



DECEMBER 31, 2025

Empowerment - Education - Advocacy - Respect - Accountability

www.azerwomen.ca

A Z E R B A I J A N I W O M E N ' S S U P P O R T C E N T R E

MAJOR MILESTONES IN 2025



Dear Friends and Supporters,

In 2025, AWSC proudly celebrated its 20th anniversary, commemorating two decades dedicated to empowering women and families, advancing education, and cultivating inclusive communities. This year's tributes highlighted AWSC's advocacy against gender-based violence, poverty, Islamophobia, and antisemitism, underscoring its commitment to cross-cultural engagement. The organization's founding vision of positive change through community involvement and sharing resources continues to guide its current programs.

As in previous years, 2025 saw the continuation of various programs and services aimed at supporting women and children, as well as interfaith and cultural heritage events designed to assist women and their families. This reflects our unwavering commitment to active service as we approach year-end.

With gratitude and hope,
AWSC Board of Directors

20th Anniversary Recognition

International and Canadian coverage celebrated AWSC's two decades of impact and its unique role as the only charity organization of Azerbaijani women in Canada, commending our contributions to diversity and interfaith understanding and our advocacy work related to women's rights and community well-being.

AWSC board of directors and members were profiled for community leadership and diversity awards. Their extensive interfaith and community work continues to strengthen AWSC's mission and vision to support women and girls at every stage of their lives.

See the last page for some public recognitions by the Prime Minister, Members of Parliament and community leaders. We extend our gratitude to partners, community leaders, and members for their support in achieving this recognition.





Ongoing Community Programs & Services

This year, we remained dedicated to our programming centred on women and children, cultural heritage events, and initiatives to support women and their families, thereby underscoring our commitment to service as we approach year-end.

AWSC also organized interfaith training workshops in the Greater Toronto Area, fostering understanding and reducing prejudice, and building empathy, dialogue skills, and shared community action among diverse women in GTA.

Follow us on social media for more information!



Women's Empowerment & Family Support



Looking Ahead: 2026 Priorities

- o Increase food drive programs, counselling and psychoeducation capacity for women and families.
- o Continue Interfaith Networking.
- o Education & scholarships by expanding leadership and educational supports for women and youth.



Impact & Context: Why AWSC's Work Matters

- o Gender inequality and violence against women persist globally and within diaspora contexts. Benchmarks from UN Women and Canadian legal frameworks provide relevant context on domestic violence, gender equality gaps, and the importance of community-based support and referral networks—areas central to AWSC's mission and programming.
- o Canadian diaspora and multicultural engagement further underscore the role of organizations like AWSC in bridging services, reducing isolation, and building resilience among marginalized women and girls.



PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to offer my warmest greetings to everyone celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Azerbaijani Women's Support Centre.

For two decades, the Azerbaijani Women's Support Centre has offered programs and services aimed at supporting women and families in need. This milestone offers a wonderful opportunity to reflect upon the history of your organization, to celebrate its many accomplishments, and to set goals for the future.

I would like to thank everyone involved with the Azerbaijani Women's Support Centre for their valuable work. Your organization stands as a reminder that Canada is truly a multicultural nation, made stronger and more resilient by our diversity.

Please accept my best wishes for a memorable anniversary celebration and continued success.

Sincerely,

The Rt. Hon. Justin P. J. Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada

Ottawa
2025





Congratulatory Greeting

Dear Team at the Azerbaijani Women's Support Centre,

As the Member of Parliament for Humber River-Black Creek, I am delighted to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Azerbaijani Women's Support Centre on the occasion of your 20th anniversary. This is a remarkable milestone that reflects your organization's dedication and unwavering commitment to supporting women and families both locally and globally.

Over the past two decades, your organization has made a profound impact by advocating for women's rights, addressing critical issues such as violence against women, poverty, Islamophobia, and anti-Semitism, and fostering a more inclusive and equitable society. Your collaboration with multiple women's organizations and your efforts to uplift and empower communities are truly commendable.

This anniversary is not only a celebration of your accomplishments but also a testament to the resilience and strength of the individuals you have supported throughout the years. Your work has brought about meaningful change, and your continued efforts will undoubtedly shape a brighter future for generations to come.

Although I am unable to attend your celebration in person, please know that I deeply appreciate the invaluable work you do. I extend my best wishes for a successful event and for many more years of growth and success in your mission.

Once again, congratulations on this significant achievement. May your future be filled with continued success, progress, and positive impact.

With warm regards,

Judy A. Signa
Hon. Judy A. Signa, P.C. M.P.
Member of Parliament - Humber River-Black Creek

February 2025

MICHAEL TIBOLLO
MPP - Vaughan-Woodbridge



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Dear Members of the Azerbaijani Women's Support Centre,

I am honoured to extend my sincere appreciation to the Azerbaijani Women's Support Centre (AWSC) for your unwavering commitment to empowering women and families in our community. Your dedication to providing vital resources, educational programs, and advocacy initiatives has made a meaningful impact in the lives of so many. By fostering a supportive and inclusive environment, AWSC plays a crucial role in strengthening not only the Azerbaijani-Canadian community but also the broader society.

Your work in promoting empowerment, education, and advocacy is truly commendable, and I deeply admire the passion and dedication of your team, volunteers, and supporters. Organizations like yours exemplify the spirit of compassion and service, ensuring that women and families have access to the opportunities and support they need to thrive.

