



# CCVT CONNECTIONS

The CCVT Newsletter, which is published bi-monthly, is intended to inform the Centre's volunteers of important news and, in doing so, to acknowledge the vital role they play in fulfilling the CCVT's mandate

## Synopsis: what is going to be in the issue, message from Volunteer Manager

The beginning of a new fiscal year always brings about change. With this edition of the CCVT Connections a dedicated group of volunteers have worked hard to put it together and we would like to hear your feedback.

In this issue is a request for a donations of any materials as you go through your spring cleaning. CCVT is to hold a Bazaar to assist in the publication of a book with articles of many associated with our Centre. As well, you will find results in regards to the survey conducted in February of this year. Thanks to all those who filled it in. Some of the suggestions were that training sessions be held in the areas of mental health and the various components of the Volunteer

Program. Work has already started on this and information will be sent out to all of you regarding sessions in the near future.

As well, our volunteers have written in of their experiences. The Hidden Truth in Columbia, their opinions of the Pilot Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration program as well as the Rohingya of Burma.

This issue also includes events and happenings in Toronto that might appeal to those who are befrienders and seeking venues for their friends. Should you know of any and will like to have them Gas as well as any article) included, please direct your submission to the email: ccvt-newsletter@gmail.com.

Meera, a long-time volunteer is an excellent cook and her recipes can be found on page 6.

Finally, job postings, community opportunities and career workshops will be highlighted to all. Should you have any openings at your place of work, please pass the information along to our newsletter where it will be published.

Special thanks for all the hard work of the layout must go to Yasmine Abu Ayyash who has dedicated many hours of her time to it.

*Huda Bukhari*

*Manager, Volunteer Services*

## CCVT HAPPENINGS: Events & News at the Centre

### UPCOMING BAZAAR: Donations Wanted!

The CCVT is organizing a Bazaar fundraiser, and is seeking donations of items to sell at the Bazaar. Start your 'spring cleaning' and decluttering early and please donate give-away items. All proceeds of the sales will go to our upcoming publication, tentatively titled "A Comprehensive Book of Torture and Rehabilitation." The book will include contributions from over 40 writers and front-line workers affiliated with the CCVT. The collection will raise awareness and provide in-depth analysis on torture, genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. Also, the book will be a great tool and resource for our sister agencies to provide effective service to survivors.

To donate please contact Huda Bukhari or Ezat Mossallanejad at 416-363-1066 x 222 or 226

### VOLUNTEERS WANTED CCVT is currently in need of:

- ◆ **Interpreters** in: Farsi and Dari
- ◆ **Homework Club Tutors** for the remainder of the school year. The Homework club is held weekly on **Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays** from 4:00 – 5:00p.m. Valid police check required.

For more information please contact Huda Bukhari at hbukhari@ccvt.org

### EDITORIAL BOARD:

- Fabio Sanjuan
- Huda Bukhari
- Meera Cassan
- Ormila Bhoopaul
- Tina Lines
- Yasmine Abu-Ayyash
- Zeeshan Esack

### Special points of interest:

- > Putting a number on the crisis of Internally Displaced Peoples in Colombia
- > Review of Canada's "Pilot Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration" Program
- > Volunteer Experience Survey Results Are Out!

### CCVT Funders:

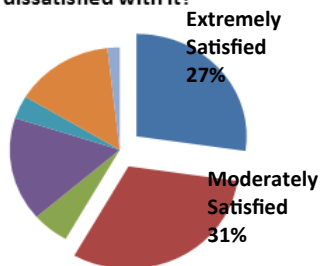


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EDITOR'S NOTE: The information provided in this publication is not controlled by the CCVT and therefore may not reflect its views.

Are you satisfied with this program(s), neither satisfied nor dissatisfied with it, \* or dissatisfied with it?



\*Results of 2013 Volunteer Satisfaction Survey

### Volunteer Program Survey Results

Volunteers are an integral part of the work we do at the CCVT. So in an effort to empower and validate our volunteers, an online 'volunteer satisfaction' survey was sent out in February. Evaluation of the program is essential in order to ensure program effectiveness, so all respondent answers were greatly valued.

