



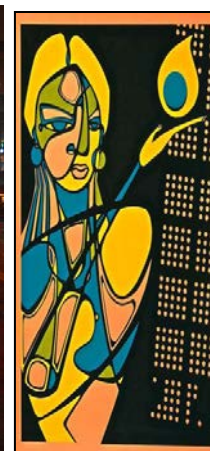
## Le Centre communautaire des femmes sud-asiatiques

*Bonne année à toutes et tous! Happy New year to all!*

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### The Struggle Continues!



### Building Dignified and Healthy Communities: Report Back from March and Vigil

On December 2nd, 2012, as part of the National Day of Action, as well as an ongoing campaign to end violence against Womyn and marginalised communities in Parc-Extension, SAWCC organised a march and vigil to denounce patriarchy, as well as to continue demanding for safe and just spaces for all. Some Womyn yelled slogans in diverse South Asian languages into the megaphones as the group of about 30 occupied busy streets such as Jean-Talon, while others grounded themselves in reading empowering poetry. The group marked the end of the march by gathering in a park next to Parc Metro in a moment of silence, and closing speeches.

During the march, it was incredibly powerful to watch a 5 year old look up at her mama reading Audre Lorde's words through the megaphone as she stood on a bench in a poorly lit park. Perhaps one day, this 5 year old will say, "Ma, why were we marching in the streets all those years ago, and what exactly does Violence against Womyn mean?". Her mama will explain to her why we felt it was important to reclaim the night, public spaces, to scream and shout. She will state, "Before answering your question, I must say, it's great to now live in a society where Violence against Womyn and what were once marginalised communities, no longer exists". She will exchange an eye gaze with her daughter. Both will appreciate the power that lies in the silence that precedes their lengthy discussion on anti-racist feminist struggle. The daughter will then conclude, "You fought struggles against injustice, including that against hetero-patriarchy". Her mama will take a breath, smile, and continue planting the vegetables in the community garden as she says, "Yes, we fought to win".

For poems, speeches and photos see p. 6. To listen to an audio-recording of the event, click on the following community radio link: <http://archives.ckut.ca/64/20121204.08.00-09.00.mp3>

### Qu'en pensez-vous?

#### What do you think?

- Let us know your thoughts about the bulletin.
- Que pensez-vous de notre journal?
- We encourage you to send in your stories and articles for upcoming newsletters in any language by the 25th of every month to: [say.jsa@resist.ca](mailto:say.jsa@resist.ca)
- Écrivez -nous à [say.jsa@resist.ca](mailto:say.jsa@resist.ca)

## Centre Update

### Centre Hours

Monday and Thursdays: 9 a.m.—9 p.m.

Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays: 9 a.m.—5p.m.

### Executive Council

EC meetings are open to all members. Agenda items should be sent at least one week prior to a meeting to: [dolchew@hotmail.com](mailto:dolchew@hotmail.com)

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday January 28th, 2013 at 6:30PM.

### Membership Renewal

Please contact [mghazala@bellnet.ca](mailto:mghazala@bellnet.ca) before March 29th, 2013.

### Volunteers

If you are interested in helping out at the Centre, please contact Homa (Ext. 102 or [homa@bellnet.ca](mailto:homa@bellnet.ca)) for a meeting so we can get to know you better!



*SAWCC English class students enjoying a potluck - December 2012*

## #Idle No More—Solidarity statement by No One Is Illegal National (cont'd p. 8)

As racialized migrants, immigrants, and refugees, we express our support for the Idle No More movement, a movement of Indigenous resurgence/resurgence across these lands. We express our solidarity in opposing the omnibus budget Bill C-45, which includes Indian Act amendments regarding voting on-reserve and Indigenous land "surrender" and "designations" as well as changes to the Fisheries Act and the Navigable Waters Protection Act.

