

## WOMEN WHO INSPIRE AWARD RECIPIENTS 2017



**Selda Sezen**  
Inspiring Leadership

**Selda Sezen** holds an MA in Literature from Turkey and an Honours degree from Algonquin College. She is currently pursuing her PhD at Wilfrid Laurier University. An educator and published author in Turkey, Selda has continued her career in education in Canada, currently teaching at WLU while continuing her research

on Muslim mothers' parenting experiences. Selda has demonstrated exceptional leadership in building community through very creative interfaith and intercultural activities, dedicating countless hours establishing children's programs, weekly women's circles, and interfaith /intercultural events. She works as an intern psychotherapist at the Delton Glebe Counselling Service and as a chaplain at Grand Valley Institution for Women while providing dedicated leadership to the Canadian Muslim Research and Resource Centre and Intercultural Dialogue Institute-KW.



**Duaa Al-Aghar**  
Community Service

**Duaa Al-Aghar** has been a dedicated volunteer with Islamic Humanitarian Services for over eight years, while also volunteering for other organizations including Salvation Army, K-W Access-Ability, Muslim Social Services, Interfaith Grand River, KW Multicultural Centre, St. John's Kitchen, Mennonite-Muslim Bridge Building Project, and the Food Bank of Waterloo Region. Duaa championed the cause of internet accessibility for persons with disabilities by designing an accessible website for K-W Access-Ability, and assessing websites of other organizations to ensure accessibility. Duaa is a role model for all young girls, excelling in the

world of science with her Bachelor and Master degrees in Computer and Control Engineering from Iraq, ranking at the top of her classes. Duaa is the living embodiment of nurturing and intellect, compassion and strength of purpose.



**Sarah Shafiq**  
Advocacy / Activism

**Dr. Sarah Shafiq** holds a PhD in Sociology. Over the past several years, Sarah has worked tirelessly to raise awareness about racism, Islamophobia, and hate crime in KW. Sarah coordinated the Hate Crime Project for the Coalition of Muslim Women of KW, passionately preparing local women to recognize, report and educate themselves and others about hate crimes. As a member of the Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council (CPC), Sarah has helped the Council and the community to understand and respond to Racism and Islamophobia in positive ways. She was instrumental in the endorsement of the Inclusive Communities Charter by CPC and the Waterloo Regional Council. At Interfaith Grand River, Sarah actively builds understanding of various faith traditions in our community. Sarah is regularly invited as a speaker by churches and other community groups.



**Dr. Hind A. Al-Abadleh**, an accomplished researcher, teacher, role model and mentor, is an Associate Professor of Chemistry at Wilfrid Laurier University. Hind enthusiastically shares her passion for science with students and unfailingly gives of her time to promote and support the success of women in the STEM fields. Hind's community outreach includes media articles and interviews, talks for youth and seniors, and interfaith panels, building awareness of the science behind environmental problems and the role of ethics and faith in formulating a values-based response to the environmental crisis. Hind has received numerous awards recognizing her academic excellence, mentorship, and environmental advocacy, including Laurier's Faculty Mentoring Award (2015) and MAX Platinum Award of Excellence (2016).



**Nada Humsi**, an acclaimed playwright, director and actress, started her career in theatre in Syria where she created several one-woman shows, touring across the world and garnering a large number of awards and recognitions. Nada moved to Canada in 1999, where she worked with several theatre makers in Toronto. After moving to Kitchener, she joined the MT Space where she has co-created, acted and helped to produce many original plays, touring with the company across Canada. Nada is a founding member of Canada's first Arab Canadian Theatre company (KW ACT). Nada is a very generous volunteer, making herself available to give rides, return calls and translate for newcomers as needed.

**Nada Humsi**  
Artistic  
Accomplishments



**Rahma Abukhousa**, a Palestinian born in Iraq, came to Canada in 2010 from a refugee camp in Syria where she and her family resided after their escape from Iraq. Rahma has the passion to create change in people's lives, particularly refugees. She is a member of her school student council and has run several fundraising events to support refugee sponsorship and resettlement. Rahma regularly speaks at public gatherings to raise awareness and funds for refugees. She received the World Refugee Day Award of Distinction (2014), recognizing her leadership and contributions to her community, and an award for making her school a safer, more inclusive place for all. She aspires to be a neurosurgeon.

**Rahma Abukhousa**  
Outstanding Youth

## FRIEND OF CMW AWARD RECIPIENT



This year, we are proud to present KW Counselling Services with the "Friend of CMW Award", in recognition of the generous support KWCS has provided to our Coalition in terms of space, sponsorship, friendship, mentorship and encouragement! We highly commend KWCS for their programs and services which actively affirm their vision of "a community where no one is left behind."

## FIVE YEAR SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS



Bareera Sial



Fadhilah Balogun



Manal Barakat



Mehar Nayyar



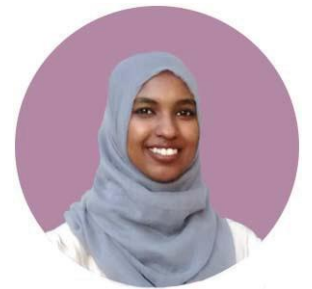
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