



Le Centre communautaire des femmes sud-asiatiques

Access to Shelters for Transsexual and Transgender Women!

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The following press release was disseminated on January 25th 2013 by ASTT(e)Q.

Transsexual and transgender women denied access to shelters as temperatures drop in Montréal—

ASTT(e)Q urges Québec shelters to change discriminatory practices.

As temperatures drop to extreme lows, transsexual and transgender women in Montréal continue to be turned away from many homeless women's shelters. Over the past week of bitter cold, ASTT(e)Q, a local trans health project of CACTUS Montréal, has witnessed several of our members be denied shelter on the grounds of being trans. While such refusals are frequently justified by administrative regulations, members of ASTT(e)Q believe that these exclusive practices are rooted in discriminatory attitudes towards trans people.

A majority of women's shelters throughout Québec require trans people to have undergone sex reassignment surgery, and/or to have changed their legal sex. "Such requirements are unattainable for most homeless trans people, due to prohibitive costs, and extensive administrative requirements," says Mirha-Soleil Ross, staff of ASTT(e)Q. "Trans women are left with no alternatives, as men's shelters are clearly not an option. With no place to turn, homeless trans women find themselves on the streets, which in -30 below temperatures is nothing short of deadly."



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
- Écrivez -nous à say.jsa@resist.ca

"Just this week, a trans woman who had her surgery months ago was refused access to a woman's shelter because she didn't have an 'F' on her identity documents! While we believe trans people should have access to shelter and housing regardless of surgical status, this is a clear case of discrimination disguised as administrative regulations," continues Ross.

(continued on page 7)

Errata

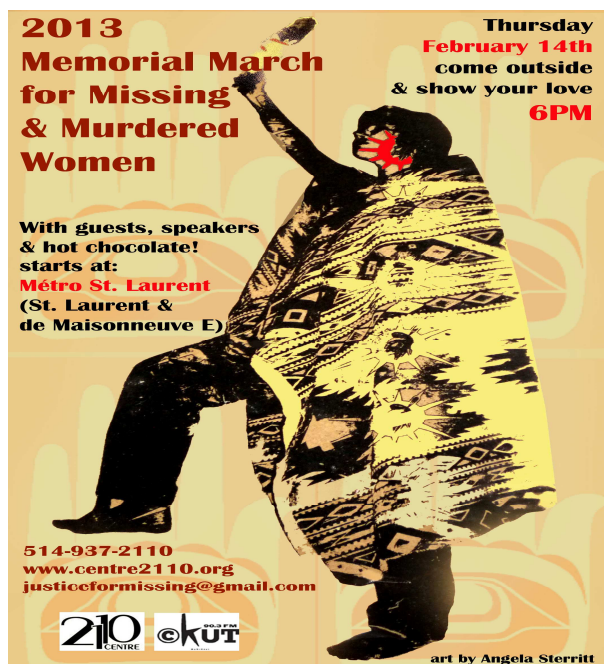


We would like to make the following clarification and/or correction from last month's Bulletin:

- In the article entitled *Canada's Refugee Exclusion Act: No One Is Illegal, canada is illegal*, the first sentence should read as follows: "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" (vs "The draconian Protecting Canada's Immigration System Act came into force on December 15th").

- In the *Note from the Editors*, the first sentence should read as follows: "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" (vs cooperate media).

2013 Annual Memorial March for Missing and Murdered Women



Justice for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (Missing Justice) invites you and yours to attend, spread the word about, and participate in this year's Memorial March for Missing and Murdered Women on **Thursday February 14th, 6pm at St. Laurent metro.**

This year, Montreal holds it's 4th Annual Memorial March.

Please contact Missing Justice for more information justiceformissing@gmail.com, 514-937-2110

22nd Annual Feb 14th Women's Memorial March Vancouver's Downtown Eastside (DTES)

The first women's memorial march was held in 1991 in response to the murder of a Coast Salish woman on Powell Street in Vancouver. Her name is not spoken today out of respect for the wishes of her family. Out of this sense of hopelessness and anger came an annual march on Valentine's Day to express compassion, community, and caring for all women in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, Unceded Coast Salish Territories. Twenty two years later, the women's memorial march continues to honour the lives of missing and murdered women.

Increasing deaths of many vulnerable women from the DTES still leaves family, friends, loved ones, and community members with an overwhelming sense of grief and loss. This year, the Women's Memorial March occurs in the context of the provincial missing women's inquiry, which marginalized the

voices and experiences of DTES residents, Indigenous communities, and women's groups. Women continue to go missing or be murdered with no action from any level of government to address these tragedies or the systemic nature of gendered violence, poverty, racism, or colonialism. We are calling for a national public inquiry and continue to seek justice internationally with submissions at the level of the UN.