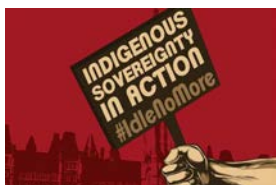
We are allies of Indigenous peoples' asserting their rights and sovereignty and protecting the lands and waters. The history and current reality of Ca-

nada is a racist and genocidal one, marked by the forced dispossession of Indigenous peoples' lands and extraction of their resources, the suppression of Indigenous customs, governance, and laws, and the attempted assimilation of diverse Indigenous cultures and identities. As a result, Indigenous people disproportionately experience poverty, illness, homelessness, and imprisonment. Unprecedented numbers of Indigenous women have gone missing or have been murdered.

As racialized migrants and refugees, we came across many oceans or continents, a hundred years ago or yesterday. Ongoing Western imperialist military occupations, most recently through the War on Terror, and land takeovers facilitated by capitalist and corporate-driven free trade agreements such as NAFTA continue to be a prime reason for the repression, destitution, and migration of our communi-

ties from the Global South/Third World. Increasingly racist and exclusionary immigration policies criminalize and target migrant and refugee communities with increasing deportations, lack of permanent residency, systemically low wages, cuts to basic services including emergency health care, and a recent Tory government Refugee Exclusion Law (Bill C-31) that mandates incarceration for many refugees, including children, in prisons upon arrival.

Enduring decades, if not centuries, of colonialism, empire, racism, impoverishment, violence and displacement; paying a Head-Tax, growing up in internment camps, living in constant fear of deportation and denied access to basic services, unable to be reunited with our family members, working long hours for less than minimum wage in dangerous industries/sweatshops; deemed "illegal,"



## South Asian Youth (SAY) / Jeunes sud-asiatiques (JSA)

SAY will continue its collective meetings into 2013 on Thursdays from 5-7 beginning on January 10th @ SAWCC.

We will continue working on the Anti-violence campaign in Parc-Extension, weekly Club des Filles sessions in high schools, and more! If you are interested in joining the

collective, please contact us at: say.jsa@resist.ca to receive our basis of unity and for more information.

We are also organizing, creating, and beautifying our Youth Zone, a space for reading, hanging out, and meetings. Feel free to drop by and help out!



## Learn about SAWCC's Herstory

Want to learn more about SAWCC?

Stop by the centre and pick up free copies of our publication "Shakti". Copies from 1981 to 2011 are available.

Come get 'em while they last!



## Mise à jour: Sons de solidarité

### Caravane et Rallye au Centre de prévention de l'immigration de Laval

Les chiffres sont choquants : depuis 2004, au moins 95,000 immigrantEs ont été détenuEs; la plus longue détention - en vertu du tristement célèbre régime des «certificats de sécurité» - est de plus de douze ans. Les chiffres vont grimper, car une nouvelle loi donne au ministère de l'immigration le pouvoir d'étiqueter certainEs immigrantEs arrivant au Canada pour la détention obligatoire. Pourtant, ce ne sont pas les chiffres, mais les impacts sur les communautés et sur des êtres chers - l'humiliation, le re-traumatisme, le sentiment d'impuissance, la confusion et la peur - qui nous motivent à vouloir mettre fin à ce système d'injustice.

En réponse à un appel à l'action du réseau Justice pour Mahjoub de Toronto, les gens se sont mobilisés dans plusieurs villes partout au Canada, le 10 décembre - la journée internationale des droits humains et le dixième anniversaire de l'arrestation de Mohamed Harkat, en vertu d'un « certificat de sécurité » d'immigration - pour exiger que cesse la détention des immigrantEs. (Ce texte a été copié du site-web de réseau Justice pour Mahjoub.)

Pour lire un discours de solidarité au sein du CCFSA, veuillez voir:

To read a solidarity statement on behalf of SAWCC, please go to:

[www.supportmahjoub.org/speechlessness/](http://www.supportmahjoub.org/speechlessness/).





## SAWCC's Year End Party (Dec 9, 2012) - by Indu Krishnamurthy

SAWCC is 31 years old! This is the first year I attended its year end party which took place on the weekend. I decided to share this first experience with you.

