NOVEMBER 26, 2026 • VANIER HALL • UNIVERSITY OF WINDSOR

#IAmSahraBulle Conference

Presenters & Sessions

From Awareness to Action: Ending Violence
in Our Homes, Schools, and Communities

Presented by the Sahra Bulle Foundation and the Office of the Vice-President, People, Equity, and Inclusion



Dr. Bonnie Stewart

Dr. Bonnie Stewart is a longtime educator and digital researcher who explores the implications of our current information ecosystem for institutions and society.

Associate Professor of Online Pedagogy and Workplace Learning in the University of Windsor's Faculty of Education, Bonnie teaches media literacies, digital pedagogies, leadership, and gender and sexuality in education. As an early researcher of Massive Open Online Courses and academic Twitter, Bonnie has long been engaged in critical analysis of Silicon Valley hype, and currently investigates what it means to know, to belong, and to build meaningful learning relationships amidst an era of automation and weaponization.

SESSION ID: Keynote

(Mis)informed consent: How AI scales technology-facilitated gender-based violence.

The talk will trace the implications of our AI- and misinformation-infused culture for issues of consent and agency. Distinguishing between GenAI tools and the current consolidation of power around BigAI hype, the keynote will critically examine how algorithmic consent models fail vulnerable populations, in classrooms, in homes, and in governance systems. It will overview the ways in which AI's structures and settings can amplify gender-based risks and technology-facilitated gender-based violence, even where AI systems can also serve as tools for support. Ultimately, the talk prioritizes informed consent even in a misinformation era.

TIME
9:45–10:45 AM

ROOM
Winclair



Dr. Maddie Brockbank

Dr. Maddie Brockbank (she/her) is an Assistant Professor in the School of Social Work at the University of Windsor.

Maddie completed her Bachelor of Social Work (2019), Master of Social Work (2020), and Doctor of Philosophy (2025) at McMaster University. Her research, practice experience, and community organizing initiatives have been in anti-violence work with men, specifically in exploring the links between gender-based and sexual violence prevention, masculinities, anti-carceral feminisms, and engaging men in primary prevention efforts. She has been recognized for her academic and community excellence as a recipient of the Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship.

SESSION ID: 1A

Practicing Bystander Intervention and Preventing Gender-Based Violence

This session will provide a practical approach to intervening when community members witness or experience gender-based and sexual violence (GBSV). We will begin with defining and increasing participant understanding of what GBSV is, its prevalence, and the existing barriers that people experience when seeking support or redress. We will then shift into building skillsets for responding to disclosure of GBSV, challenging the bystander effect, and practicing bystander intervention through the 5 Ds. Attendees will be given the opportunity to apply these learnings via case scenarios to close out the session. This session will undertake a critical and intersectional feminist approach to GBSV intervention and prevention.

TIME
11:00 AM–12:00 PM

ROOM
Winclair



Vanessa Fleming

Vanessa Fleming is the founder of Rising T.E.A (To Eradicate Abuse) and lived experience advocate dedicated to raising awareness of gender-based violence and human trafficking.

Through education and advocacy, she works to bridge the gap between survivor's lived realities and the systems to support them.

SESSION ID: 1B

What Survivors See that Systems Miss: Improving Recognition and Response in GBV and Exploitation

This interactive session explores the gaps between how gender-based violence and exploitation are understood by support systems and how survivors experience them in reality. Drawing on lived experience and community advocacy, Vanessa Fleming examines the barriers survivors face when seeking help, the ways systems can unintentionally overlook their needs, and the importance of survivor-informed approaches to prevention and response.

Through reflection, discussion, and audience participation, participants will be encouraged to challenge assumptions, recognize overlooked barriers, and consider how services and institutions can respond with greater compassion, accountability, and understanding. The session emphasizes the importance of listening to survivor voices and translating awareness into meaningful, practical change.

TIME
11:00 AM–12:00 PM

ROOM
Oak Room



Dr. Boluwaji (Bolu) Olaniru

Dr. Bolu Olaniru is a researcher, educator, and policy advocate focused on gender-based violence, caregiving, and the wellbeing of immigrant communities. She is the founder of Rooted in Care, an initiative advancing policy and community solutions that support caregivers and vulnerable families who support autistic individuals.

