

### Statement of Support and Solidarity

On May 27, 2021, a mass grave at the former Kamloops Indian Residential School in British Columbia was located by Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc First Nation. A few days later, the remains of 215 First Nations children were confirmed. No one can deny the distress in knowing that these were children, some as young as three.

The Alliance for South Asian AIDS Prevention (ASAAP) honours the calls to action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. We acknowledge the calls for justice in the final report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Women and Girls.

We commit to encouraging self- and collective-learning between and among South Asian, Indo-Caribbean, and Middle Eastern communities of newcomers, refugees, and immigrants we serve and/or partner with about Indigenous issues through educational workshops, community circles, outreaches, and more.

We understand that this latest news adds to the already heavy burden of loss that Indigenous communities and nations must endure. We stand by you and hold space for your pain and grief. Many of us come from regions torn apart through war, invasion, and dislocation. Many children have been lost. Many of us know what that kind of loss can do to people and their ways of life.

We recognize our role and responsibility as immigrant-settlers and collectively will do all that we can to raise awareness, educate, advocate, and campaign to support Indigenous rights including land and territorial treaty rights across what is known to many as Turtle Island.

In Solidarity,



Sugeevan Chandrakumar  
Vice-Chair, Board of Directors

Resources:

National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

<https://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/final-report/>

National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation

<https://nctr.ca/>