



Canadian Council of Muslim Women
Le conseil canadien des femmes musulmanes

January 2014

What a way to ring in the New Year! Ice storms, high winds, extreme temperatures and lots of snow! It's been a tough few weeks, especially for those who were still without power. CCMW hopes everyone stayed safe and warm across the country. Let's hope that the next few weeks go easy on us!

January was [National Human Trafficking Awareness Month](#). Not many Canadians are aware of the number of victims that suffer from labour, sex, drug and child trafficking. Around 1.5 million victims are found in the country. The government is working with regional and provincial organizations to develop a National Action Plan to combat human trafficking. It is incumbent upon all Canadians to take action to prevent and report human trafficking to end these acts of modern slavery.

[Martin Luther King, Jr. Day](#) was officially observed in the city of Toronto on January 20 2014. Although MLK Day is not a statutory holiday, nor recognized officially across Canada, there is a lot Canadian can learn from this global leader of nonviolent civil activism. In the face of daily issues, be it personal, professional or community-based - we can draw inspiration from his belief that, "our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter".

Keeping to this philosophy, Farhat Rehman, President of the Ottawa chapter, spoke up in support of the [National Council of Canadian Muslims](#) (NCCM) action to demand an apology from Prime Minister Stephen Harper and his chief spokesman for a comment that associated NCCM with the militant group Hamas.

On January 29 2014, the [Bell Let's Talk Day](#) created awareness for mental health. Bell raised \$5,472,585 through 109,451,718 text messages, mobile and long distance calls, tweets and Facebook shares. This was a very successful and important campaign which helped Canadians talk publically about an issue, which is usually stigmatized.

This month's newsletter contains information about our Train the Trainer chapter workshops based on the CCMW's research publication "[Violence Against Women - Health and Justice for Canadian Muslim Women](#)". We also highlight upcoming media launches for our provincial study entitled, "[Women in Niqab Speak](#)", which has direct bearing on the much-debated Quebec Charter of Rights.

Finally, CCMW is pleased to announce that the [Noor Cultural Centre](#) hosted a panel discussion on "[Women in Niqab Speak](#)" on January 19, 2014, and a brown bag discussion on the same study will be held on February 6, 2014 at the Centre for Women's Studies in Education at the University of Toronto.

Don't forget to share our newsletter on your social networks and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Google +](#)

CCMW IN JANUARY

Montreal Chapter: Monthly Members Meeting

The Montreal Chapter held their monthly meeting on [January 18](#), 2014 at 6767 Cotes des Neiges, suite 601-1.

Should you wish to become a member of the Montreal chapter, please email CCMW at info@ccmw.com and write "Montreal Chapter" in the subject.



CCMW EVENTS - FEBRUARY 2014

February 1 - Journee Mondiale de Hijab 2014

Time: 14:00 a 17:00
heures

Location: Room CI-01, School of Community and Public Affairs (SCPA) at Concordia University (2149 Mackay Street, Montreal)

February 12 - London Chapter: Media Launch for "Women in Niqab Speak"

National: Train the Trainer

On January 18 2014, from 9:45 am to 4:00 pm, at City Hall in Toronto, five CCMW chapters got together for the Train the Trainer Workshops led by Pamela Cross, author of the "[Violence Against Women: Health and Justice for Canadian Muslim Women](#)". Participants included CCMW members from the Toronto, Waterloo-Wellington, Brampton-Mississauga, London, and Niagara chapters.



Time: 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

Location: Brescia College at Western University

February 16 -
[Waterloo/ Wellington Chapter: Media Launch for "Women in Niqab Speak"](#)

Time: 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm

Location: Muslim Society of Guelph, 286 Water Street in Guelph

Contact: Falahat Sheikh at (519) 830-4819

February 26 - Ottawa Chapter: Media Launch for "Women in Niqab Speak"

Time: 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm

Location: TBD

February 28 - Toronto Chapter: Media Launch for "Women in Niqab Speak"

Time: 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Location: York University

CCMW EVENTS - 2014

May 11 - Waterloo/ Wellington Chapter: High Tea

Time: TBD

Location: Punslinch

What does it mean to be a Muslim woman in Canada Today?