Her work includes advocacy, education, and policy engagement addressing female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) as a form of gender-based violence. Dr. Bolu Olaniru also teaches at the post-secondary level and collaborates with policymakers, nonprofits, and community leaders to strengthen prevention, protection, and support systems for women and girls.

SESSION ID: 1C

Beyond Awareness: Community-Led Responses to Gender-Based Violence

This session explores preventing gender-based violence through the FGM/C case study, examining harmful practices and culturally responsive approaches to prevention, survivor support, and accountability.

TIME
11:00 AM–12:00 PM

ROOM
Rose Room



Dr. Pamela Pine

Pamela J. Pine, PhD, MPH, RCHES is an international health, development, and communication professional who has dedicated her career to supporting underserved populations in over 30 countries, and an artist, which she uses in her work to open hearts and minds.

Since 2000, her work has centered on childhood trauma and protection, with a particular focus on preventing and addressing child sexual abuse (CSA), trafficking, and other adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), and their relationship to other societal violence. As Founder and former CEO and now Director of Stop the Silence® - a Department of the Institute on Violence, Abuse and Trauma (IVAT), Dr. Pine is a leading voice in advocacy, education, training, and other trauma-informed programming.

SESSION ID: 1D

When Silence Becomes a System: Practical Tools for Frontline Workers to Recognize, Respond and Act on Gender-Based Violence

Gender-based violence does not begin with an incident report. It begins long before — in the childhood experiences that shape vulnerability, in the silences of individuals, cultures, and communities learn to keep, and in institutional practices that, despite many good intentions, too often fail the people they were built to protect. This session will begin with ACEs/CSA as a base and move to further discussion and address of the situation of marginalized women and GBV.

TIME
11:00 AM–12:00 PM

ROOM
Remote Presentation in Katzman Lounge



Sara Williams

Sara Williams is an Anishinaabe Kwe from Aamjiwnaang First Nation, a registered nurse, and a PhD candidate in Nursing. She serves as the Learning Specialist in Indigenization in the University of Windsor's Faculty of Nursing, where she leads Indigenous health education and supports curriculum development and faculty learning.

Her work centres on cultural humility, culturally responsive care, and addressing anti-Indigenous racism in healthcare. Drawing on her lived experience, community relationships, and nursing practice, Sara connects education with clinical responsibilities. Her research interests include nurses' preparedness to care for Indigenous patients and strengthening nursing education through relational, reflective, and community-informed approaches.

SESSION ID: 2A

Unprepared at the Front Lines: Exploring Nurses' Readiness to Recognize Human Sex Trafficking in North America: Scoping Review

This presentation explores human trafficking and nurses' preparedness to recognize and respond to individuals who may be experiencing trafficking. Drawing on findings from a scoping review, it examines gaps in nursing knowledge, education, and preparedness, alongside opportunities to strengthen practice. An overview of human trafficking and missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls situates these issues within broader contexts of colonialism, racism, gender-based violence, and systemic inequities, while recognizing their distinct and intersecting dimensions. Participants will consider how culturally responsive, trauma- and violence-informed nursing care can support recognition, compassionate communication, and appropriate responses grounded in individual needs, autonomy, and safety.

TIME
1:00–2:00 PM

ROOM
Winclair



Anne Rudzinski

Anne Rudzinski (she/her) is the Manager of Education and Support at the Office of Sexual Violence Prevention, Resistance, and Support at the University of Windsor. Anne is an instructor with Wen-Do Women's Self Defence, offering empowerment self defence for women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ community in Windsor, Ontario.

Anne has completed her Master’s in Community Psychology at Wilfrid Laurier, and is currently working on her PhD in Education in the Joint PhD at UWindsor, Brock, and Lakehead Universities. Her research focuses on sexual violence prevention and resistance education. Anne is also an avid crafter, and is currently interested in linocut print making and quilting.

SESSION ID: 2B

From Installation to Dialogue: 'feeling deeply' Art and Gender-Based Violence

The ‘feeling deeply’ art installation highlights the wide range of emotions that may be experienced in connection with gender-based violence from the perspectives of survivors, supporters, bystanders, and witnesses. Building on the themes explored in the installation, this panel discussion will examine questions surrounding the creation, display, and viewing of art that engages with gender-based violence and trauma.

