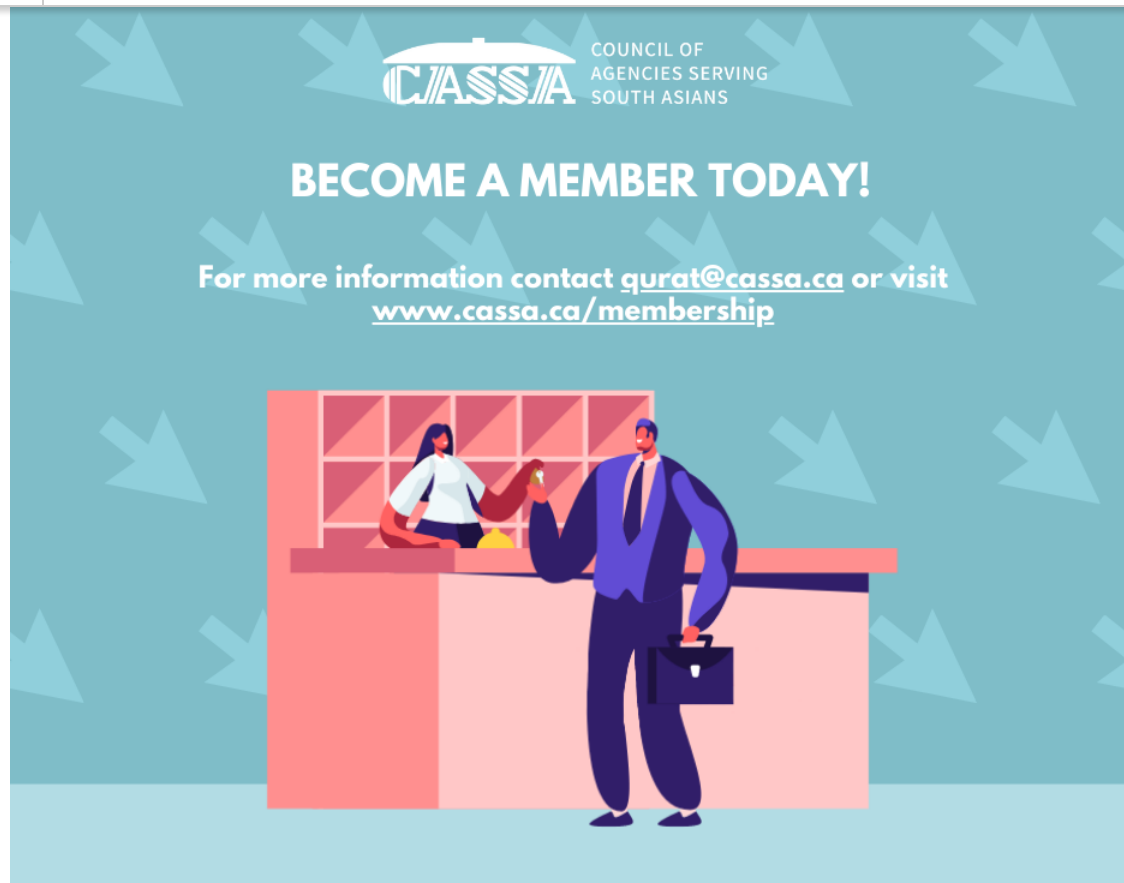
A friendly reminder to renew your CASSA membership and continue being part of a community dedicated to empowering South Asians and advancing social justice, collaboration, and positive change across Canada. Your membership helps strengthen our collective voice and impact. If you have already renewed, thank you for your continued support and commitment to our shared mission—we are grateful to have you as part of the CASSA family.

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CASSA Project Updates

**Discrimination and Prejudice experienced by LGBTQIA+ South Asians
when accessing Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare in Canada**

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Too many LGBTQIA+ South Asians walk into a doctor's office and immediately code-switch - hiding who they are, bracing for judgment, leaving without the care they actually needed.

We're listening - and building evidence that demands change.