Results collected at the end of March reveal that over 75% of respondents felt that the CCVT's Volunteer Program was excellent (26%) or Good (50%).

Respondents were asked about suggestions to improve the volunteer program. Some of the suggestions included:

- ◇ more socializing and bonding opportunities with staff and volunteers
- ◇ greater follow-up with staff members
- ◇ more training sessions for various programs and dealing with clients with mental illness issues
- ◇ more volunteer opportunities in

the evenings and on weekends

- ◇ greater or alternate space to conduct one-on-one tutoring in the evening

We are incorporating the requests into our next Spotlight event and planning a 'Crisis Intervention' workshop and a workshop on 'Engaging Traumatized Clients.' Additionally, we are looking into producing materials and resources on mental health issues.

Thank you to all the survey respondents for your feedback!

### Volunteer Tina Lines Reviews the Program

" Since I started volunteering with the CCVT this January, I've had the opportunity to work with Ezat Mossallenejad, Policy Analyst and Trauma Counselor, on compiling the Spring 2013 First Light publication; help out with the Unaccompanied Youth Forum – Super Night 2013, and be part of a small team putting together the Connections Newsletter! I will also be providing general office support when needed. I've enjoyed the guidance that Ezat and Huda have provided, and the camaraderie of the other CCVT volunteers. I look forward to continuing as a volunteer with the CCVT; and to learn more about their work and their support to victims of war, torture, and genocide. " - Tina Lines

### Canada's Pilot Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Program in the GTA – A Critique

by Tina Lines

LEARN MORE about the Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) pilot program in the Greater Toronto Area [HERE](#)

A three-year Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) pilot program in the Greater Toronto Area began in June of last year, to facilitate the voluntary return of failed refugee claimants to their country of origin. The first of its kind in Canada - the program anticipated supporting more than 500 returnees to 50 different countries by the end of 2012.

I had the opportunity to discuss AVRR with a former IOM colleague that had worked with the US-based AVRR program; which was able to measure their results against non

-assisted, involuntary return programs. According to him, the results were clearly in favor of assisted voluntary return; since when assisted, returnees experienced lower rates of mental illness; economic hardship upon return, due to training and business support; and were less likely to re-apply as a refugee in the future. It's a humane alternative to an enforced removal or deportation, and is meant to support timely and cost-effective removals of those who have been found not to require protection.

The criticisms of such programs

globally are that it is not entirely or always voluntary. The choice is between forced removal without support, or to leave 'voluntarily' with minimal support (up to \$2,000 within the Canadian program, paid in-kind). Some claimants that enrol in the program in Canada have been out of their home country for as long as 10 years; leaving the only country they know or have family in - to re-locate to a country that is largely foreign to them.

Continued on page 3...

## Canada's Pilot Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Program in the GTA – A Critique Continued from page 2

There are some concerns that this program puts claimants rights to a pre-removal risk assessment or appeal process secondary to a faster removal process, in which claimants that waive this right get more financial support upon their voluntary return. The Poulton Law group has dubbed the program a

'pay as you go' scheme, while other critics call it the 'leave-early-get-more approach'.

In terms of the Canadian program, the IOM is largely working in extension of the CBSA – a government agency that has been heavily scrutinized for its lack of transparency and accountability.

It is hoped that this program is able to reflect the goals of the IOM – to “promote humane and orderly migration for the benefit of all”, and is monitored and evaluated closely to insure the rights of claimants are respected and upheld.

## The Hidden Truth in Colombia

by Fabio Sanjuan

The problem of internal displaced people in Colombia is largely hidden by the country's media and government lobby and they would rather present to the rest of world more positive sides of the country as one of the strongest economies in South America than reporting more negative aspects such as human rights violations. On April 2012 the UNHCR<sup>1</sup> published the 2011 Global Overview of People Internally Displaced by Conflict and Violence. Colombia is number one on the list for internally displaced people (IDP); there were between 3'900.000 (official figures) and 5'300.000 (NGO records).