As much as I would like to be more present, work obligations make week day visits to the Center nearly impossible. So this was my opportunity to meet SAWCC's participants, partners & scores of volunteers in a festive atmosphere. To get into the festive mood, I donned a sari that I had tucked away for special occasions. I rushed to the CEDA Center eagerly with my pot of sambar, to share with one and all.

Ruwani, Rashmini and other volunteers were already installed in the children's corner with their face painting, mehendi & tattoo kits. They had strategically placed chairs for children to take turns for their choice of special treatment. The anticipation in their innocent faces for this treat was tangible!

Farha & Naila, our bilingual emcees did a terrific job of managing the programs on stage. There were dance routines in Tamil & Hindi. Mira Shanti played the guitar to accompany her country music. Our EC member Kakali & friend Darshana painted the stage red with their dance! Amani encouraged the children to join her on stage and many adults joined her on the floor too. She made Bollywood dance seem like a walk in the park to the many enthusiasts.

Staff & volunteers were busy dividing and multiplying the varieties of food which included vada, cutlets rice & dal on the savoury table and a range of sweets from laddoos to doughnuts. The feast was enjoyed by all.

It was lovely to see women dressed for the occasion in salwars, kurtis, jeans & saris. Seen as the children were occupied, they had time to chit chat amongst

themselves. Some participated eagerly in SAWCC's famous musical chairs event.

At the beginning of the afternoon, I chatted with a woman in my broken Hindi & French. She was telling me how she had to literally drag her 13 year old son to the event that afternoon. The boy clearly looked unhappy and was staring at pages of unfinished homework. By the end of the afternoon, I caught him



## Canada's Refugee Exclusion Act: No One Is Illegal, Canada Is Illegal

- by Farha Najah Hussain

The draconian *Protecting Canada's Immigration System Act* received Royal assent on June 28th 2012. The section on Designated Countries of Origin (DCOs) came into force on December 15th, 2012. Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism Minister (a.k.a Minister of Censorship and Deportation) Jason Kenney has deceptively stated that this Act is meant to be "faster and fairer". Furthermore, he has callously accused asylum claimants as being abusers of the immigration system, and he has perpetuated Canada's practice of dividing refugees between "genuine" vs "bogus" (CIC, 2012). In reality, this Act has been implemented within the context of a hypocritical and flawed immigration system. Canada has been built on the theft of Native Land, the genocide of Indigenous peoples, on the backs of slaves, and within the reigns of capitalist enterprise whereby migrant and racialised bodies are treated as mere commodities. This Act is and will continue to significantly impact people within our communities: increase in detention, breaking apart of families, and an increase in temporary and precarious status for migrant workers. Designated Countries of Origins (DCOs) will further a discriminatory two-tier system whereby the minister has (and can) unilaterally deemed certain countries as being "safe". People from DCOs will also be kept from accessing basic health care. As stated repeatedly by generations of diverse communities, "there is no such thing as an 'illegal' human being, only unjust laws and illegitimate governments". The bill may have become law, but the fight for migrant justice continues, until no human being is deemed illegal.

-A summary of changes to immigration law can be found in this Toronto Star article: [www.thestar.com/news/investigations/immigration/article/1308263--immigration-and-refugee-system-canada-made-controversial-changes-in-2012](http://www.thestar.com/news/investigations/immigration/article/1308263--immigration-and-refugee-system-canada-made-controversial-changes-in-2012)

-For the current list of DCOs, visit: [www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/reform-safe.asp](http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/reform-safe.asp)

-CIC (2012, November). *Making Canada's Asylum System Faster and Fairer*. Retrieved from <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/departement/media/releases/2012/2012-11-30.asp>

**Some pictures from the Year-End Party (Photo-credit: Sumera Khan)**





## Journée nationale de commémoration et d'action contre la violence faite aux Femmes (cont'd from pg. 1)



### Texte par Catherine-A. Mompont

À chaque jour, des plaintes sont portées concernant des harcèlements et de la violence conjugale, par des femmes craignant pour leur sécurité. Malgré cela, plusieurs drames passent inaperçus et des tragédies en suivent :

Le 4 novembre 2011, Emmanuelle Phaneuf et sa fille Laurie sont tuées par l'homme qui harcelait Mme Phaneuf depuis un moment. Ici même, à Parc Extension, le 29 octobre dernier, Mme Yogarani Kunaratnam est assassinée par son harceleur, 20 jours seulement après que celui-ci ait purgé une peine de 6 jours d'incarcération pour l'avoir précédemment harcelé.

