ALIA HOGBEN

President's Award

Known for her brilliant work to empower Muslim women, Alia Hogben is a trailblazing feminist. Born to Indian parents in Myanmar, Alia lived in several countries before immigrating to Canada more than 50 years ago. She has a strong track record of defending the rights of Muslim women, both within and outside faith communities, promoting progressive values, and advocating for religious tolerance, diversity and inter-faith dialogue.

Alia was actively involved with the Canadian Council of Muslim Women (CCMW) from its onset in 1982, a non-profit, women-run organization dedicated to empowering Muslim women and their families. Alia recently retired as the Executive Director, a position she held for more than a decade. During her tenure Alia spearheaded campaigns to promote the equal status of women within Muslim communities. She also provided policy expertise on a variety of matters affecting Muslim communities and advanced a progressive agenda.

Originally trained as a social worker, Alia worked for many decades in Ontario at various service agencies for child welfare, children's mental health, and adults with developmental disabilities. She has also taught at St. Lawrence College and worked with organizations that address violence against women and girls. Alia writes a regular column on issues affecting Canadian Muslims for the Kingston-Whig Standard.

Among the many awards she has received, Alia is a proud recipient of an honorary doctorate from the Queen's University School of Divinity. In 2012, Alia became the second Canadian Muslim woman to be awarded the Order of Canada for her work in the area of women's rights.

Alia's enriching contributions to social justice, women's rights, and the rights of Muslim women serve as a proud example for feminists everywhere.

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