The media which, belongs to a few wealthy families tends to present and manipulate information by distracting the public with good, stable results in the Colombian economy, even though the minimum average wage

is \$300 US per month. Also 44.3% of the population live below the poverty line and the indigence is 14% of the total population<sup>2</sup>. On the other hand the Colombian government is lobbying to sign free trade agreements with various countries, for example the free trade agreement between Colombia and Canada disregards human rights violations, environmental impact assessment and the unlawful acquisition of land belonging to indigenous peoples. One of the results of the Colombian lobby with Canada was limited access to the Program for Refugees and Persons in Need of Protection, leaving the applicants in danger and without protection.

Some of the causes of IDP in Colombia are the armed conflicts involving the government, paramilitary, guerilla and drug trafficking as well as the general violence and human rights violations. The lands in dispute are the most fertile parts of the country or those where gold, coal or emeralds are mined. Large corporations or the private sector are hiring private groups to control and preserve dominion

of the land. On the other hand there are some strategic areas which the paramilitaries, guerillas and drug traffickers want to control because of access to two oceans and five international borders.

The Colombian government established the “Victim's Law,” which included measures to support the restitutions of property to internally displaced owners. Due to the failure of the program to demobilize the paramilitaries, the IDP are afraid to go back to their land because there is no guarantee of their personal safety.

“Colombia is Canada's third largest export market in Latin America”<sup>3</sup> and some Canadian mining corporations are operating in areas of the country where people are victims of internal displacement and disappearance every day. Also, Colombia has the third largest economy in Latin America after Brazil and Mexico but has the number one incidence of Internal Displaced People in the world and 44.3% of the population live below the poverty line.

**“Colombia has the third largest economy in Latin America after Brazil and Mexico but has the number one incidence of Internal Displaced People in the world and 44.3% of the population live below the poverty line”**



*Colombia: Humanitarian Assistance to Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons*

Sources:

1. The UN Refugee Agency Global Overview 2011: People internally displaced by violence IDMC 2012.
2. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of special tabulations of data from household surveys
3. Canada Trade Commissioner Services

## Unwanted & Forgotten: The Rohingya of Burma

by Zeeshan Esack

Imagine you belong to a minority that is no longer recognized by your state: your history and ancestry would cease to exist in the eyes of the state. You would have no rights, property, or say in the country your people have lived in for hundreds of years. Welcome to the world of Rohingya: Burma's stateless people, who are also known as, one of the world's forgotten people.

### Who are the Rohingya?

The Rohingya people were the original inhabitants of the Rakhine region until 1700 when they were annexed and brought under Burmese rule. Since then, the Rohingya have demanded autonomy and recognition by the state. The Rohingya have been described as "[among the world's least wanted](#)" and "[one of the world's most persecuted minorities](#)." They have been denied Burmese citizenship since a 1982 citizenship law was enacted. Since then, violence between some extremist Burmese, traditionally Buddhist, and the Muslim Rohingya has been frequent, with only intermittent periods of non-violence. The sectarian tensions among groups with no interest in peace or co-existence erupted in June 2012 with devastating consequences.

### The 2012 Rakhine State Riots

In May 2012 a Buddhist woman was raped and murdered by unknown assailants. As a result, three Muslim men were charged for murder by the state, and ten men were murdered in a revenge killing a week later. The Burmese security forces known as the 'Nasaka' were reported to have been deployed on the Rohingya with orders to shoot indiscriminately. Riots broke out across the Rakhine region in what is now called the

'2012 Rakhine State Riots.' The brutal clamp down received little media coverage and was largely hidden from the world. However, some global media outlets have reported that rape and sexual assault, torture, confiscation of property, arbitrary detention, and summary execution is widespread in the state. By

camps are not officially recognized or tolerated by the Bangladeshi government. As a result, it is nearly impossible to report on the camps or send aid; local agencies fear government reprisals resulting in closure of the camps and expulsion of the people. With limited food and



*The EU Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Workers survey the 7,000 Rohingyas being sheltered in an IDP camp outside the Rakhine capital Sittwe.*

August 2012 the casualty count had climbed to over 80 deaths on all sides.