La difficulté qui semble exister à appréhender ces individus avant qu'ils ne commettent l'irréparable, décourage plusieurs femmes qui se disent que de porter plainte serait en vain. Mais il est important de dénoncer et d'agir contre cette rage que vivent intérieurement ces individus. Il est difficile de ne pas tracer un parallèle avec la tuerie à l'École Polytechnique de Montréal où 14 femmes ont été abattues par un jeune homme envahi par cette rage. Une rage portée par l'intolérance à l'égalité des sexes, par l'antiféminisme, par la crainte de voir la femme faire des choix contraires aux siens, par une peur illusoire que la femme prenne trop de place...?

Aujourd'hui, nous honorons la mémoire de toutes ces femmes, dont la vie a brutalement été fauchée par ce désir de les voir asservies. Et pour que plus jamais aucune femme n'ait à craindre la menace d'un acte de violence contre elle, pour simplement prétendre à exercer son droit de s'exprimer, son droit de se réaliser,

### Hanging Fire by Audre Lorde

I am fourteen  
and my skin has betrayed me  
the boy I cannot live without  
still sucks his thumb  
in secret  
how come my knees are  
always so ashy  
what if I die  
before morning  
and momma's in the bedroom

I have to learn how to dance  
in time for the next party  
my room is too small for me  
suppose I die before graduation  
they will sing sad melodies  
but finally  
tell the truth about me  
There is nothing I want to do  
and too much  
that has to be done  
and momma's in the bedroom

Nobody even stops to think  
about my side of it  
I should have been on Math  
Team my marks were better than  
his  
why do I have to be  
the one  
wearing braces  
I have nothing to wear tomorrow  
will I live long enough  
to grow up  
and momma's in the bedroom  
with the door closed.

- Read out by Ruwani Payoe



## I Must Become a Menace to My Enemies

by June Jordan

I will no longer lightly walk behind  
a one of you who fear me:  
Be afraid.  
I plan to give you reasons for your jumpy fits  
and facial tics  
I will not walk politely on the pavements anymore  
and this is dedicated in particular  
to those who hear my footsteps  
or the insubstantial rattling of my grocery  
cart  
then turn around  
see me  
and hurry on  
away from this impressive terror I must be:  
I plan to blossom bloody on an afternoon  
surrounded by my comrades singing  
terrible revenge in merciless  
accelerating  
rhythms  
[...excerpt from original poem]

## Delhi Gang-Rape

— A note from the editors



Picture from Delhi protests (photo-credit: unknown)

A recent gang rape in Delhi India has sparked large protests within the sub-continent and elicited discussions in the media - including corporate media in the global north. We're interested in hearing your thoughts and analysis on what is happening.

There are many articles and interviews available on the web. Below are some that we have come across.

Please note that we do not necessarily condone all the points or analysis mentioned in these pieces (e.g. Demands of increased policing in public spaces and fast-track incarceration as a form to address a rape).

### -On the Struggle Against Neo-Colonialism and Patriarchy:

Delhi gang-rape: Look Westward in disgust by Emer O'Toole

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2013/jan01/delhi-rape-damini>

### -On Caste, Class and Indian Rape Culture:

Interview by Arundhati Roy

<http://www.channel4.com/news/arundhati-roy-speaks-out-against-indian-rape-culture>

### -On the Death Penalty :

Statement by Women's and Progressive groups and individuals condemning sexual violence and opposing death penalty, from Kafila's website

<http://kafila.org/2012/12/24/statement-by-womens-and-progressive-groups-and-individuals-condemning-sexual-violence-and-opposing-death-penalty/>

## #Idle No More (cont'd from p. 2)

"undesirable," or "terrorist" by the Canadian government (and often Canadians), many of us have struggled to find stability and to make homes here on Turtle Island. But we recognize that our homes are built on the ruins of others. We are on the lands of Indigenous peoples: lands unjustly seized, unceded lands, treaty territories.