Our research team is recruiting for a national study exploring the barriers queer South Asians face in sexual and reproductive health care, how cultural and religious stigma shows up in clinical settings, equitable access to HIV prevention (PrEP, PEP, Doxy-PEP), and what needs to change in provider training and policy.

We're looking for people who:

- Identify as LGBTQIA+
- Are South Asian (Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Sri Lankan, Nepali, Afghan, Indo-Caribbean, Bhutanese, or similar)
- Are 18+
- Live in or access care in ON, QC, BC, or AB

In-person and virtual sessions, in English and South Asian languages. Fully confidential.

Register [here](#)

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#EradicateHate Project

CASSA anti hate workshops have begun and Gibraltar Leadership Academy was the site of the first youth session. Youth bring a unique set of experiences with regards to hate. When I asked the 60 students of grade 6,7,8 on whether they had experienced hate, every single hand went up.

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sports. The eradicate hate app was introduced before reflecting on a scenario that's all too real for Muslim students at Gibraltar Leadership Academy in Scarborough. We ended with solutions, support, and whole lot of smiles.

Togetherness was the theme and students at GLA operate from this social determinant. It was the last day of school and I was honored to be in the building. I must of been asked five times for a cup of coffee and water, I felt like I was with family, and that's the point... Togetherness is how we eradicate hate from our community. Thank you GLA

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#EradicateHate

ANTI-HATE WORKSHOPS

Building Awareness. Strengthening Communities.

CASSA is offering free, interactive, virtual and in-person workshops to help communities recognize and respond to hate, misinformation, racism, and discrimination. These culturally responsive sessions are designed to empower and educate:

[Seniors](#)[Youth](#)[Community Agencies](#)[Women](#)

- Recognize online and offline hate and misinformation
- Build confidence in responding safely to hate incidents
- Learn reporting pathways and community supports
- Strengthen digital literacy and critical thinking
- Promote empathy, belonging, inclusion, and allyship

Facilitated Pro Bono by

Lakhdeep Singh Dhaliwal

Anti-Hate Manager, CASSA

Interested? Contact lakhdeep@cassa.ca



**ANTI-HATE
COMMUNITY
LEADERS' GROUP**

Funded by:



**United Way
Greater Toronto**

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ALBERTA SOUTH ASIAN SOCIAL JUSTICE NETWORK

South Asian Social Justice Network Project - Alberta

Following the success of Alberta's first-ever South Asian Social Justice Summit, the South Asian Social Justice Network Alberta is excited to launch its next phase. We will continue bringing together community leaders, organizations, service providers, and advocates to advance social justice, strengthen partnerships, and support South Asian communities across Alberta. We are also welcoming new Network members to join us! Over the coming year, we will introduce new activities and innovative initiatives, including community dialogues, leadership opportunities, digital storytelling, and collaborative projects that amplify community voices and inspire meaningful change. We look forward to building a stronger, more connected Alberta together.

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QUEBEC SOUTH ASIAN SOCIAL JUSTICE NETWORK

South Asian Social Justice Network Project - Quebec

As we head into August, the South Asian Social Justice Network (SASJN) Québec chapter has been meeting this month to discuss key steps for moving forward, strategizing our upcoming initiatives, and building community-led solutions.

Looking back at our summer highlights, we spent Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day at network member Brique par Brique's Monsoon Festival, where our Québec Lead, Zahra Haider, was invited to speak on network member Teesri Duniya Theatre's panel discussion titled *Engaging with*

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Stay tuned as we continue developing resources, community projects, and cross-movement solidarity campaigns across Quebec!

Interested in joining the South Asian Social Justice Network - Québec? Contact zahra@cassa.ca



Sexual & Reproductive Health for South Asian Newcomer Women

CASSA is leading a three-year community-based research project titled Breaking Barriers: Improving Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Services for South Asian Newcomer Women. This project is funded by United Way Greater Toronto and supported by partner organizations including Punjabi Community Health Services, South Asian Women's Collective, and Laadliyan.