### Refuge and Squalor in Bangladesh

According to United Nations estimates, only 800,000 Rohingya remain in Burma. As of today, over 300,000 Rohingya have risked life and limb to escape imprisonment and persecution to reach make-shift camps on the Bangladeshi- Burmese border. The violence has left many Rohingya with little choice than to find refuge in camps where life is tortuous: the Rohingya are not allowed to work, attend school, or seek medical aid. The

aid the Rohingya are left extremely vulnerable: disease is rampant with the lack of sanitation and young girls have been forced into sex work. So far, Bangladesh has refused any program assistance from the United Nations.

Until recently, the events surrounding the Rohingya have been largely hidden from the world. Let us hope that the plight of the Rohingya and other displaced and refugee populations in Burma receive more international coverage to shed light on their struggle and above all, ensure that they do not remain a forgotten people.

## Learn More about the Rohingya:

["Burma: Rohingya Muslims Face Humanitarian Crisis,"](#) *Human Rights Watch*, 26 March 2013.

["Ethnic cleansing in Myanmar: No place like home,"](#) *The Economist*, 3 November 2012.

["Rohingyas are not citizens: Myanmar minister,"](#) *The Hindu Times*, 30 July 2012.

["Bangladesh accused of 'crackdown' on Rohingya refugees,"](#) *BBC*, 18 February 2010.

## EVENTS IN TORONTO

## Lectures and Cultural Events

## Educational

**Educational Lecture:  
Criminalization of Dissent***April 17, 2013 - 6:30pm*

On the occasion of Palestine Political Prisoners' Day, there will be a panel discussion in solidarity with political prisoners around the globe.

Please join us to hear these stories, identify common strategies and discuss effective community responses.

**Location:** 252 Bloor Street West**Transit:** Near St. George Subway Station**Fundraising Event:  
Gaza's Ark***Sunday, Apr 21 - Doors open at 6 pm and show 7 pm*

An exciting and fun event for Gaza's Ark in Toronto featuring fabulous music and a silent auction.

Live music featuring: Doula (Maryem Tollar and Roula Said with guest Naghmeh Farahmand, Eagle Woman Singerz, and Layaleena Dabkeh Dancers. Beit Zatoun is displaying 3 fabulous embroidered dress to be auctioned on Apr 21.

**Location:** Lula Lounge (1585 Dundas St. West)**Art Exhibition:  
Birth and its Meanings:  
Art by the students of Midwifery  
Education Program at Ryerson  
University***Exhibition runs: Thursday, April 18 to Sunday, April 21*

As a part of the 20th Anniversary, the Midwifery Education Program at Ryerson University is pleased to be exhibiting the creative works (in a variety of media) by students in the midwifery course Birth and its Meanings. The work expresses experiences of pregnancy, birth, postpartum, loss, breastfeeding, parenting and other experiences related to the childbearing year. The program is delighted to present work which offers an opportunity to reflect on the relationships between midwifery education and the creation of craft and art.

**Location:** Beit Zatoun, 612 Markham Street**Transit:** Bathurst St at Bloor St West South Side**Art Exhibition:  
Transformation By Fire:  
Women Overcoming Violence Through Clay***Exhibition runs: February 7 to April 28*

A FEATURE EXHIBITION PRESENTED BY THE BARBRA SCHLIFER COMMEMORATIVE CLINIC AND THE GEORGE R. GARDINER MUSEUM OF CERAMIC ART

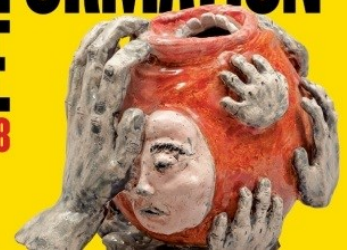
For the last ten years the Gardiner Museum and the Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic have partnered to offer an engaging series of Art Therapy groups for women who have experienced violence.