This event is organized and led by women in the DTES because women – especially Indigenous women – face physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual violence on a daily basis. The February 14th Women's Memorial March is an opportunity to come together to grieve the loss of our beloved sisters, remember the women who are still missing, and to dedicate ourselves to justice.

There are many ways to support the Feb 14th Women's Memorial March:

Plan a memorial march in your community. Last year, memorial marches were held in approximately ten other cities and communities. If you are organizing a memorial march please email us the details at marlene.george@vancouver.ca and hwalia8@gmail.com so we can maintain communication, compile the information on our website, and build strength in our coordinated efforts.

Thank you all for your support and commitment,

Feb 14th Women's Memorial March Committee

From:

<http://womensmemorialmarch.wordpress.com/>



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

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday February 25th, 2013

Membership Renewal

A friendly reminder: it's time to renew your membership for 2013-2014! Please contact 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)



#Idle No More— South Asians in Solidarity with Idle No More

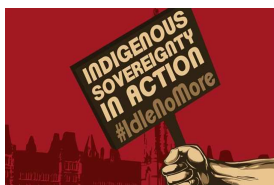
The Editors came across this statement and wish to share it with SAWCC bulletin readers.

Indigenous communities across Turtle Island (North America) are leading struggles against ongoing colonialism, capitalism and environmental destruction to protect their communities and lands and assert Indigenous sovereignty. Idle No More is a call to all non-native communities to recognize our complicities in ongoing processes of settler colonialism in what we call Canada. Canada has a colonial present, not just a history, that is built on the ongoing occupation and destruction of Indigenous peoples and nations. It is us, non-native communities,

who have been idle for way too long. As members of communities of colour, we need to position ourselves in solidarity with Indigenous struggles against colonialism to protect all our communities.

We hear the call from Indigenous peoples, reminding us that we too are responsible to act against Harper and Canada's conservative agenda to further destroy our treaty relations and relationships with unceded territories. It is our time to say that we will no longer remain idle and complicit. As a group of self-identified South Asians, we call upon our families, friends, and communities to join us in resisting Bill C-45 and the colonial state of Canada, in solidarity with Indigenous peoples and nations. We, as South Asians, may have varied histories and experiences of coming to and settling on these lands, depending on our gender, caste, class, racial, sexual, ethnic, and national identities. But we have all

been marked by centuries of colonialism, and must recognize that our place on Indigenous lands is also complicated and facilitated by colonialism, capitalism and gendered and racialized hierarchies. Knowing how fractured our communities are due to racism, sexism, and classism in colonial Canada, we must realize how our colonized histories, and presents, are deeply connected to ongoing Indigenous struggles. We also recognize the importance of understanding the links between centuries of resistance to colonialism on occupied Turtle Island and the ongoing anti-colonial struggles for self-determination in South Asia, which shape so many of our lives here as immigrants. There are connections to be made between Idle no More and the many movements for freedom in Kashmir, Baluchistan, North East India, Tamil Eelam, Tibet, and Punjab. In recognizing that decolonization is an active (continued on page 7)



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

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

The youth at Maison des Jeunes - Jeunesse Unie are currently organizing an activity night and community supper for their group. We look forward to participating!

We are also in the midst of updating and expanding our library. If there are specific zines or books you are interested in, and they would be a resource for SAY and SAWCC, please send us your suggestions!

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.



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!



A Community Guide on Diabetes in Immigrant Ethnic Populations: Sample programs for early detection and management (by Ramani Balendra)

On January 17th 2013, I attended the final National advisory committee meeting organized by the Canadian Ethnocultural Council at National Hotel in Ottawa. In 2011 The Canadian Ethnocultural council created a 2 year project on preparing a **Community Guide on Diabetes in Immigrant Ethnic Populations: Sample programs for early detection and management**.

An advisory committee was created with 13 members around Canada who are Doctors, Nurses, Nutritionist, Educators and Community Social workers. I had an opportunity to meet other advisory committee members and other organizations that came from Toronto, Vancouver, Calgary, Winnipeg, BC and Ottawa. During the meeting each organization/ health service providers exchanged their ideas and how they work towards the early detection and management of Diabetic in Immigrant ethnic populations in their cities. Also we discussed about the Community Guide for final modifications and additions.

"According to the Canadian Diabetic Association, in 2010 about 2.7 million Canadians had diabetes. By 2020 the number is projected to rise to 4.2 million. It is estimated that approximately 1 million people in Canada have the disease but have not been diagnosed". So the early detection of diabetes is very important, especially in High-Risk Immigrant Ethnic Communities like the South Asian Community.



