



AFGHAN WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION REFUGEE & IMMIGRANT SERVICES

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Toronto– Ontario

Happy 2021!

All the best for a fresh start, more optimism and aspirations, more resilience and compassion and more and new discoveries in making the world a safe and enjoyable place for all to live, work and play.

As we embark on the first day of this new year, I pause to reflect on all the hardships, adjustments, losses and achievements we have experienced worldwide in the past ten months. Here in our city, AWO was inspired by outpouring of kindness, generosity and a feisty determination demonstrated by the first responders, government officials, institutions, places of worship, service organizations and ordinary community residents who were relentless to just provide support and share whatever resources that they could.

The stories we heard and the experiences that we lived are all testaments to profound human values that assembled us together as one in our neighbourhoods, communities and cities during these unprecedented times.

Today, I am touched by and grateful for all the compassion, sharing and dedication of each and every person who is part of our AWO family. They include our volunteers, staff, partners, funders and community members. I was at an awe to see how people who were more resourceful along with those most vulnerable pulling together to be part of a manageable solution under the most ever witnessed excruciating circumstances. Everyday of the past ten months, I have learned that accomplishments, shortfalls in our communities equally needed our undivided attention!

Today, as the first day of a new year, we are aware of many challenges imposed on us by the health pandemic of 2020. We are also empowered by our experiences and learning that we can and must be more determined in building coalitions, meticulous planning, navigating systems and resolute problem solving.

AWO is entering 2021 hopeful and with a renewed commitment to equity and social justice. We embrace 2021 as a year to search and find solutions for peace, community and human rights.

May I wish you and yours to be safe and enjoy a happy and healthy New Year.

Adeena Niazi
Executive Director
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