



REMARKABLE WOMEN

2014: YEAR OF RECONCILIATION

Honouring women who build understanding & empathy between people



SHEHNAZ HOZAIMA CAVEY

Born to parents from Israel-Palestine, Shehnaz Hozaima Cavey learned the kind of brokenness that conflict between ethnic, political, and religious groups can generate - a realization that set her feet early on a path of peace and reconciliation.

Shehnaz often tells how, even in the face of hardship, her parents advocated for the needs of others. Though her father died when she was only six, she remembered his work for community understanding and committed to carrying on his life's passion. As soon as she was able, she volunteered her time, and by the age of twenty, she was helping to coordinate conferences, lead seminars, and speak on behalf of the oppressed and marginalized - paying particular attention to the lives of women, children, and the elderly.

For the last ten years, Shehnaz has worked as a high school English teacher, regularly challenging her students to think and live in ways that honour a spirit of justice and compassion for all. When her teaching week is done, she volunteers in her West End community, helping out at neighborhood festivals, outreach programs, and seniors' care homes. For the past five years, she's served as first Vice-President of Vancouver's West End Community Centre Association, as board member of the Christian Teachers' Association of BC, as well as Chair of the local West End Children & Youth Programming Committee. In the summer of 2013, Shehnaz began pursuing studies in Mediation and Third Party Intervention through the Justice Institute of BC, and, soon afterward, committed to donating her new skills to help mediate and reconcile differences for those otherwise unable to afford the cost.

Though still young, this Remarkable Woman has already devoted much of what she does to nurturing wholeness and understanding amongst others, and continues to do what she can to help strengthen the bonds of healthy community life.