



**SOCIALSERVICESNETWORK**

serving diverse communities

## **IMPACT OF FAMILY VIOLENCE: *A South Asian Perspective***

### **ANNUAL CONFERENCE - OTTWA 2015**

#### **WHAT IS THIS CONFERENCE?**

The Social Services Network (SSN) in partnership with numerous regional and provincial organizations is holding the 5th Annual Impact of Family Violence Conference: A South Asian Perspective in Ottawa this year! We have held 4 conferences to-date; 1st - Toronto; 2nd - York Region; 3rd - Peel; and 4th - Durham Region. The upcoming conference brings the learnings, the partners and new regional, provincial and since it is in our nation's capital - national - partners together with diverse South Asian communities to share information, resources and develop community strategies to combat violence that some South Asian families are experiencing.

#### **WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?**

- Generic "cultural diversity" training does not get to the core of the issues facing South Asian families. There are different family dynamics and differential systemic barriers
- Violence within South Asian communities is evident, especially with girls, women and seniors
- Numerous barriers for South Asian people have been identified within the existing justice systems through research and consultations
- There is a lack of coordination, collaboration and communication between key violence prevention and response services and South Asian communities



<http://www.socialservicesnetwork.org/FVCworkshops.aspx>

## WHO ATTENDED IN PREVIOUS YEARS?

- In 2011 – 264 participants, from across Toronto
- In 2012 – 300 audience member, from York Region and the Greater Toronto Area
- In 2013 – 500 attendees participated, from across Ontario
- In 2014 over the course of 2 days roughly 650 attendees engaged in this conference, from across the Greater Toronto Area, Ontario, Canada and even from the United States!

**PROPOSED DAY 1** Policy Forum to take place at Parliament Hill. Policy makers will have the opportunity to hear from community participants and service providers from across the country and ask questions about various innovative programs, strategies and the impact these initiatives can and have been, having to reduce violence in South Asian families.

**PROPOSED DAY 2** At a post-secondary institution in Ottawa where workshops will occur with policy makers, service providers and community members to learn about promising practices, the legal and policy framework and workshops that help families to navigate the systems and learn strategies to towards a safe and healthy life!

## HOW WILL SERVICE PROVIDERS BENEFIT?

The workshop training and dialogue will offer service providers:

- Information towards an enhanced understanding of the diversity within South Asian faiths, languages as well as the specific barriers to disclosure and seeking services
- Various tips on intervention to allow for more effective methods to serve and protect South Asian families
- The opportunity to enhance relationships with South Asian people living in the community in which they work
- Resources and tools to enhance their capacity to address the issue of violence in South Asian families.

## HOW WILL FAMILIES BENEFIT?

**Workshops will offer South Asian families the opportunity to:**

- Learn about “elder abuse” and violence against women and children
- Hear the voices of women, seniors and youth
- Talk about what they need to live a better life here in Canada; and
- Hear information on the barriers to disclosure and seeking help and the process of migration and the barriers to inclusion in Canada

## YOUR CONTRIBUTION CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

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