


# THANK YOU


The Women Empowerment Club would like to thank you for attending our 3rd Annual Women's Conference. Our Conference would not be possible without the support of our speakers, sponsors, delegates, and York University Administration.




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York University  
4700 Keele Street  
Toronto, ON M3J 1P3

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## WOMEN EMPOWERMENT CLUB 3rd Annual Women's Conference

# SUPPRESSION OF OPPRESSION

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 2015

10:00 AM - 5:30 PM

YORK UNIVERSITY, TEL BUILDING

## DELEGATE HANDBOOK



# Message from the President

Dear Delegate,

On behalf of the Women Empowerment Club at York University (WEC), it is a pleasure to welcome you to our 3rd Annual Women's Conference 2015. As WEC's largest event, this conference brings together students from across Toronto, all of whom share a common passion for issues fundamental to gender equality and resisting oppression.

Our theme for this year is Suppression of Oppression, and ultimately our objective is to introduce a new paradigm of thinking about gender inequality as not a single oppression, but rather interconnected with the oppressions that marginalized communities face worldwide, be it based on socioeconomic status, stereotypes, or skin colour. WEC aims to promote student engagement and empowerment to allow people like yourself to contribute meaningful solutions to problems in our world.

On behalf of our entire executive team, we are committed to ensuring a rewarding and engaging experience for everyone. Our executive team, volunteers, and sponsors have worked hard to prepare for this conference, and we sincerely thank them for their time and efforts. We hope this conference provides a venue to build your knowledge and passion for gender equality, so you can fulfill your potential and lead the world to a better future.

Sincerely,

**Khalidha Nasiri**

*BSc Biology & Psychology, 3rd Year*

*WEC President*

# Notes

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## 2014-15 Executive Team

Khalidha Nasiri, *President*

Ayesha Patel, *Vice-President / Graphic Designer*

Rumsha Siddiqui, *External Affairs Coordinator*

Maria Alvi, *External Affairs Coordinator*

Anisha Akhtar *Marketing Coordinator*

Susana Veliz, *Marketing Coordinator*

Samiyah Shibly, *Events & Campaigns Coordinator*

Melissa Bowen, *Events & Campaigns Coordinator*

Noor Dhillon, *Internal Affairs Coordinator*

Vijay Sandhu, *Internal Affairs Coordinator*

Muneeba Munir, *Special Projects Coordinator*

## Conference at a Glance

Join us in exploring themes and issues that revolve around the atrocities that marginalized communities encounter around the world. What are the systematic societal and institutional barriers that make it difficult for the oppressed to navigate and use spaces? In what ways do these barriers produce forms of privilege for some and oppression for others? How can we empower our communities to resist these oppressions?

## Workshops

- 1 Battles on women's bodies: Rape warfare – *Tiffany Hsiung, Toronto Association for Learning and Preserving the History of WWII in Asia (ALPHA)*
- 2 Stolen Sisters – *Lee Maracle*
- 3 Challenging the narratives: Sexism online, in the media, and our everyday lives – *Steph Guthrie*
- 4 The toxic culture of gaming and tech – *Soha Kareem Dames Making Games*
- 5 Resistance through expression – *Lishai*



# Conference Itinerary

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Registration & Breakfast	TEL Building
11:10 AM - 11:20 AM	Opening Ceremonies	TEL 0005
11:20 AM - 11:40 AM	Keynote Speaker	TEL 0005
11:50 AM - 12:50 PM	Workshop 1 <sup>1</sup>	0009, 0011
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Lunch	0013, 0015
2:10 PM - 3:10 PM	Workshop 2 <sup>2</sup>	0009, 0011
3:20 PM - 4:20 PM	Workshop 3 <sup>3</sup>	0009, 0011
4:30 PM - 4:50 PM	Keynote Speaker	TEL 0005
5:00 PM - 5:30 PM	Closing Ceremonies	TEL 0005

## <sup>1</sup>Workshop 1

- A: Stolen Sisters (TEL 0009)
- B: Toxic Culture of Gaming and Tech (TEL 0011)

## <sup>2</sup>Workshop 2

- A: Challenging the Narratives (TEL 0009)
- B: Battle on Women's Bodies (TEL 0011)

## <sup>3</sup>Workshop 3

- A: Battle on Women's Bodies (TEL 0011)
- B: Resistance through expression (TEL 0009)

# Sponsors



STARBUCKS

With the support of:







**Tiffany Hsiung – Toronto-based filmmaker, Director of the documentary “Within Every Woman”, Toronto ALPHA (Toronto Association for Learning and Preserving the History of WWII in Asia)**

Tiffany Hsiung is a Toronto based filmmaker and a graduate of Ryerson University's film production program. She is an award-winning filmmaker whose films have screened at several film festivals that includes, Golden Lion Film Festival (South Africa) The Reel Asian International Film Festival, Austin Asian Film Festival, Reel World Film Festival, Phoenix Film Festival. Hsiung was awarded The Norman Jewison award, William F Whites Grant and the Kodak Film Stock Grant. Her short film Binding Borders went on to win 'Best Toronto Focus Film Award' as well as the People's Choice Award at the 16th annual Cabbage Town Film Festival, as well as the Grand Jury prize for R.C.I./Canadian Broadcasting Channel, Digital Diversity. Since 2007 Hsiung's work has taken her from Jamaica, Kenya Nairobi, Brazil and all across Asia. Hsiung strives to share stories of communities and individuals that rarely get heard and recognized. She believes in the power of storytelling to enable social change and justice through knowledge. When she is not filming she is passing on her filmmaking skills to the younger generation in hopes to empower others to tell their own story. Hsiung's current project, 'Within Every Woman' delves into the systematical sexual slavery that imprisoned over 200,000 girls between the ages of 9 to 20 years old during World War 2 in Asia.