On behalf of our community and the Province of Ontario, I thank you for your remarkable contributions. Your efforts do not go unnoticed, and I look forward to seeing AWSC continue to grow and make a lasting impact.

With gratitude,
Michael Tibollo
Michael Tibollo
MPP, Vaughan - Woodbridge

STAN CHO
MPP - Willowdale



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March 27, 2025

Dear Azerbaijani Women's Support Centre (AWSC) Board of Directors,

Congratulations on your milestone 20th anniversary!

Since 2005, AWSC has helped numerous women and families in need by providing timely social, cultural, and educational supports and services.

From helping newcomers navigate the complexities of immigrating to Canada, to helping new mothers prepare for parenthood, the work you do at AWSC changes so many lives in so many ways.

It is grassroots, locally-based organizations like AWSC that bring people together and make our community a better place to live, work, and grow.

Thank you for everything you do.

Sincerely,

Stan Cho

Stan Cho, MPP
Willowdale



THE HONOURABLE SAUMA ATAULHAYAN
SENATOR - ONTARIO

THE HONOURABLE SAUMA ATAULHAYAN
SENATOR - ONTARIO

March 9, 2025

Greetings to the Azerbaijani Women's Support Centre's 20th Anniversary

I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Azerbaijani Women's Support Centre on its 20th anniversary. This event is a testament to the dedication and hard work of your members, and your commitment to the organization's mission of supporting women and families in Canada and around the world.

Over the years, AWSC has championed the empowerment of women and children by providing invaluable resources and information that they need to make positive contributions to their communities. Your tireless work in improving the status of women everywhere serves as an inspiration to all of us, and I hope that you will continue this good work for many more years to come.

Congratulations, once again, on reaching this significant milestone. I wish you continued success in the future.

Sincerely,

Sen. Sauma Ataulhayan
The Honourable Sauma Ataulhayan
Senator



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STEPHEN LECCO, MPP
King-Vaughan



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March 11th, 2025

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Government of Ontario and Premier Doug Ford, I wish to offer my warmest congratulations to the Azerbaijani Women's Support Centre on their 20th Anniversary.

We are grateful for the Azerbaijani Women's Support Centre's many contributions to the lives of Ontarians and local community members. We continue to be inspired by their work in Ontario as they exemplify what it means to be a support and backbone of women and families in Canada through resources and aid for those in need of support.

For 20 Years, the Azerbaijani Women's Support Centre has safeguarded the freedom and liberty of many Ontarians. I am proud of the work that the Azerbaijani Women's Support Centre has done and has continued to do in ensuring all women in our community feel safe and protected.

The Azerbaijani Women's Support Centre has been a safe space for women and families. The resources provided by their work with numerous women's organizations has granted opportunities for women and children to be safe and free from violence, poverty, Islamophobia and Antisemitism.

Many thanks to the Azerbaijani Women's Support Centre and its tremendous members for protecting the Canadian democratic way of life -- and for giving women and families the opportunity to learn and grow. As we celebrate 20 years of success, I look forward to celebrating many more.

Congratulations on this milestone!

Sincerely,

Stephen Lecco

Hon. Stephen Lecco
MPP for King-Vaughan



March 9, 2025

Greeting Letter

As the Member of Parliament for Richmond Hill, I am pleased to extend my greetings to those attending the Azerbaijani Women's Support Centre 20th anniversary.

My heartfelt thanks to the Azerbaijani Women's Support Centre for your unwavering dedication to the well-being of all women. Through community engagement, valuable resources, and social, educational, and cultural initiatives, you continue to drive positive change.

May today serve as a celebration of the Azerbaijani Women's Support Centre's growth and contributions over the years. Please accept our deepest gratitude for the vital role you play in advocating for and supporting women's well-being.

International Women's Day!

Sincerely,

Majid Jowhari

Majid Jowhari, MP
Richmond Hill

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MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

It is my pleasure to extend greetings to everyone attending the Azerbaijani Women's Support Centre's (AWSC) 20th anniversary.

Best wishes to the AWSC as you mark this significant anniversary. This occasion is a wonderful opportunity to highlight your organization's commitment to building the capacity of women and children through community engagement, providing resources and social, educational and cultural activities. Thank you for all you do to guide positive change in the communities that you serve.

The City of Toronto is proud to acknowledge organizations that are committed to making a difference in their communities and improving the well-being of residents.

On behalf of Toronto City Council, please accept my best wishes for an enjoyable and memorable event.

Yours truly,

Olivia Chow

Olivia Chow
Mayor of Toronto



Councillor Lily Cheng
would like to extend heartfelt congratulations to the

Azerbaijani Women's Support Centre

on the occasion of your 20th Anniversary Celebration and Iftar.

This is a celebration of your dedication to supporting women, families, and immigrant communities across Ontario as they overcome challenges and make meaningful contributions to Canadian society.

Your efforts in creating positive change through community engagement, resources, and social, educational, and cultural activities are truly commendable. This enriches our city's vibrant tapestry and strengthens Toronto's spirit of inclusion and unity.

I extend my heartfelt wishes for a successful and memorable event.



Lily Cheng
Lily Cheng
City of Toronto
March 9th, 2025