Moderator: Anne Rudzinski
Panelists: Julie Sando, Kate Hargreaves, Rachel Soulliere

TIME
1:00–2:00 PM

ROOM
Crocodile Grill



Michelle Weglarz

Michelle is a social worker, psychotherapist, and owner of Balanced Life Wellness Centre in Essex, where she and her team provide compassionate, client-centred therapy.

Passionate about empowering others, Michelle also facilitates workshops and retreats focused on self-care, assertiveness, mindfulness, self-compassion, and personal well-being.

SESSION ID: 2C

Reclaiming Your Voice: A Trauma-Informed Presentation to Cultivate Self-Compassion & Assertiveness

This interactive presentation explores the powerful connection between self-compassion, assertiveness, boundaries, and meaningful communication. Participants will move beyond simply understanding these concepts to actively practicing practical strategies they can use in their personal, professional, and community lives. Drawing on Dr. Kristin Neff's work on self-compassion and the 3 Steps to Assertiveness, a framework I developed to help people speak up for themselves and others in a simple, kind, and practical way, participants will learn how to communicate with greater clarity, confidence, and compassion—even in challenging situations.

This session is designed for professionals, students, and community members and requires no previous knowledge or experience. Most importantly, participants will leave with concrete, immediately usable skills—not just information.

TIME
1:00–2:00 PM

ROOM
Oak Room



Sofi Khan

Sofi Khan is a lawyer, feminist, shadow board member of a domestic abuse charity in the UK.

Sofi created an eight-step guide that helps survivors of domestic abuse leave abusive relationships.

SESSION ID: 2D

Eight Steps to Getting Out

GAWGO (Getting Ahead Whilst Getting Out) is an eight-step framework that reframes leaving an abusive relationship not as a single act of courage, but as a strategic, supported process that can be planned and survived.

The eight steps move a survivor from recognition to freedom: Remove the Rose-Tinted Glasses (naming the abuse), Maintain a Poker Face (strategic silence and safe planning), Make a List (defining what you need to achieve), Due Diligence (gathering the facts, where safe), Getting Out (risk assessment and safety planning), Stay Vigilant (managing post-separation risk), Confusion Before Clarity (navigating life after leaving), and Healing (trauma-informed recovery).

Woven throughout is the concept of "strategic silence," a Pause-Plan-Proceed checkpoint system, and an intersectional lens that accounts for the survivors mainstream advice too often overlooks. Grounded in both lived experience and current research, GAWGO hands survivors not sympathy, but a strategy, and the knowledge that getting out safely is something that can be prepared for, step by step.

TIME
1:00–2:00 PM

ROOM
Remote Presentation in Katzman Lounge





Marko Kozul

Farah Eideh

Marko Kozul and Farah Eideh are students at W.F. Herman Academy who are passionate about positivity, making a difference, and creating meaningful change. They are dedicated to bringing happiness to others and making a positive impact in their school and community.

SESSION ID: 3Ai

Supporting Survivors Across Diverse Communities

This presentation explores how gender-based violence affects people differently based on their identities and circumstances. Participants will learn to recognize warning signs, understand barriers survivors face when seeking support, and discover practical ways to respond with empathy, promote inclusion, and help build safer communities.

TIME
2:00–2:30 PM

ROOM
Winclair



Madison DeKok

Madison DeKok is involved with Hub Without Walls (HWoW), an initiative supporting individuals affected by gender-based violence. HWoW takes a person-centred, no-wrong-door approach, meeting individuals where they are and providing support based on their unique needs.

SESSION ID: 3Aii

Love Shouldn’t Hurt: Recognizing Harm, Supporting Friends and Finding Help Through A Hub Without Walls

Toxic relationships can be difficult to navigate, whether you are experiencing violence yourself or are concerned about a family member or friend. Knowing how to approach the situation and offer support can feel overwhelming. The Hub Without Walls team works alongside survivors to help them navigate the many barriers they may face, including mental health challenges, substance use, and complex trauma. You don’t have to be a professional to make a difference. Sometimes, offering support, listening without judgment, or connecting someone with the right resources is a powerful first step. Violence thrives in silence, so let’s talk about it.

TIME
2:30–3:00 PM

ROOM
Winclair



Kaden Reid

Kaden Reid (he/him) is a Bachelor of Social Work student and varsity athlete at the University of Windsor. He has been a member of the Lancers' men's volleyball team since 2022.