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in a **2-hour focus group**. Share your experiences in a comfortable, culturally safe setting, either in person or virtually. Participants will receive a **\$50 e-gift card** as an honorarium for their time.

To participate, please start by completing a short pre-screening form to confirm your eligibility [here](#)

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)[RSS](#)SEXUAL & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH
FOR SOUTH ASIAN NEWCOMER WOMEN

FOCUS GROUP

Are you a South Asian Newcomer Woman in Canada Aged 36–64?

We want to hear about your experiences accessing sexual and reproductive health services in a focus group discussion. You must have come to Canada in the past 5 years.

Participants will receive a \$50 honorarium!

[CHECK YOUR ELIGIBILITY](#)<https://forms.gle/wubfKdJa6FAuLge86>COUNCIL OF
AGENCIES SERVING
SOUTH ASIANS

Punjabi Community Health Services

United Way
Greater Toronto

Digital Storytelling Campaign

CASSA is launching a national digital storytelling campaign to raise awareness about the systemic discrimination and Islamophobia that Muslims face in Canada.

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to appear in a public video where they can share their story in their own words.

Every story has the power to build empathy, challenge misconceptions, and strengthen solidarity across communities.

If you or someone you know would like to participate, please scan the QR code on the poster below or contact Samaha@cassa.ca or Ridah@cassa.ca for more information.

Together, we can elevate Muslim voices and create lasting impact.

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Call for Stories

VIDEO REQUEST



CASSA is launching a national campaign to raise awareness about systemic discrimination Muslims face in Canada. We're looking for Muslim individuals to share their lived experiences

If selected, you may be invited to appear in a video where your face, voice, and story are shared publicly. Your voice can spark change and build solidarity across communities.



For more information about the project,
please contact Samaha at Samaha@cassa.ca.



Canadian
Race Relations
Foundation

Opportunities

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BUILDING CULTURAL COMPETENCY TO SUPPORT MUSLIM WOMEN

A webinar series for lawyers, social service providers, and Muslim women

Wednesday, August 12,
2026 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM EST



Join **CCMW LAW (Legal Advocacy for Women)** for an informative webinar exploring divorce through Canadian and Muslim family law frameworks.

Facilitators: family lawyer Kainat Rana and international human rights lawyer Fer Ghanaa Ansari

This webinar contains 1 hour of Professionalism Content

This webinar contains 30 minutes of EDI Professionalism Content

Registration required. Registration link:

https://ccmw.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_-T7oF9UgQqOGVCi1_2ANxg

Contact us for more information: legalservices@ccmw.com



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



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FREE Epilepsy & Seizure First Aid Workshop

Available: Zoom
For: service providers, clients and volunteers

[LEARN ABOUT ►](#)

- ✓ Myths & Misconceptions
- ✓ Different types of seizures
- ✓ Seizure First Aid
- ✓ Epilepsy Toronto Services
- ✓ Treatment Options
- ✓ Client Stories



Email leah@epilepsytoronto.org for further information



www.epilepsytoronto.org

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**885 MILITARY TRAIL
SCARBOROUGH ON
M1E 4P6**

9:30AM - 12:30PM

REGISTRATION IN BIO!

**STEPS
TO
WELLNESS**

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29

A community walk dedicated to
youth health and wellbeing

ALL AGES & FITNESS LEVELS WELCOME!

Bring your friends,
family, and good vibes.

INQUIRIES? CONTACT US!
✉ INFO@SOUTHASIANHEALTHALLIANCE.CA

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HEALTH ALLIANCE

PRESENTS:

LET'S TALK : TOMORROW

A NETWORKING SERIES DEDICATED TO PREVENTATIVE HEALTHCARE
IN SOUTH ASIAN COMMUNITIES

Connecting Health Professionals Across the GTA

Explore Topics About:

- Career exploration
- Network Building
- Prevalent community issues

...and MORE!

\$25 Entry

Snacks and
Refreshments
Provided!

