



## CANADIAN VOICE OF WOMEN FOR PEACE

*An organization working to build cultures of peace through education, advocacy, and amplifying the voices of women.*

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### **Statement of Solidarity and Support for Rana Zaman**

Canadian Voice of Women for Peace (VOW) stands in unwavering solidarity with our board member, Rana Zaman, and expresses deep concern regarding the YMCA of Greater Halifax/Dartmouth's decision to rescind its 2025 *YMCA Peace Medal for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion*—an award originally granted in recognition of Rana's tireless advocacy, bridge-building, and leadership in advancing justice, compassion, and equity.

We urge the YMCA of Greater Halifax/Dartmouth to publicly apologize to Rana Zaman and to reinstate her Peace Medal.

For decades, Rana Zaman has exemplified these very principles through sustained, hands-on peacebuilding and community leadership. She has served on more than thirteen not-for-profit boards and committees and is a founding member of *United For One Association*, which raised over \$200,000 in support of Syrian refugees. She is also the founding member and president of the *Caring Human Association*, which provides home-cooked meals to frontline aid organizations, and the founding member and past president of the *Pakistani Canadian Association of Nova Scotia*, fostering cultural understanding and community connection.

Rana's commitment to equity and inclusive civic engagement is further reflected in her work with *Diverse Voices for Change Halifax*, part of the *Federation of Canadian Municipalities'* five-city initiative to increase the participation of women from diverse communities in local government decision-making.

Rana's advocacy for Palestinian human rights is fully aligned with the values for which this Peace Medal was awarded. Standing against genocide, apartheid, and systemic injustice is not contrary to peace; it is fundamental to it.

As a feminist peace organization with more than sixty years of history, *Canadian Voice of Women for Peace* has long affirmed that peace cannot be separated from justice. Our work has consistently emphasized that bridge-building requires honesty, moral courage, and a willingness to challenge structures of violence and oppression—locally and globally.



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If the YMCA truly wishes to stand for inclusion, mutual respect, and community empowerment, it must start by standing with those who are being silenced for daring to speak the truth.

We urge the YMCA of Greater Halifax/Dartmouth to publicly apologize to Rana Zaman and to reinstate her Peace Medal. We implore the YMCA of Greater Halifax/Dartmouth, along with all Canadian civil society institutions, to differentiate criticism of Israel from legitimate concerns of anti-Semitism and resist pressure campaigns that seek to suppress legitimate activism in support of human rights.

***We encourage signing:***

[https://actionnetwork.org/letters/demand-justice-demand-the-ymca-reinstate-ms-rana-zamans-peace-medal?source=direct\\_link&](https://actionnetwork.org/letters/demand-justice-demand-the-ymca-reinstate-ms-rana-zamans-peace-medal?source=direct_link&)

We stand with Rana Zaman and with all those who continue to speak with integrity in the pursuit of justice, dignity, and lasting peace for all.

Sincerely,

Lyn Adamson

VOW Co-Chair

Hannah Hadikin

VOW Co-Chair