

SAHRA BULLE FOUNDATION

Centre for Learning and Teaching

in collaboration with

University of Windsor

Office of the Vice-President, People, Equity, and Inclusion

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

4th Annual #IAmSahraBulle Conference

November 26, 2026 •

2026 CONFERENCE THEME

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

Held during the UN 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

November 25 – December 10, 2026

Proposals Open	Submission Deadline	Presenter Notification	Conference
April 15, 2026	July 15, 2026	August 15, 2026	November 26, 2026

Submit proposals to: info@sahrabullefoundation.ca — Subject line: *CFP 2026* — *[Your Session Title]*

#IAmSahraBulle — Education. Accountability. Community.

About the Conference

The #IAmSahraBulle Conference is the annual flagship event of the Sahra Bulle Foundation Centre for Learning and Teaching, held each November in alignment with the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, a global initiative led by the United Nations.

Now in its fourth year, the conference is co-hosted in partnership with the University of Windsor Office of the Vice-President, People, Equity, and Inclusion. It convenes students, educators, frontline workers, community organizations, and advocates for a full day of learning, dialogue, and collective action.

The conference centres the voices and experiences of all women and girls in the work to end gender-based violence, while recognizing that marginalized and racialized women — including Black women, Indigenous women, immigrant and refugee women, women with disabilities, and LGBTQ2S+ women — experience gender-based violence at disproportionately higher rates and face additional barriers when seeking safety, support, and justice.

The conference is free for all attendees, with all costs covered by donor contributions, and fundraising efforts.

2026 Conference Theme

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

Three years of conferences have helped build a community of people who understand what gender-based violence looks like and why it happens. The 2026 conference intends to move the conversation further to ask the harder question: now what do we do about it?

This theme is grounded in the global UN campaign **“UNITE! Invest to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls,”** which calls for the urgent need to move the conversation away from reactive responses to a more proactive and meaningful investment in prevention, not just response. It also aligns with **1 Billion Rising’s 2026 focus**, which emphasizes the interconnected nature of gender-based violence, environmental crisis, and bodily autonomy.

We are looking for sessions that shift the conversation:

- from awareness to action
- from knowledge to practice
- from reflection to sustained community commitment

The strongest proposals do not just explain the problem. They show what communities can actually do about it.

What We Are Looking For

We are looking for sessions that move people — from understanding to skill, from awareness to action, from passive learning to active commitment. Every accepted session includes a concrete participant takeaway: one thing people can know, do, or act on differently when they leave the room.

Priority for 2026

The Sahra Bulle Foundation makes a specific and intentional call for proposals that centre the voices and experiences of marginalized and racialized women. This includes Black women, Indigenous women, immigrant and refugee women, women with disabilities, and LGBTQ2S+ women — communities that experience gender-based violence at disproportionately higher rates and face compounded barriers when seeking safety, support, and justice. Proposals that specifically address these realities and experiences will be prioritized in the 2026 review process.

Example Topics

The following are directions, not requirements. If your work responds to the theme in another meaningful way, we encourage you to submit.

- The disproportionate impact of GBV on marginalized and racialized women: how race, immigration status, disability, sexual orientation, language, and socioeconomic vulnerability intersect with violence, and what culturally grounded, community-led prevention and response looks like in practice
- What accountability looks like in practice — in schools, workplaces, institutions, and communities. Not as a concept, but as a daily, structural, and measurable reality
- How communities respond when institutions fail survivors. What do community-led models of justice, support, and healing look like beyond the criminal legal system?
- The role of men and boys in prevention — not as saviors or subjects, but as co-responsible members of communities that either allow or refuse violence
- The intersection of gender-based violence with environmental crisis, displacement, and the loss of land, resources, and bodily autonomy
- Digital safety as a practice — for youth, for survivors, for organizations. Not just what the risks are, but what people can actually do
- The chronic underfunding of GBV organizations and what communities and institutions can advocate for
- What a trauma-informed institution actually looks like in practice — not in policy documents, but in how people are hired, supervised, supported, and held accountable
- Healing practices rooted in Indigenous knowledge, cultural tradition, or community wisdom that offer pathways beyond Western clinical frameworks
- Creative resistance — art, storytelling, spoken word, movement, music — as tools for healing, advocacy, and sustained community action

These are directions, not requirements. The strongest proposals will bring something we have not thought to ask for. If your work responds to the theme in a way not listed here, we want to hear it.