Inquiries? Contact Us:



@southasianhealthalliance



info@southasianhealthalliance.ca

DURHAM - AUGUST 6
TORONTO - AUGUST 13
YORK - AUGUST 20
PEEL - AUGUST 27

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Strengthening Families Together

Online

September 15 to October 6 (4 Tuesday evening sessions)

Are you a caregiver providing support to someone living with schizophrenia or a psychosis-related illness? Join us for our four-session Strengthening Families Together psycho-education program. Facilitated by a mental health professional and a family member, our program covers the challenges that caregivers can face while supporting someone living with psychosis – regardless of their diagnosis. You'll learn practical strategies for communication, setting healthy boundaries, relapse prevention, crisis planning, as well as caregiver well-being. This program is intended specifically for caregivers.

Details:

- Session 1: Tuesday September 15, 2026 – 6:30-8:30pm EST
- Session 2: Tuesday September 22, 2026 – 6:30-8:30 EST
- Session 3: Tuesday September 29, 2026 – 6:30-8:30 EST
- Session 4: Tuesday October 6, 2026 – 6:30-8:30 EST

These sessions are online via Zoom. Sessions will not be recorded.

To register, please visit [here](#)

Prior to registering, you will be asked to review IAM's SFT Consent Form. Selecting "yes" serves as your consent to receive services from IAM in the form of SFT. If you select "no", someone will be in touch to review.

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SCARBOROUGH
WOMEN'S
CENTRE

SUMMER 2026 WEBINAR SCHEDULE (AUGUST)



SWC offers webinars through the Webex Meetings platform. You can attend these webinars from your home, using your computer or mobile device. We recommend that you download and install the Webex app. If you don't have a reliable internet connection, you have the option to call in and listen to the webinar on your phone.

Sign up through the form on our website or scan the QR code to the right. We will send you the link to join along with the call-in information if you would rather listen on your phone. You can also register by calling 416-439-7111 x 107 or emailing outreach@scarboroughwomenscentre.ca.



Please note that you need a current email address, that is regularly checked, in order to sign up for SWC webinars. After the webinar you will be asked by email to complete a brief online evaluation.

CLOSED CAPTIONING FOR WEBINARS

The closed caption feature is embedded in the Webex platform. Once you join the webinar, you can turn on captions by clicking on the closed caption (CC) button at the bottom left of the Webex meeting window.

If you have any questions about webinars, please call 416-439-7111 x 107 or email outreach@scarboroughwomenscentre.ca.

TUES, AUG 11 - 1:00 - 2:30 PM

PRACTICE KIND w/ Kiran Shines - Brace yourself! You are about to shatter negative relationship patterns that you have with yourself, boost your confidence, show up in courage in all aspects of your life, and seize each moment of life on your terms. Get set to experience a RECHARGE, regardless of any doubts and fears you may currently have. IT'S POSSIBLE! Explore your inner wisdom, navigate healing & transformation, and discover how extraordinary you are from the inside out. BE INSPIRED, practice KIND, trigger transformation, create possibilities! **Register by Sun, Aug 9.** Sponsored by Royal LePage Shelter Foundation, Royal LePage Estate Realty

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'silence'? This webinar would help you explore the many different ways to use the power of 'silence' to offer support and peace to others. It would help you to understand how 'silence' can open the windows to 'now' and bring out the best of your skills. **Register by Tues, Aug 11.** *Sponsored by Tippet Foundation*

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In-Person Workshops

AUGUST 2026



H.E.A.L. YOURSELF

This H.E.A.L. (honour, express, allow, love) workshop is designed to provide a safe space for participants to explore personal healing journeys through sharing, expressive writing, mindful practices, connection with others, being inspired and fostering empowerment, resilience and well-being. Join us and discover what is possible when you allow love to unfold.