Canadian Muslim women speak on the Quebec Charter and Other Challenges: Perspectives on Identity, Civic Participation, and Gender Issues

Speakers:

Shaheen Junaid

'Notes from the Field: Reflections on personal journey as a Muslim activist in Canada'
Ms. Junaid is national board member of the Canadian Council of Muslim Women (CCMW) and Governor, Area 51, Toasmasters International.

Leila Bedeir

'Challenges facing Muslim women in Quebec'
Ms. Bedeir is a founding member of the Collective des féministes musulmanes du Québec and teaches Humanities and Women's Studies at Vanier College.

Afra Jalabi

'Narratives of gender identity in Islam'
Ms. Jalabi is a columnist, a member of the Syrian National Council, Vice-chair of the Day After, and a PhD Candidate at Concordia University.

This public seminar will provide a glimpse into the lives of Muslim women to illustrate how they are navigating through the challenges arising from the current developments in the social and political spheres as active members of the Canadian society.

The seminar will commence with brief talks by three invited speakers and followed by an interactive discussion session.

Please contact Dr. Anis Asghar, Department of Integrated Studies in Education, if you have any questions. anis.asghar@mcgill.ca

Thursday, January 23, 2014

4:00 - 5:30pm

**Room 216, Education Building
3700 McTavish Street
Montreal, QC H3A 1Y2**



Montreal Chapter: What does it mean to be a Muslim woman in Canada Today?

On January, 23 2014 a public seminar at 3700 McTavish Street in Montreal, provided a glimpse into the lives of Muslim women to illustrate how they navigate through challenges arising from the social and political developments, as active members of the Canadian society.

National CCMW board member, Shaheen Junaid was one of the speakers who presented. Her topic was on "Notes from the Field: Reflections on personal journey as a Muslim activist in Canada".



Watch for: Women Who Inspire Event and Brunch 2014!

CCMW is preparing for its annual fundraising event "Women Who Inspire" event and brunch in early Fall 2014. Donations raised at this event help to raise funds for the Lila Fahlman student scholarships for young Canadian Muslim women who demonstrate potential leadership skills in their field of studies and within their communities.

We shall be opening calls for award nominees and student scholarships on our website. CCMW is also proud to announce a new feature this year: calls for vendors to present their products and services. In addition, we will accept applications for entertainment to showcase their projects, music, art, photography, dance, spoken word and poetry.



Toronto Chapter: Monthly Members Meeting

The Toronto Chapter held their monthly Executive Committee meeting on January 26, 2014 at 2191 Yonge Street. General members were invited to this meeting to learn more about events and programs that the Toronto chapter was involved in.

The next one shall tentatively take place on February 21 2014 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

Should you wish to become a member of the Toronto chapter, please email them at toronto@ccmw.com.





CCMW IN THE NEWS

Study dispels stereotypes about Ontario women who wear niqabs

Chris Herhalt, from the Guleph Mercury, wrote about CCMW's project. [Read more.](#)

The Niqab in Canada: A Study on the Practice of Muslim Veiling

In the wake of Bill C-94 in Quebec (which would have withheld certain public services from women wearing the niqab) and the announcement banning the niqab during Canadian citizenship oath-taking, the niqab and its place in Canada have become hot topics in Canadian public discourse.

[Noor Cultural Centre](#) held a session on January 19 2014 at 2 pm, which presented and discussed the Canadian Council of Muslim Women's new [report](#) on women who wear the niqab in Canada. Led by Dr Lynda Clarke, the study's goal is to produce greater understanding of the complexities surrounding the niqab for policy makers, media officials, researchers and members of the public.