Kaden is currently completing his fourth-year BSW placement under the supervision of Dr. Maddie Brockbank, where they are collaborating to offer gender-based and sexual violence prevention education to men's varsity athletic teams.

SESSION ID: 3Bi

Bystander Intervention

This session will discuss the promises and challenges of working with men's varsity athletics teams in gender-based and sexual violence prevention education. Stemming from the preliminary findings and reflections of a WE-SPARK IDEA Grant project, we will discuss the emerging themes that shape how men student-athletes (dis)engage from anti-violence work. We will also explore how the athletic context maintains immense promise for increasing men's participation in gender-based and sexual violence prevention.

TIME
2:00–2:30 PM

ROOM
Oak Room



Gracie Williamson, Kim Courtis & Addy Taylor

Gracie and Kim are past Coordinators of the Womxn’s Centre at the UWSA at UWindsor. Addy is the current Coordinator. All three share experience in student leadership, community organizing, intersectionality and inclusivity, and gender-based inequity.

All three have experience with speaking at campus and community events. Gracie and Addy both spoke at this year’s Take Back the Night. Kim is a facilitator with Flip the Script .

SESSION ID: 3Bii

Student Leadership at Campus Womxn’s Centres

This interactive session explores what it's like to operate inclusive spaces on campus, presented by one current and two former UWindsor Womxn's Centre coordinators. There will be time for a Q &A session as well for those who have questions.

TIME
2:30–3:00 PM

ROOM
Oak Room





Nikoo Aghaei

Jaden Chong

Nikoo Aghaei (she/her) is a fourth-year medical student at Queen's University, and a Student Researcher and Designer at Waypoint. She has a background in psychology, neuroscience, and design, and she is passionate about projects involving women's health, knowledge mobilization, and co-research.

Jaden Chong (she/her) is a Communications and Digital Media Specialist at Waypoint. She recently graduated from OCAD University in the Design for Health Masters Program. Jaden is very passionate about integrating design into the healthcare space and believes in the importance of amplifying survivor voices.

SESSION ID: 3C

Applying Design Thinking Methods to Intimate Partner Violence Mental Health Research

This presentation discusses how design thinking, a hands-on method for building solutions with people with lived experience can transform intimate partner violence (IPV) mental health research by placing survivors at the centre as co-researchers. Design thinking is a human-centred, empathy-driven process for building solutions with people rather than for them. Paired with co-research and participatory knowledge mobilization, it creates a cycle: empathize and co-design with survivors, test and refine together, share knowledge in ways survivors see fit, and build community capacity to sustain change. Presenters will draw on an example of an initiative from their own work, Our IPV Story, to demonstrate how design and co-research are used in creating safe, stigma-reducing spaces for people with lived experience to share their stories, to building a community around storytelling and healing. Participants will engage in a hands-on design thinking exercise and leave with practical methods they can bring into their own research, advocacy, classroom, or community work.

TIME
2:00–2:45 PM

ROOM
Rose Room



Dr. Pamela Pine

Pamela J. Pine, PhD, MPH, RCHES is an international health, development, and communication professional who has dedicated her career to supporting underserved populations in over 30 countries, and an artist, which she uses in her work to open hearts and minds.

Since 2000, her work has centered on childhood trauma and protection, with a particular focus on preventing and addressing child sexual abuse (CSA), trafficking, and other adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), and their relationship to other societal violence. As Founder and former CEO and now Director of Stop the Silence® - a Department of the Institute on Violence, Abuse and Trauma (IVAT), Dr. Pine is a leading voice in advocacy, education, training, and other trauma-informed programming.

SESSION ID: 3D

Deepening the Conversation: A Follow-Up to When Silence Becomes a System: Practical Tools for Frontline Workers to Recognize, Respond and Act on Gender-Based Violence

Building on the morning presentation, this session invites participants to further explore practical approaches to recognizing and responding to gender-based violence in frontline settings. (Attendance at Session 1D is recommended but not required.)

TIME
2:00–2:45 PM

ROOM
Remote Presentation in Katzman Lounge

#IAmSahraBulle Conference 2026

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Join us for a day of learning, dialogue, and collective action.

Click Here to Register

Thursday, November 26, 2026

Vanier Hall | University of Windsor

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