**17th Equality, Diversity, & Inclusion Conference Workshop Proposal**

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**Gender Apartheid: Iranian Women and their Struggle for Freedom**

Although women across the globe continue achieving goals and shattering glass ceilings in multiple arenas, there are groups of women who are still fighting for basic rights. A fundamental principle of EDI is creating equitable and inclusive spaces for women, men, and members of the LGBTQIA2S+ communities. It is crucial for education and opportunities be created for women and other marginalized communities in order to combat gender inequities.

The women of Iran in many ways have become both an interesting and heartbreaking case as to why gender apartheid is real and how it does damage to not only women but to their society as a whole. There is a very apparent timeline showcasing their fight for freedoms, their fight for equitable opportunities, and equality in civil matters as well. One strategy to share the importance of gender equity, is to walk through a timeline of how the women of Iran slowly lost many freedoms they enjoyed prior to 1979, to highlight their fight for these freedoms, and to show the impacts of how the loss of equality in many areas of their lives have not only affected themselves, but those around them.

In my proposed presentation and workshop, I would like to open up discussions to how gender apartheid is a very real, and critical threat to many women around the globe, and how education and activism can help combat these threats. I will address concerns around the economic, social, and health related issues of women who are impacted when gender inequities exist. We will look at strategies for how to combat issues that isolate women, and we will also look at inclusive and equitable practices that help not only create opportunity, but also improve the health of communities around women. On behalf of my team from the Colbourne Institute of Inclusive leadership, I will be presenting a presentation to help combat oppressive practices, not just to highlight these issues, but to provide solutions-based approaches to conquering these issues.