Women in Niqab Speak: A Study of the Niqab in Canada

A Brown Bag lecture with Lynda Clarke, Professor of Religion & Islam, Concordia University, Montreal & Alia Hogben, Executive Director, Canadian Council of Muslim Women

February 6, 2014
12—1:30pm
Room 2-227, OISE building, 252 Bloor St. W, Toronto
Free, bring your lunch

[Women in Niqab Speak](#) is a research study conducted by the Canadian Council of Muslim Women and funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation. This is the first Canadian study of its kind and provided the opportunity for Canadian Muslim women who wear the face covering to speak for themselves. The research is based on survey responses, focus groups, and personal interviews with participants from across Ontario. Professor Lynda Clarke, who has written the report, will present the results of the study on the lives of these women and their experiences in obtaining services and dealing with the issues of security and identification.

Muslim group demands apology from Harper, chief spokesman

COMMUNITY NEWS

Call for Papers

Scholars from diverse fields of study are invited to contribute chapters for a peer-reviewed interdisciplinary book on the treaties, letters, and covenants of the Prophet Muhammad, tentatively titled: Critical Studies on the Covenants of the Prophet.

Deadline for Completed Studies: September 1st, 2014

Please send your proposal along with a brief bio featuring your education, academic affiliation, and major publications to Dr. John Andrew Morrow, the Editor-in-Chief at: drjamorrow3333@hotmail.com

Workshop: Sexual Health Network of Ontario

Female Genital Mutilation - The Cutting Tradition

Are you a health care professional, counsellor or educator who wants to learn more about the cutting tradition? Do you want to hear from a community worker about her personal experience as well as her work with the community? Then this workshop is for you!

Please join us for a presentation by:

Kowser Omar Hashi : Midwife, activist and the author of series of books on FGM

Judy Archer: Sexual Health Promoter with Toronto Public Health

Wednesday, February 26, 2014
9:30 - 12noon
North York Civic Centre - Committee Room #3
5100 Yonge Street

Considering Muslim identity, the Quebec charter of values and reform

Ferrukh Faruqi wrote a piece on two speakers at the Reviving the Islamic Spirit Conference that took place in Toronto in December, 2013. [Read more.](#)

ISSA Releases first-ever Professional Guide for Canadian Imams Online

The Islamic Social Services Association released today a Professional Guide for Canadian Imams.

The extensive 50 page document available for

Farhat Rehman of the Canadian Council of Muslim Women said more than just the council was impacted by the remark. "This defamation endangers the very valuable work of NCCM and goes against every Canadian democratic principle," she said. "Further, it exposes the members of NCCM and the whole Muslim community to suspicion, hatred and bigotry." [Read more.](#)

download from the association's website is meant to provide imams- Muslim spiritual leaders usually hired as leaders of a Muslim congregation- with the basic information about their professional responsibilities and duties.

To download the Professional Guide for Canadian Imams, visit: <http://issaservices.com/issa/downloads/ISSA%20-%20Imam%20professional%20Guide.pdf>

Fox News and a Few Conservative Muslim Leaders are Real Scrooges

President of Muslims for Progressive Values, Shahla Khan, wrote a candid piece on the pressures of Christmas. [Read more.](#)

AROUND THE WORLD

Free online advocacy course - Middle East and North Africa

You are invited to apply to take part in an online training programme on minority rights, freedom of religion, regional and international mechanisms for the protection of human rights, and advocacy strategies.

The course is open to all applicants from the Middle East and North Africa region. Qualified women, members of religious minority groups, and nationals of Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia and Yemen are particularly encouraged to apply. The course can be followed in Arabic or English.

The deadline for applications for the first session is 1 February. The training will run from February to April.

To be eligible to participate, applicants should complete the application form in the right-hand column (either the [Arabic](#) or [English](#) version) and send it to the following address: mrgmena@mrgmail.org

Child, Early and Forced Marriage: A Multi-Country Study

In 2012, a two-part study on the state of forced marriage was undertaken by Women Living Under Muslim Laws (WLUML) for its program on culturally-justified violence against women, supported by the Women's Empowerment and Leadership Development for Democratisation (WELDD) consortium. This report is the documentation of that study and was subsequently revised as WLUML's submission to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) for its report on preventing and eliminating child, early and forced marriage. [Read more.](#)



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