Romance

by Captain

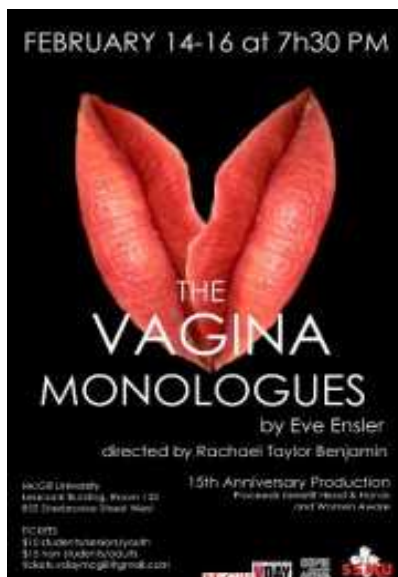
The hottest thing
Is you teaching me how to
Get you off
Cause I know that you have worked for years
Years to reclaim, heal and please your body
And now with extreme gratitude
I sit at your feet
And learn the mysteries
That are you and your
Pleasure

(from the zine "Romance for Rebels,"
compiled by Jo Lemay).



Artwork by Cristy C. Road

The Vagina Monologues @ McGill University



V-Day McGill presents its 12th annual benefit production of Eve Ensler's "The Vagina Monologues"!

Directed by Rachael Benjamin, The Vagina Monologues is a celebration of female sexuality in all its complexity and mystery. Based on interviews with over 200 women about their memories and experiences of sexuality, The Vagina Monologues gives voice to women's deepest fantasies and fears, guaranteeing that no one will ever look at a woman's body, or think of sex, in quite the same way again. The show has been performed worldwide and at hundreds of college campuses, including

McGill since 2001. It also inspired V-Day, a movement to stop violence against women and girls.

February 14-16 @ 7:30 pm
McGill University, Leacock 132
855 Sherbrooke Street West

Tickets: \$10 students/seniors, \$15 adults
E-mail tickets.vdaymcgill@gmail.com
for reservations/information. Availability
on McGill Campus TBD!

Proceeds benefit Montreal anti-violence
organizations: Head & Hands and
WomenAware

March 8th - International Women's Day

Courtesy by—The March 8th Coordination and Action Committee of Women of Diverse Origins

Chères amies, Gardez la date! Save the Date!

LES FEMMES SE LÈVENT CONTRE LA VIOLENCE!

Contre la pauvreté, la guerre, le génocide, en défense de la Terre-mère.

Quand: vendredi, le 8 mars 2013, 18 hr, details à venir

WOMEN RISE UP AGAINST VIOLENCE!

Against poverty, war, genocide, and in defense of Mother Earth!

When: Friday, March 8, 2013 at 6 pm, more details to follow



photos by Anindya Chattopadhyay

They battled the odds to even the chances

Times of India Social Impact Awardees 2013

DRIVING CHANGE, MAKING PEACE—After an intense discussion, the jury decided the Naga Mothers Association [photo above] and the Meira Paibi [photo below] of Manipur should share the Lifetime Contribution Award. The fact that both groups are driven by women and have battled serious social and law-and-order problems in the northeast struck a deep chord with jury members. NMA and Meira Paibi have campaigned against alcohol and drug addiction, gender violence and human rights violations in their states. With their "Shed No More Blood" movement, the NMA has nurtured and sustained a ceasefire between Naga underground groups and the government, and continues to monitor the peace process. Historically, the Naga and Meiti men have been in conflict, and initially, we were not sure if the women would accept a joint award. After several phone calls and meetings with senior TOI editors in Kohima and Imphal, and internal discussions of their own, both groups said they would be "honoured" to accept the award.

RECIPE TIME! Nazanin's Dupiazay Kachaloo

Ingredients:

4-5 eggs, beaten lightly, 2 large onions, chopped, 1 ½ C oil, 5 lbs potatoes, peeled, quartered and boiled till tender, 1 Tbsp turmeric, 6-7 sour gherkins, sliced lengthwise. Salt & pepper

Method:

Brown onions in a deep pan till brown while potatoes are boiling.

Add turmeric to the onions; remove about 1 cup oil and set aside.

When potatoes are done, cut them roughly with a knife. They should appear mashed but do not use potato masher.

Add onions and only ½ cup oil to the potatoes and transfer back to a cooking pot. Add about 1 Tbsp pepper and 2 tsp salt, and the beaten eggs. Mix well.

Cover with an absorbent paper and the lid and steam for 5 minutes on low heat.

