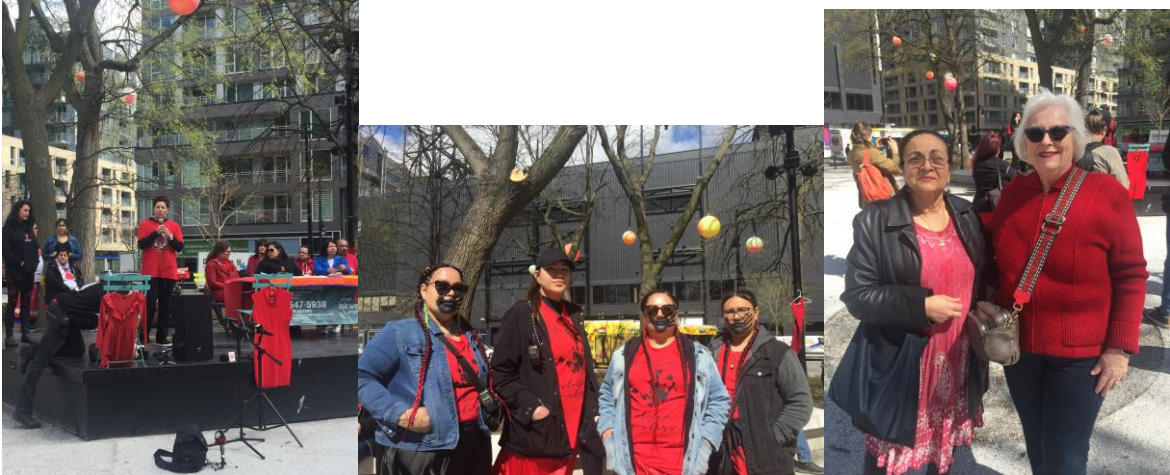


May proved to be a busy month for CCMW Montreal. Farida Mohamed, co-president, attended the ISKWEU press conference at Cabot Square on 5th May 2023, wearing a red dress in honour of missing indigenous women. Montreal Council of Women (MCW)'s Linda Serpone was also present.



Samaa Elibyari, co-president, scheduled a meeting for May 18 with Jennifer Maccarone, the member of the National Assembly (MNA) for Westmount/Ville-Marie, to express the deep concern of the Muslim community regarding the support of the Liberal Party of Quebec (LPQ), of which the latter is a member, for the latest recommendations of the Minister of Education, Bernard Drainville, on April 19th to ban prayers in public schools. Drainville upholds that prayer in schools goes against Bill 21. Farida Mohamed and a board member of Muslim Awareness Week (MAW) were present to voice their opposition to this ban. Samaa has requested a meeting with the LPQ's interim head, Marc Tanguay, and with the LPQ Education Critic, MNA Marwa Rizky, and is awaiting a reply. Six Muslim organizations have filed a lawsuit in Quebec court because they feel that this ban targets mostly Muslim students.

On May 6th, Farida Mohamed volunteered with the Sister Sabria Foundation (SSF) for Orphans' Day, a joint venture between SSF and the organization Enfants Soleil. There were activities for the children as well as finger foods; toys and money were handed out to each attending orphan.



Samaa Elibyari was invited on May 21st to attend a meeting with Amira Elghawaby, which was organized by Samira Laouni, the president of C.O.R. The purpose was to introduce Amira to the women activists in Montreal; Samaa has known Amira for more than 20 years from when she was an aspiring journalist.

On the same day, Amira Elias, the vice-president, organized a khatamul Qu'ran and a reading of du'as for the co-founder of MCQ mosque and school, Dr. Naseem, who passed away in early May.

Farida Mohamed was invited by the Foundation for Genocide Education (FGE) to meet with H.E. Ahmed Al Mansoori, founder of the Crossroads Civilization Museum in Dubai, who was the keynote speaker at their event on May 25th. She invited Afzal Sheikh, president of MCQ mosque, to the event.



Farida Mohamed was contacted by a social worker working with refugee families at the YMCA. A young Pakistani mother with a newborn baby was being evicted from the room she was renting in a shared apartment. She was referred to Nisa Home and Sakeenah Home in order to get help to find a small apartment or a room to rent.

On May 27th, Samaa Elibyari attended a demonstration against the Service de Police de la Ville de Montreal (SPVM) for racial profiling and for the commemoration of George Floyd. Farida Mohamed helped the Sister Sabria Foundation (SSF) deliver food boxes to the homeless outside Old Brewery Mission. The men were profuse in their gratitude and showed appreciation for the food.

The CCMW Montreal Open House was held on Sunday 28th May from noon till 4:00 P.M. Attendance was good and many young girls showed their interest in becoming members by registering with our organization (please see write-up about Open House on website).

May 29th was equally busy with Samaa attending a vernissage of an exhibition celebrating the 60th anniversary of La ligue des droits et libertés and Farida attending an event at the National Gallery of Canada in Ottawa celebrating Asian Heritage Month. Following speeches from

various ministers and shows by talented Chinese and Indian artists, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau made a surprise appearance to address the crowd.



Shaheen Junaid, our treasurer, has been helping seniors throughout the month in various ways, by driving them to medical appointments, by preparing food and by helping them with paperwork.

To end the month of May, Samaa attended a virtual session with Amira Elghawaby as a panelist about on-line hate towards religious minorities, an event organized by MIGS-Concordia University. In the afternoon, she also participated in the planning session of the Coalition contre la haine, which was set up two years ago to combat hate.