Facilitator: Kiran Shines

Date: Friday, August 7th, 2026

Time: 12:30 - 2:30 PM

Location: Scarborough Women's Centre (2100 Ellesmere Rd., Suite 245)

Please register by: Wednesday, August 5th, 2026

Sponsored by: RBC Community Investment Hub

CONNECTING WITH NATURE: THE JAPANESE PRACTICE OF SHINRIN-YOKU

In 1982 Shinrin-Yoku, or "Forest Bathing" was deemed an official wellness practice in Japan, and by 2017, was included in clinical practice to support people's physical, emotional, and mental wellness. The health benefits of Shinrin-Yoku are now recognized and practiced globally. In this workshop you will learn about the specific health benefits of spending time in nature; the science behind how the forest and being in nature is able to support our health; how to practice Shinrin-Yoku in nature outdoors and how to bring nature inside. We will also provide resources for further learning.

Facilitator: Dona Hird, *Ontario Health atHome*

Date: Friday, August 14th, 2026

Time: 12:30 - 2:00 PM (Please note time.)

Location: Scarborough Women's Centre (2100 Ellesmere Rd., Suite 245)

Please register by: Wednesday, August 12th, 2026

Sponsored by: Ontario Health atHome, Rotary Club of North Scarborough

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SCARBOROUGH
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In-Person Workshops

AUGUST 2026

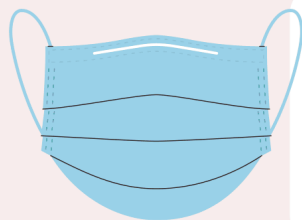


You can register for in-person workshops by [filling out the form on our website](#) or scanning the QR code to the right. You can also register by calling (416) 439-7111 x 107, or emailing outreach@scarboroughwomenscentre.ca.



You must register in order to attend in-person workshops, **no walk-ins are allowed**. Space is limited, so register today!

If you require any accommodations or support to participate in our workshops, please let us know when you register.



Masks are no longer required to attend SWC in-person workshops, but they are still welcome. If you are worried about illness, wearing a mask is a good idea. We are happy to provide you with a disposable mask to use during the workshop. **If you are feeling ill, please stay home to avoid spreading anything to other participants.**

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JOIN THE SAGE NETWORK

South Asian Canadians for Gender Equality

A GTA-wide network bringing together **organizations that serve South Asian communities** and are committed to advancing gender equality and addressing gender-based violence.

Why Join SAGE?

- Connect with organizations across the GTA
- Share resources, knowledge, and promising practices
- Collaborate on gender equality and GBV initiatives
- Identify community needs and service gaps
- Strengthen referrals, partnerships, and collective advocacy

Become a SAGE Network Member

Complete the membership form using the link or barcode below:

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/JBM5iNrMq5?origin=IprLink>



SCAN TO REGISTER



Question?

comms@iwinca.ca

In the News

[In-Canada Workers Initiative: Ottawa says new immigration for temporary workers is not a lottery—it sure feels like it.](#)

Ottawa has a message for the tens of thousands of temporary workers wondering whether they'll get to stay in Canada: it isn't a lottery system. Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) says selection under its In-Canada Workers Initiative comes down to two things: the program a worker applied through; and the date they applied. Nothing else.

[Simcoe County establishing temporary reception centre for asylum claimants in Bradford](#)

The County of Simcoe is establishing a new Temporary Reception Centre in Bradford West Gwillimbury that will provide short-term housing and support services for asylum claimants as they begin their lives in Canada.

[Migrant worker's death on rural road in Niagara Region revives calls for reform](#)

A migrant farm worker's death on a road in Ontario's Niagara Region is the latest in a long list of similar tragedies, advocates say as they call for urgent reforms to Canada's seasonal worker program, from safer rural roads to the end of work permits that tie labourers to a single employer.

[Immigration referendum questions racist, says Edmonton mayor](#)

On July 8, council voted 12-0, with Ward tastawiyiniwak Coun. Karen Principe absent, "that the City of Edmonton declare that Edmonton and Alberta are a vital part of Canada and that Alberta should remain a province of Canada." It was council's second-last decision before the summer break.

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