Since 2003, clients of the Schlifer Clinic have worked with a professional artist (Susan Low-Bear) and an artist therapist (Suzanne Thomson) in the Museum's clay studios to sculpt their trauma narratives in clay, transforming their pain and reconnecting with their resilience and strength. This partnership was established by former Director of Education, Diane Wolfe. In 2013 these Art Therapy groups will culminate in a landmark exhibition, Transformation by Fire, designed to raise public awareness about violence against women in a sensitive, informed and compelling way, and to provide accessible and inspiring real life role models for anyone who has either experienced or witnessed violence.

The exhibition will be supported by a full schedule of programs (workshops, lectures, tours, and films) that provide greater understanding about the issue of violence against women.

Also, be sure to take a look at sites like Groupon, Living Social and Wag Jag as they often have great deals on activities and restaurants in and around Toronto

FREE ADMISSION

**Location:** 111 Queen's Park**Women Overcoming Violence Through Clay****TRANSFORMATION  
BY FIRE**  
FEB. 7-APR. 28Barbra Schlifer  
Commemorative Clinic  
Freedom From Violence

## Budget-Friendly Options for our Befrienders!

**Museum & Arts Pass**

<http://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/museum-arts-passes/>

**RDM**

<http://www.rom.on.ca/en/visit-us/tickets-hours>

**Harbourfront Centre**

<http://www.harbourfrontcentre.com/>

These are some publications that give information on all the great events going on in our city!

**NOW Magazine**

<http://www.nowtoronto.com/>

**Today's Parent**

<http://events.todayparent.com/Toronto>

**The Little Paper**

<http://littlepaper.com/>

**Groupon**

<http://www.groupon.com/browse/greater-toronto-area?z=skip>

**Living Social**

[www.livingsocial.com](http://www.livingsocial.com)

**Wag Jag**

<https://www.wagjag.com/>



## Meera`s Recipes: Aloo Ki Tikki

Discover new foods and recipes with our avid cook and volunteer Meera Cassan. Every edition Meera will be sharing her favourite recipes and food tips.

### April`s Recipe: Aloo Ki Tikki

I recently made this dish and my husband and children loved it! My mom also makes a version of this dish for us and we look forward to it when we visit. Aloo Ki Tikki can be translated in English to Potato Patty. I have also made this dish using fish and carrots which both go nicely with the potatoes. You can also spice to taste. This dish is commonly served as an appetizer along with a tamarind, coriander or mint chutney. The Aloo ki Tikki recipe that I use is from The Food of India, A Journey for Food Lovers. The recipes are by Priya Wickramasinghe and Carol Selva Rajah. I really enjoy using this cookbook as the authors share a little bit about the origin

of each dish and the role it plays in India and Indian culture.

Please send us in your favorite recipes or your favorite version of this recipe. We are always looking for recipes to share!  
Happy Cooking!

#### Ingredients:

500g (1 lb 2 oz) potatoes, cut into pieces  
150g (1 cup) fresh or frozen peas  
4 tablespoons oil  
2 green chillies, finely chopped  
½ red onion, finely chopped  
2cm (3/4 inch) piece of ginger, grated  
1 teaspoon ground turmeric  
1 teaspoon ground cumin  
1 teaspoon ground coriander  
½ teaspoon garam masala  
2 tablespoons besan flour  
1 tablespoon lemon juice

MAKES 24

#### Instructions:

Cook the potatoes in boiling water for 15 minutes, or until tender enough to mash. Drain well until they are dry but still hot. Cook the peas in boiling water for 4 minutes, or until tender, then drain.

Mash the potato in a large bowl and add the peas. Put 1 tablespoon of the oil in a small saucepan and fry the chilli, onion, ginger and spices for 1 minute, or until aromatic. Add them to the potato with the besan flour and mix. Mix in the lemon juice and some salt. divide the potato into portions the size of golf balls and shape into patties.



