

THE AFGHAN CRISIS AND 2SLGBTQI+: CRITICAL INSIGHTS AND HELPFUL SOLUTIONS

OBA Sexual Orientation And Gender Identity Community Program

Thursday, December 2, 2021

PROGRAM CHAIR:

Teddy Weinstein, (He/They), JD, LLM Candidate

MODERATOR:

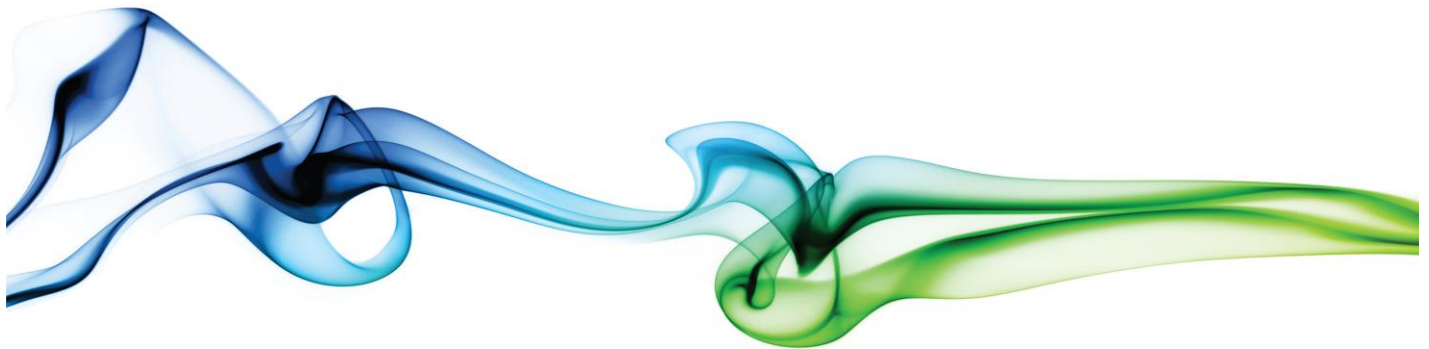
Adrian Ishak, (He/Him), Director, Senior Corporate Counsel, Global Labour & Employment, Salesforce

SPEAKERS:

Marufa Shinwari, (She/Her), LLM, Former International Law Professor at Kabul University, PhD candidate at McMaster University

Kimahli Powell, (He/Him), LLD (HONS), Executive Director, Rainbow Railroad

Nilofar Ahmadi, (She/Her), MA, JD, Barrister and Solicitor



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The Afghan Crisis and 2SLGBTQI+: Critical insights and Helpful Solutions

Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Community

Date: Thursday, December 2, 2021 | 5:30 pm – 7:00pm

Location: Zoom webinar only

Agenda: 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm Program



Webcast



This program contains:
1hr of EDI Professionalism Content
0 hr 30m of Substantive Content

The OBA has been approved as an Accredited Provider of Professionalism Content by The Law Society of Ontario

The security situation in Afghanistan has deteriorated rapidly. With the collapse of the Ashraf Ghani government and subsequent takeover of the Taliban, there is fear that a return of grave human rights abuses, including the extreme persecution of 2SLGBTQI+, will occur. A spike in refugees from this vulnerable group is nearly inevitable. The question on the lips of many is, how can we help in the face of this crisis?

Join us for an informative panel discussion and Q&A featuring immigration and refugee lawyers, international refugee law experts, and emergency relocation workers on what this dangerous evolving situation looks like today and how we in the legal community, regardless of your practice area, can contribute to the solution.

Chair: **Teddy Weinstein**, (He/They), JD, LLM Candidate

Moderator: **Adrian Ishak**, (He/Him), Director, Senior Corporate Counsel, Global Labour & Employment, Salesforce

Speakers: **Marufa Shinwari**, (She/Her), LLM, Former International law professor at Kabul University, PhD candidate at McMaster University
Kimahli Powell, (He/Him), LLD (HONS), Executive Director, Rainbow Railroad
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PROGRAM REGISTRATION IS ONLINE www.oba.org/pd

Questions? pd@oba.org

PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

THE AFGHAN CRISIS AND 2SLGBTQI+: CRITICAL INSIGHTS AND HELPFUL SOLUTIONS

Teddy Weinstein (PROGRAM CHAIR)

Teddy Weinstein is a Masters Student at the University of Ottawa studying access to healthcare for trans and gender non-conforming patients. They are born and raised in Toronto, Ontario and attended Windsor University for their JD.

Adrian Ishak (MODERATOR)

Adrian is a member of the Employment and Labour Group. Adrian provides strategic counselling and practical business advice to private and public sector employers on human resources, privacy and human rights issues on a domestic and international scale. Adrian has deep knowledge of employee and labour relations in Canadian common law jurisdictions and Québec's civil law jurisdiction, particularly in the context of corporate and commercial transactions across a variety of industries. Adrian is the Chair of the board of Eva's Initiatives, a local charity that provides safe shelter, training and counselling to homeless and at-risk youth. He also sits on the Young Leadership Council of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, volunteers at the Legal Advice & Referral Clinic of The 519 Church Street Community Centre and sits on the board of FrancoQueer, an association that brings together and represents the LGBTQIA francophone community in Ontario.



Marufa Shinwari (SPEAKER)

Marufa Shinwari is an Afghan-Canadian Ph.D. student at McMaster University's School of Social Work. She is also the Executive Director of the Immigrant Culture and Art Association, an immigrant artist serving organization based in Hamilton. Marufa spent more than a decade as the Director of the Resettlement Assistance Program, which was tasked with settling Government Assisted Refugees in Canada. More recently, she spent eight years studying issues of gender and social justice from a feminist perspective. She holds one Master of Arts degree in Gender Studies and Feminist Research from McMaster University, a Master of Arts, and a Bachelor of Arts in Jurisprudence and Law from the Tajik State University's Faculty of Law. Marufa is a poet, an activist and a sculptor.

Kimahli Powell (SPEAKER)

Dr. Kimahli Powell L.L.D (Hons)

Kimahli is a long time advocate for social justice, having spent over twenty years advancing the rights of youth, the African/Caribbean/black community, people living and affected by HIV, and the LGBTQI+ community.

Kimahli completed his undergraduate studies in Political Science at the University of Ottawa. He holds an Honorary Doctor of Laws from the University of Victoria. Among his career highlights is supporting Dignitas International's innovative work in supporting community based – system health strengthening in Malawi, as well as helping launch the HIV Legal Network's constitutional challenge to Jamaica's anti-sodomy law while developing a monitoring and evaluation framework on legal advocacy.

Since joining Rainbow Railroad as Executive Director, Kimahli has led the organization through transformational growth, helping thousands of people in the process. Kimahli and Rainbow Railroad have been recognized with several awards, including the International Lesbian & Gay Travel Association's Pathfinder Award, the Mark S. Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies' 2018 Award, and the 2018 Inspire Award for Community Organization of the Year.

Kimahli is the 2019 recipient of the Steinert & Ferreiro Award and was listed in Out Magazine's Out 100 profile of influential LGBT people.

Nilofar Ahmadi (SPEAKER)

Nilofar is an active lawyer in the Afghan community. She is Toronto-based, and a co-founded partner at NK lawyers. Her practice is focused on client advocacy before the IRB as well as the Federal Court. She has handled many refugee files since commencing practice.



Notes

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