

38th Annual General Meeting

Special Keynote Speaker: Samra Habib

She was named one of the "21 LGBT Muslims who are changing the world" by Advocate magazine, and "a woman you should know" by S/MAGAZINE magazine. We couldn't agree more.



Samra Habib is a writer, photographer, and activist. She is the founder, editor and photographer of *Just Me and Allah: a Queer Muslim Photo Project*, a photo documentary project that first showed in 2014 during the World Pride Exhibition in Toronto, and has since received international praise from numerous media outlets, including *Vanity Fair*, *The Guardian*, *NPR*, *BBC*, *PBS Vice*, *Advocate*, *Buzzfeed*, *CBC Radio*, *Macleans*, *Washington Post*, *Huffington Post*, German's *Die Welt*, and *der Freitag*.

Her ongoing photo project exhibited at the International Center of Photography in New York, CONTACT Photography Festival, the prestigious Victoria and Albert Museum in London and SOMArts in San Francisco. Her work is part of The ArQuives (formally the Canadian Lesbian and Gay Archives).

Samra works with various LGBTQIA organizations internationally to raise awareness about issues that impact queer Muslims in different parts of the world. Working on this project has provided her with the unique insight on matters that shape the lives of LGBTQIA Muslims in different countries and how race, class, age, war, gender and sexuality come into play. She had been invited to speak about Islam, gender and sexuality by Columbia University, Harvard, Wellesley College, University of North Carolina and the World Social Forum.

When she is not photographing queer Muslims around the world and sharing their stories, Samra is a writer and a creative collaborator. Through her writing and art, she highlights the personal narratives and individual stories behind global crises and injustices. Her writing has appeared in media outlets like the *New York Times*, the *Advocate*, the *Globe and Mail*, *Elle Canada*, *National Post* and *Fashion* magazine.

Samra's reflective memoir, *We Have Always Been Here*, was published earlier this year by Viking Penguin, and is about the transformative experiences that have shaped her identity as a queer Muslim.

Samra was born in Lahore, Pakistan and moved to Toronto, Canada with her family as a refugee when she was a kid. She speaks Urdu, Hindi and Punjabi.