Photo credit: Arvind Grover

### Local Food Event:

#### Extra Virgin... You Don`t Say! *A Chemist Reveals the Secrets of Olive Oil*

Thursday, April 25 @ 7 pm

Patriarchal society and systems seem to be obsessed with the concept of "virginity". In recent years this obsession has encompassed "extra virgin" olive oil. Is there a connection? With the enormous popularity and appreciation of extra virgin olive oil people are asking what is "extra virgin" olive oil? Why is it so desirable? Why is the industry around it so scandalous? This event is programmed by Beit Zatoun and offered by Peter Brickell, a chemist who is long-time supporter and serves as in-house chemist to Zatoun (the progenitor of Beit Zatoun - was it a virgin birth?). He has a natural teacher's ability to bring fascinating and unique insights into a food process many do not fully understand or appreciate. As has been revealed by the recent book, Salt, Sugar, and Fat by Michael Moss there are enormous, hidden and harmful impacts of food chemistry in our lives and health. Do not miss this wild ride into the secrets of olive oil.

**Location:** Beit Zatoun, 612 Markham Street

**Transit:** Bathurst St at Bloor St West South Side

Learn more about the event [HERE](#)



# JOB POSTINGS

## LGBTQ Settlement and Outreach Worker & LGBTQ Project Coordinator / Settlement Worker

Employer: **Griffin Centre**  
Location: **North York**, Greater Toronto area  
Deadline: **Friday, April 26, 2013**

### ABOUT:

The Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture aids survivors in overcoming the lasting effects of torture and war. Working with the community, the Centre supports survivors in the process of successful integration into Canadian society, advocates for their protection and integrity, and raises awareness of the continuing effects of torture and war on survivors and their families

### Hope After the Horror



194 Jarvis, 2nd Floor  
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M5B 2B7

T: 416-363-1066

F: 416-363-2122

E: ccvtnewsletter@gmail.com

W: ccvt.org

## Youth Outreach Worker

Employer: **Griffin Centre**  
Location: **Toronto**, Greater Toronto area  
Deadline: **Monday, April 29, 2013**

For more job postings, please visits:  
<http://www.settlementatwork.org/jobs>

## Early Childhood Educator Supervisor-Lead

Employer: **Rexdale Women's Centre**  
Location: **Toronto**, Greater Toronto area  
Deadline: **Tuesday, April 30, 2013**

## Coordinator-Employment Services

Employer: **Centre for Education & Training**  
Location: **Brampton East**, Greater Toronto area  
Deadline: **Friday, May 03, 2013**

## LINC Computer Assisted Instructor

Employer: **COSTI Immigrant Services**  
Location: **Richmond Hill**, Greater Toronto area  
Deadline: **Monday, April 29, 2013**

# Community Opportunities

**Artist call for submissions:** UNPLUGGED Festival provides established and upcoming artist a venue to perform and engage new and existing fans. This is a great way to showcase your works with a large crowd. The submissions are open to everyone and close on April 30th, 2013. **For details click [here](#)**

## CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS!

Call for Submissions to Mad Pride Toronto 2013 !! Monday, July 8 to Sunday, July 14 Mad Pride is an arts, culture, and heritage festival created by psychiatric survivors, consumers, mad people, folks the world has labeled "mentally ill", and those in solidarity with us. **For details click [here](#)**

## Guerrilla Resumes - What You Need Now!

"How I learned to love career search and resume writing"

**Organization:** Beit Zatoun

**Type:** Workshop, **Cost:** \$10 (no one turned away).

**When:** Saturday, May 04, 2013:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Where does the resume fit in? What does it need to say about you? How do you get it to stand out and convince employers that you are someone they want on their side? Difficult times call for creative thinking and unconventional tools. Get your resume to get you the interview and help control the conversation.

This workshop is offered by Beit Zatoun as a public service. Presenter is Robert Massoud, founder of Zatoun and Beit Zatoun, who has been helping people (of all ages) with resume-writing, career search and working boldly. Guaranteed to be fun and eye-opening even in a dark time.

p.s. bring your latest resume.

# Career Workshops

## VOLUNTEERS WANTED

CCVT is currently in need of:

- ◆ **Interpreters** in: **Farsi** and **Dari**
- ◆ **Homework Club Tutors** for the remainder of the school year. The Homework club is held weekly on **Tuesdays, Wednesdays** and **Thursdays** from **4:00 - 5:00p.m.** Valid police check required.

For more information:  
Please contact Huda Bukhari at [hbukhari@ccvt.org](mailto:hbukhari@ccvt.org)