



The Sahara Insider

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Sahara & SAALT Townhall Sheds Light on Domestic Violence and Immigration Ties

Often in Sahara's work we find an intersection between immigration and domestic violence. Immigrant South Asian women, documented or undocumented, face particular challenges when they are in abusive relationships. They are usually prevented from learning English, working outside the home, and allowed very little to no communication with friends and family locally as well as back home. Fear of authorities and deportation keep women from attempting to seek support.

This year Sahara joined South Asian Americans Leading Together's (SAALT) National Coalition of South Asian Organizations (NCSO.) SAALT is a national organization that advocates a social justice framework around issues affecting South Asian communities. As a member of the NCSO, Sahara is involved in numerous efforts, such as taking part in a letter to the White House outlining issues affecting survivors of violence and joining the "One Community United" Campaign for Immigrant and Human Rights.

On September 26th, 2009, as part of the "One Community United" Campaign, Sahara hosted SAALT's first townhall meeting in South Florida, also cosponsored by the Florida Immigration Coalition, Miami Dade Asian American Advisory Board, Amnesty International, No More Tears and the Council on American-Islamic Relations.

Facilitators led an informative and interactive discussion on a range of immigration issues affecting the South Asian community. Eye-opening video clips were presented on South Asian H2-B visa holders, H-4 visa holders and a middle-class South Asian family that was detained and deported after living in the U.S. for 15 years. In addition, the discussion explored commonalities with other immigrant communities and concluded by identifying ways to take action on changing immigration policies.

As members of the NCSO, Sahara will continue to partner with SAALT to develop strategies that will support social change for South Asian immigrants facing domestic violence.

Dear Friends of Sahara,

Our sincere gratitude to the Women's Fund of Miami-Dade for their ongoing support through grant funding and to all of you for your continued commitment towards making Sahara a vibrant organization. Wishing you a happy holiday season and a wonderful year ahead.

- TEAM SAHARA



*"You are not
alone..."*

saalt
SOUTH ASIAN AMERICANS LEADING TOGETHER



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2009: Year in Review

This past year has been a productive twelve months for Team Sahara. Here is a look back at the many community events Sahara participated in this year:

- January—Hindu American Foundation, Fort Lauderdale
- January—India's Republic Day celebration, Coral Springs
- January—"How to Host a Chai Chat" Event, Miami
- January—Women's Fund Grant Award Breakfast, Jungle Island, Miami
- February—Interfaith Solidarity Event, Temple Judea, Coral Gables
- February—Facilitated Domestic Violence workshops at NASALSA Conference, Miami
- March—Annual Fundraising Bazaar at Asian Festival, Fruit & Spice Park, Homestead
- March—Intercultural & Interfaith Women's-Only Tea, Deerfield Beach
- March—IMOF Mosque Domestic Violence Prevention Seminar, Hollywood
- March—Youth Domestic Violence discussion, IJA Mosque, Hialeah
- April—AMANA Festival
- April—Women's Fund Luncheon/Grantee Exhibition, Miami
- April—South Asian Summit organized by SAALT, Washington, DC.
- April—Women And Sharia Law Lecture/Presentation, Women's Club of Miami.
- May—Asian Heritage Month, Miami-Dade Community College
- May—Sahara joins SAALT's National Coalition of South Asian Organizations (NCSO)
- May—Chai Chat. Shamsuddin Mosque, North Miami Beach
- July—Film Screening of "Provoked", South Regional BCC Library, Pembroke Pines
- August—Indian Independence Day Event, Omni BCC Campus, Pompano Beach
- September—Sahara/SAALT "One Community United" Townhall Meeting, Tamarac
- October—Safespace Domestic Violence Walk, North Miami
- November—Friends of Asian-American Advisory Board Scholarship Event, University of Miami
- November—Dinner and a Movie: Film Screening of "Slumdog Millionaire", Barry University, North Miami
- December—"Walk in Solidarity, Eat in Peace" Fundraiser. Barry University, North Miami.

Cooking Corner

SHAHI TUKRA

"Shahi Tukra, an Indian dessert from the Moghuls – literally means a "royal piece." Although the original recipe calls for deep fried bread, dipped in a thick sugar syrup, covered with a rich creamy sauce (khoa) and decorated with nuts and silver foil. My version is gentle both on time and calories. "

Ingredients

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| 5 slices white bread | ½ cup crushed almonds |
| 2 cups milk | ½ cup crushed pistachio nuts |
| 2 cans condensed milk | ½ tsp crushed green cardamom seeds |
| 1 pinch saffron | 4 -5 tbsp ghee |

Method

Heat milk in a heavy bottomed pan, add saffron strands, crushed cardamom seeds and condensed milk. Keep warm on low heat.

Remove crusts from bread and slice diagonally. Heat a teaspoon of ghee on a skillet and shallow fry bread pieces until they are light brown on both sides. Repeat process until all the bread pieces are fried. Dip bread pieces in the milk mixture and place them on a serving dish in a single layer. Pour any left-over milk over the bread pieces. Sprinkle crushed almonds and pistachio nuts over bread slices. Refrigerate and serve cold.

- Recipe Contributed by Billo Jolly, Sahara Volunteer and Board Member

WOMEN IN DISTRESS BROWARD www.womenindistress.org

Hotline: 954.761.1133

FLORIDA COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE www.fcadv.org Florida

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