



The Afghan Youth Engagement and Development Initiative (AYEDI) is an organization led by Afghan youth for Afghan youth, created to champion civic engagement and community building. Our mission is borne from the core belief that inclusivity and advocacy is paramount to civic and community engagement. This extends into politicized spaces such as protests and rallies.

Recent allegations of harassment and intimidation of women, some young as 15 years old, have come to light against one organizer for the #StopKillingAfghans protest in Toronto. As these allegations are still ongoing, we ask that this specific organizer to step down from their duties and not be in attendance on June 14th to ensure a safe space for the young girls and women.

Intentional and meaningful organizing begins with having difficult conversations at the table. **We are not taking away the importance of advocacy about the systematic and state-sanctioned violence against Afghan refugees across the globe and we deeply acknowledge the valiant efforts and hard work displayed by the other organizers.**

We do not believe that protesting against the senseless killing of 14 Afghan asylum seekers in Yazd, Iran should come at the expense of those making these serious allegations. Afghan girls and women are often left out of the dialogue. They are not only impacted by gender-based violence but are also migrants and refugees themselves. These issues are not mutually exclusive from each other.

In the words of Audre Lorde, “My silences had not protected me. Your silence will not protect you.”

We encourage you to reach out and utilize the following services if you are a victim and/or survivor of gender-based violence.

With love and solidarity,

AYEDI



Barbara Schlifer Clinic

The Schlifer Clinic offers legal representation, professional counselling and multilingual interpretation to womxn who have experienced abuse.

489 College St, Toronto, ON M6G 1A5

416-323-9149

schliferclinic.com

Ontario Network of Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Treatment

Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Care Centers throughout Ontario. A nurse is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

76 Grenville St, M5S 1B2

416-323-7327

www.sadvttreatmentcentres.ca

Teen Health Source

Teen Health Source is brought to you by Planned Parenthood Toronto. It is a sexual health information service run for and by youth.

Text: 647-933-5399

Phone: 416-961-3200

Email: teenhealthsource@ppt.on.ca

Sexual Health Infoline Ontario & eChat

Sexual Health Info Line was created for folks to get support and connect to services related to sexual health.

Toll-free: 1-800-668-2437

Local: 416-392-2437

eChat: <https://sexualhealthontario.ca/en/chat>

Hassle Free Clinic

HFC provides medical and counselling services related to sexual health, located downtown Toronto.

66 Gerrard St. E.,

M5B 1G3

416-922-0566

hasslefreeclinic.org

Mental Health Service Information Helpline by ConnexOntario

ConnexOntario provides free and confidential health services information for people experiencing problems with alcohol and drugs, mental illness and/or gambling. Services are 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

1-866-531-2600

www.connexontario.ca (chat)

Across Boundaries

Across Boundaries provides mental health support and services for racialized communities and works within AntiRacism/Anti-Black racism and Anti-Oppression frameworks.

51 Clarkson Ave.,

M6E 2T5

416-787-3007

www.acrossboundaries.ca