Who We Are Looking For

We welcome proposals from a wide range of presenters. Lived experience, professional expertise, and community credibility are all valued — and they are not mutually exclusive.

- Community workers, advocates, researchers, and people with lived experience can offer concrete, culturally responsive approaches to prevention, support, and healing
- Survivors who have moved their experience into advocacy, education, or community leadership
- Frontline workers, social workers, educators, and healthcare professionals with direct experience in GBV response and prevention
- Community organizers and advocates whose work addresses the structural conditions that enable or prevent violence
- Artists, spoken word performers, musicians, and cultural workers whose practice engages with GBV themes through creative forms
- Indigenous knowledge keepers, Elders, and community leaders with cultural, land-based, or ceremonial approaches to healing and safety
- Researchers and policy professionals whose work has direct, accessible application for community and practitioner audiences
- Organizational leaders who have built trauma-informed, accountable institutions and can show others what that work actually required.

We do not require credentials or academic affiliation. We ask for a commitment to trauma-informed, survivor-centered facilitation — and the experience to deliver it.

A Specific Call for Marginalized and Racialized Voices

We actively encourage proposals from Black women, Indigenous women, immigrant and refugee women, women with disabilities, and LGBTQ2S+ women with direct experience — lived, professional, or both — working within or alongside communities facing compounded vulnerability. If you have been waiting for an invitation to bring your perspective into this space, this is it.

First-Time Presenters

We actively welcome first-time presenters. If you have never presented at a conference before but have something meaningful to contribute, this is the right space to start. We provide a preparation call and a support framework for every presenter. Our program team is available to help you develop your proposal before you submit it.

Student Presenter Slot

The #IAmSahraBulle Conference reserves a dedicated slot in the program for student presenters. This is a protected space — not competing with other sessions. It is a full, valued part of the conference program that recognizes youth voice as essential to the prevention conversation.

Young people are not too young to understand. They are not too young to act. The student presenter slot exists because we believe the next generation of advocates deserves a platform, not just a seat in the audience.

Student proposals follow a simplified process. You do not need a formal bio, professional credentials, or an institutional affiliation.

1. Your name, school or organization, and grade or year of study
2. What you want to present — in plain language, two to three sentences
3. Why this topic matters to you and to the people who will be in the room
4. What format you are thinking of — spoken word, presentation, performance, or facilitated discussion

Open to high school and post-secondary students currently enrolled in a Windsor-Essex or Ontario institution; student groups and advocacy organizations; and youth advocates under 25 working with a community organization.

Email subject line: Student CFP 2026 [Your Name]

Session Formats

All sessions include a meaningful interactive component — a minimum of 30 per cent of total session time dedicated to participant engagement. Sessions designed as lectures without genuine audience participation will not be selected, regardless of topic quality.

Format	Duration	What It Involves
Workshop	60–90 min	A skill-building session with structured activities and a clear takeaway for participants.
Interactive Presentation	45–60 min	A presenter-led session that includes discussion, reflection prompts, or structured participant engagement.
Sharing Circle	60 min	Facilitated dialogue using Indigenous circle protocols. Led by an Indigenous facilitator with practiced experience in this format.
Arts-Based Session	45–60 min	Spoken word, music, movement, or visual art used as the primary vehicle for learning or healing, grounded in a trauma-informed approach.
Student Presentation	15–30 min	Designed for or led by youth presenters. Short, focused, peer-to-peer. Follow the simplified student submission process.
Panel Discussion	60 min	Two to four speakers with a designated facilitator and structured audience dialogue.

Conference Streams

All proposals are asked to identify the stream that best fits their session. This helps guide how sessions are scheduled and who will be in the room.

Stream	Who Is in the Room	What the Session Looks Like
Stream 1 Youth-Focused	High school and post-secondary students, youth advocates, young community members	Interactive, visual, peer-influenced. Shorter sessions with language and framing accessible to youth audiences.
Stream 2 Practitioner & Community	Educators, frontline workers, social workers, community organizations, advocates	Deeper, case-based, and skills-driven. Content that can be applied directly in practice.
Stream 3 Open to All	All conference attendees, including general community members	Accessible to mixed audiences with no professional background assumed. Rooted in lived experience, cultural wisdom, or shared community reflection.

What to Keep in Mind When Preparing Your Proposal

The points below are shared to help guide your submission. Every proposal is reviewed by a program committee, and we publish these considerations because applicants deserve to know what we are looking for before they invest time in a submission.