With humility and gratitude, we affirm our solidarity and support for the sovereignty not of the illegal Canadian government or its immoral laws but of those communities whose lands we reside on.

(Retrieved from <https://www.facebook.com/events/459526197437894>)

Right: SAWCC members at a demonstration in support of ongoing struggles for Indigenous sovereignty, and #IdleNoMore protests.



## SAWCC Reads

During the winter months, curling up on the couch with a cup of hot cocoa (or tea!) and a good book is a great way to spend a Sunday. This month we take a peek into the reading life of a SAWCC staff member, Juvaria Yasser.

### Would you say you're a big reader?

Yes! There's a site where you can record the number of books you've read and I have read 300 of them already. Though there are people who have read 3000. So it depends on how you define "big reader".

### What are you reading now?

"Sins" by Judith Gould. The only book of hers that I've enjoyed so far.

### What are some of your favourite books?

"Gone with the Wind" (a great classic by Margaret Mitchell), "Roots" (by Alex Haley) and "Thorn Birds" (by Colleen McCullough).

### What is it about these books that you enjoy?

I love reading about an era that I haven't observed.

### Who is your favourite author?

Eric Segal, known for writing the novel "Love Story"

### When is your favourite time to read?

Right before bed, or any minute that I have! There is never enough time to read.



## Healthy Eating

What's in season in January? Apples and pears! Great fruits packed with fibre & vitamin C.



### SWEET PEAR DESSERT

Ingredients:

- 4 bosc pears
- 2 cups apple juice
- 6 cloves
- Pinch of cinnamon

Wash the pears and chop off the bottom. Place them in a baking dish and add the apple juice to the dish. Add the cloves and cinnamon to the juice. Bake for 60 minutes at 400F. Baste every 15 minutes.

Place on a plate and drizzle with remaining juice. Enjoy!



# Centre Communautaire des femmes sud-asiatiques

South Asian Women's Community Centre  
1035, rue Rachel est, 3ième étage.  
Montréal, QC H2J 2J5

Phone: 514-528-8812  
Fax: 514-528-0896  
E-mail: sawcc@bellnet.ca

31 years of sisterhood, strength, struggle and success 1981-2013

[www.sawcc-ccfsa.ca](http://www.sawcc-ccfsa.ca)

Jan 8—Cooking Class 10:30-noon

8 jan—Cours de cuisine de 10h30 à 12

Jan 10—South Asian Youth (SAY) meeting, 5-7p.m.

10 jan—Réunion des JSA à 17h

Jan 11—Idle No More Demonstration, 1pm at Palais des Congrès

11 jan—Manifestation en soutien de Idle No More, 13hrs Palais des Congrès

Jan 15—Information Session: Women's Mental Health by Ami Québec, 10:30-noon

15 jan—Session d'information sur la santé mentale des femmes par Ami Québec de 10h30 à midi

Jan 17—SAY meeting, (SAY) meeting, 5-7p.m.

17 jan—Réunion des JSA à 17h

Jan 22—Information Session: Family Law, 10:30-noon

22 jan—Session d'information sur la droit familiale de 10h30 à midi

Jan 24—SAY meeting, 5-7 p.m.

24 jan—Réunion des JSA à 17h

Jan 25—Monthly potluck

25 jan—Dîner communautaire mensuel










Jan 28—EC Meeting 6 p.m

28 jan—Réunion du conseil administratif à 18h

Jan 29—Information Session TBD  
(contact shipra@bellnet.ca for more info)

29 jan—Session d'information (pour plus d'information veuillez contacter shi-pra@bellnet.ca)

# janvier 2013

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