Serve garnished with sliced gherkins and pita bread.

Cont'd from p. 1

"We are currently seeing many important legal and social advances for trans people, including in neighbouring Ontario where one can change their legal sex regardless of surgical status," says Nora Butler Burke, coordinator of ASTT(e)Q. "In Québec, trans people have been relentlessly educating intervention workers and calling for shelters to address the exclusion of homeless trans people for decades. Yet shelters continue to refuse trans people based on the outdated policies of the Québec Department of Civil Status."

In the context of life threatening temperatures, ASTT(e)Q urges all shelters to immediately remove barriers to admission for trans people based on the legal documentation in their possession and/or their surgical status. More broadly, we advocate for access to

shelters, as well as other gender specific services, to be available according to one's social identity rather than according to their legal or surgical status. We encourage organizations across Québec to work in collaboration with trans community groups to ensure that trans people are no longer denied access.

About ASTT(e)Q (Action Santé Trans-est(e)s et Transsexuel(le)s du Québec)

ASTT(e)Q aims to promote the health and well-being of trans people through peer support and advocacy, education and outreach, and community empowerment and mobilization. We understand the health of trans people and our communities to be interrelated to economic and social inequalities, which have resulted in trans people experi-

encing disproportionate rates of poverty, un(der)employment, precarious housing, criminalization and violence. We believe in the right to self-determine our gender identity and gender expression free from coercion, violence and discrimination. We advocate for access to healthcare that will meet the many needs of our diverse communities, while working collectively to build supportive, healthy and resilient communities.

For more information, contact Nora Butler Burke at 514-347-9462 or nora@astteq.org

For terms, definitions and additional information about trans people: www.santetranshealth.org



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

process and not simply a declaration, we commit to putting our allyship into practice with Indigenous peoples everywhere, from Turtle Island to Adivasis in India, Chakmas in Bangladesh, Janjatis in Nepal, Vedas in Sri Lanka and many other Indigenous communities across the subcontinent of South Asia.

This is a call to collectively commit to decolonizing ourselves, our communities and our relationships with Indigenous peoples and nations. To this end, it is not enough to just take part in protests, marches, flash mobs – although our presence is necessary. We also need to develop an ethic of cultivating relationships with Indigenous sovereignty movements by learning the colonial nature of the Canadian state, the treaties and status of land claims on the lands we occupy, the historical and ongoing struggles of Indigenous communities and understanding our complicities on these colonized lands. Decolonization of Turtle Islands is not just an Indigenous issue. Idle No More and Indigenous sovereignty is not just the responsibility of Indigenous peoples. It is part of broader of anti-racist or anti-capitalist struggles. We need to join Indigenous communities in imagining and working towards a stronger and sustainable future for all by recentering Indigenous struggles, knowledges and world-views.

We, the signatories, want to reflect, learn, talk and act collectively with our families and friends, and you. Lets join Indigenous communities on Idle No More Global Day of Solidarity this January 11, 2013 in our towns and cities. Lets show them our support and solidarity. In Toronto, look for us with the banner "South Asians in Solidarity with Idle No More".

If you would like to endorse our statement, know more about the group and join us, please email us at southasian-scgroup@gmail.com.

Centre Communautaire des femmes sud-asiatiques

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Montréal, QC H2J 2J5

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E-mail: sawcc@bellnet.ca

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

www.sawcc-ccfsa.ca

Feb 5th—Information session on the
STM from 10:30-noon

5 fév— Session d'information sur le
STM de 10h30 à midi

Feb 7th —SAY meeting at 5pm

7 fév—Réunion des JSA à 17h

Feb 12th—Information session on Arts
and Crafts, from 10:30-noon

12 fév— Session d'arts plastiques de
10h30 à midi

Feb 14th—Memorial March for Missing
and Murdered Women , 6pm at St.
Laurent metro.

14 fév—Marche commémorative pour
les femmes disparues et assassinées,
18hrs, Métro St-Laurent.

February 19th—Cooking class from
10:30-noon

19 fév—Cours de cuisine de 10h30 à
midi

Feb 21st —SAY meeting at 5pm

21 fév— Réunion des JSA à 17h

Feb 22nd—Potluck at noon

22 fév—Dîner communautaire à midi

Feb 25th—Executive Council meeting
at 6 p.m.

25 fév—Réunion du conseil administra-
tif à 18h30











Feb 26th— Information Session on
Child Tax Benefit from 10:30-noon

26 fév— Session d'information sur la
Prestation fiscale canadienne pour
enfants

Feb 28th—SAY meeting at 5pm

28 fév—Réunion des JSA à 17hr

février 2013

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