- **Connection to Theme.** A clear connection to “From Awareness to Action” — with a focus on meaningful steps participants can take beyond awareness.
- **Intersectional Lens.** An understanding of how race, immigration status, disability, sexual orientation, and other aspects of identity shape experiences of gender-based violence and responses to it.
- **Trauma-Informed Approach.** Session design, language, and facilitation that centre survivor safety, dignity, and participant choice throughout.
- **Practical Takeaway.** Participants leave with at least one concrete action, tool, or skill they can apply.
- **Interactive Design.** Sessions are designed to include meaningful participant engagement, with a clear description of how participants will be involved.
- **Audience Clarity.** The selected stream is clearly identified and aligned with the intended audience.
- **Presenter Perspective.** Relevant lived experience, professional expertise, or community connection is reflected in the proposal.
- **New or Emerging Insight.** A perspective, approach, or idea that contributes to the ongoing growth of the conference.

How to Submit

All proposals are submitted by email to info@sahrabullefoundation.ca with the subject line: CFP 2026 — [Your Session Title]. Proposals are submitted in writing. If you have a question before submitting, reach out — we respond within five business days.

Required Submission Components

5. Presenter name, title, and organizational affiliation, if applicable
6. Presenter biography in plain language, maximum 150 words per presenter
7. Session title
8. Proposed format and duration, selected from the formats listed above
9. Conference stream — Stream 1, Stream 2, or Stream 3
10. Session description, maximum 300 words, outlining what participants will learn and do
11. Three to five participant learning outcomes written from the participant's perspective — what they will know, feel, or be able to do
12. Description of the interactive component, outlining how participants will be engaged
13. Any equipment, materials, or room setup requirements
14. Confirmation that you have reviewed and will follow the Foundation's trauma-informed facilitation standards

Key Dates

Milestone	Date
Call for Proposals Opens	April 15, 2026
Submission Deadline	July 15, 2026 at 11:59 PM EST
Presenter Notification	August 15, 2026
Presenter Confirmation Deadline	September 1, 2026
Session Materials Due	November 1, 2026
Conference Date	November 26, 2026

Accepted presenters are asked to confirm participation by September 1, 2026. Session materials — including slides or session plans — are due November 1, 2026.

What Accepted Presenters Receive

- Complimentary conference attendance for the full day
- One preparation call with the Foundation's program team prior to the conference
- A trauma-informed facilitation guide and content advisory template
- Recognition in the official conference program, on the Foundation's website, and across social media channels

- A formal letter of participation suitable for professional portfolios, grant applications, and institutional records

The Foundation does not currently offer honoraria for presenters. We are transparent about this and acknowledge the time and care presenters bring to this work. Building a compensation model is an active priority as the Foundation grows its funding base.

Trauma-Informed Facilitation Commitment

The Sahra Bulle Foundation is committed to the following standards across every session in the conference program.

- Open each session with a content advisory that names the topics being addressed and invites participants to care for themselves
- Ensure participants are never required to disclose personal experiences or respond publicly in ways that could cause harm
- Offer grounding practices or clear options for participants who may need to step away
- Use person-first, non-stigmatizing language throughout
- Present all content in ways that do not blame survivors or minimize the structural dimensions of violence
- Follow the Foundation’s referral protocol if a participant makes a disclosure
- Remain responsive to the room and be prepared to pause or adapt as needed

“There were a lot of survivor-victims in attendance. It is really important to make sure that everything at this conference is rooted in best practices, including trauma and violence-informed practice.” — 2025 Conference Attendee

A Final Word

The #IAmSahraBulle Conference exists because Sahra Bulle’s story demanded more than silence. It demanded action — structured, community-rooted, intersectional, and survivor-centered. Every presenter who steps into this space becomes part of that demand.

We are looking for people who understand that. People who know that a well-designed session can change someone’s practice, that a sharing circle can change someone’s understanding, and that a room full of people who refuse silence is the beginning of something real.

“Her story demands more than remembrance. It demands structure, education, and institutional accountability.”

We look forward to reading your proposal.

Submit Your Proposal

Email: info@sahrabullefoundation.ca

Subject line: *CFP 2026 — [Your Session Title]*

Student proposals: *Student CFP 2026 — [Your Name]*

Deadline: **July 15, 2026** • sahrabullefoundation.ca

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