**Soha Kareem Board of Directors, Dames Making games**

Soha Kareem is a digital games writer and experimental designer. She has a Master's from Ryerson University in Film and Photographic Preservation with specialized interests in political art, cultural interfaces, and interactive exhibitions. She is currently on the Board of Directors for Dames Making Games, a Toronto-based initiative aimed to build a community for marginalized voices in indie games.

## Meet the Speakers:



**Mamdouh Shoukri, York University President – Keynote Speaker**

Dr. Shoukri began his career in academia at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, where he joined the faculty in 1984. In 1990, he was appointed Chair of the Mechanical Engineering Department, and eventually became Dean of the Faculty of Engineering from 1994-2001. During his term as Dean, the Engineering Faculty enjoyed significant growth, which paved the way for McMaster to become one of the leading engineering schools in Canada.

In addition to his roles at York, Dr. Shoukri is a member of the Board of Directors of Cancer Care Ontario and the Canadian Merit Scholarship Foundation. He is also Chair of the Government and Community Relations Committee for the Council of Ontario Universities, and a member of the Standing Advisory Committee on University Research for the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada. Dr. Shoukri was recently appointed to a new Space Advisory Board, reporting to the Minister of Industry, to provide advice on the Canadian Space Agency's space program. In 2013, Dr. Shoukri was named a Member of the Order of Canada, in addition to receiving the Order of Ontario, RBC's Top 25 Canadian Immigrant Award and an Arab Ambassador's Award.



**Neha Khera, Investment Manager at MaRS, Co-Founder of Girls in Tech Toronto – Keynote Speaker**

Neha Khera is an investment manager with the MaRS Investment Accelerator Fund (IAF), a venture capital fund through which she invests in and manages a portfolio of early-stage technology startups. Neha has been passionate about the technology industry since a young age, which led her to co-found Girls in Tech Toronto; a community network with over 1,000 members. She also launched the TEDxDistilleryDistrictWomen chapter, to provide a powerful platform through which women can share their personal journeys and achievements. Neha is a graduate of the University of Waterloo's electrical engineering program, and obtained her MBA from the Richard Ivey School of Business. Twitter: @naykhera / LinkedIn: ca.linkedin.com/in/nkhera/





**Farrah Khan,  
Public Speaker  
and Educator on  
Gender-Based  
Violence  
Counsellor and  
Project  
Coordinator of  
Outburst! Young  
Muslim Women's  
Program –  
Keynote Speaker**

Farrah Khan is a counsellor, artist and educator who has 16 years' experience addressing gender based violence. She holds a Master's degree from the University Of Toronto Faculty Of Social Work and works at the Barbra Schlifer Clinic. The Clinic is Canada's only counselling, legal and language interpretation centre specializing in the diverse issues of violence against women. Farrah is the Project Coordinator of the Clinic's Outburst! Young Muslim Women's Program. Her work includes arts programming, counselling with young women, delivering national training initiatives and advisory assistance to policy makers on the continuum of gender based violence. Farrah is the editor of *Heartbeats: The IZZAT Project* a comic book by young South Asian women about their resiliency in the face of family violence. With the authors of *Heartbeats*, she is currently on a speaking tour on forced marriage across the United States with the Tahirih Justice Centre. For her community work Farrah has been presented with numerous awards, including the Toronto Vital People Award.



**Steph Guthrie –  
Feminist Advocate  
and Community  
Manager, Founder  
of Women in  
Toronto Politics**

Steph Guthrie is a feminist organizer, speaker and consultant focusing on the intersections of gender, culture and technology. As founder of Women in Toronto Politics, she produces events, campaigns and online resources to promote a more gender-inclusive civic discourse. As a public speaker, Steph creates comfortable spaces to discuss uncomfortable things like rape culture and the tension between online safety and freedom of speech. As a consultant she uses workshops, audits, and custom-designed educational materials to bring her clients' gender lenses into focus. Follow her on Twitter at @amirightfolks.

One of Canada's most prolific Aboriginal writers and poets Lee Maracle is a prominent author with numerous critically acclaimed works, including novels, short stories, poetry and creative non-fiction. She is widely published in anthologies and scholarly journals worldwide and has co-edited a number of anthologies, including the award-winning *My Home As I Remember*. Aside from her role as instructor in the Aboriginal Studies Program, Lee is also the Traditional Teacher for First Nations House at the University of Toronto and an instructor at the Centre for Indigenous Theatre. A member of the Sto: Loh nation, she has served as Distinguished Visiting Scholar at several universities. Lee recently received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for her work promoting writing among Aboriginal youth. Recently, Lee Maracle received the Premier's Individual Artist Award for Excellence in the Arts.



**Lee Maracle  
Traditional  
Teacher at First  
Nations House,  
University of  
Toronto St.  
George**

I'm a poet, creative consultant and community animator with roots in diasporic storytelling. I've performed and taught workshops all over Canada; most recently working with The Toronto District School Board and The City of Toronto to develop and facilitate arts based curriculum. In 2013, I authored a graphic novel - "Why Birds and Wolves Don't Trade Stones" (Graphic Poetics Press). And in 2014, I released an album - "From Here On" with musician and composer, Waleed Abdulhamid. I chose to pursue a career as a storyteller because it is an extension of who I am and because I trust that some stories need to be told, some stories heal and forgive and there are some places you can only travel to by gathering with community, sharing stories, and trusting that people will catch your words and hold them.



**Lishai  
Poet, Creative  
Consultant, and  
Community  
Animator**

Website: [www.lishai.ca](http://www.lishai.ca)  
Twitter: @LishaiP