

# LEAFlet

The newsletter of West Coast LEAF  
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## EQUALITY BREAKFAST 2006

We invite you to join us in hearing guest speaker

### SENATOR MOBINA JAFFER

At West Coast LEAF's 19th Annual Equality Breakfast  
On Friday, March 10th, 2006 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel

#### THE HONOURABLE MOBINA JAFFER, Q.C.

**B**orn in Kampala, Uganda, Senator Mobina Jaffer is a refugee woman who has achieved success through perseverance against adversity. Having been evicted from Uganda by Idi Amin, Senator Jaffer was taken in by Prime Minister Trudeau's Canada. Hoping to resume her life, she tried to fall back on her training as a lawyer only to find her credentials unrecognized. Despite this setback, she stayed the course and was able to become the first Indo-Canadian woman to practice law in BC.

Since then Senator Jaffer has garnered an extensive record of achievement in the areas of equality and justice for women of colour and the struggle to end violence against all women. She has devoted her career to helping women who, like her, have faced adversity in their pursuit

of a better life. Her community involvement has also reflected these goals, and she is the founding president of the Immigrant and Visible Minority Women of British Columbia and the Yukon. She also served on Canada's Beijing organizing committee, Chair of the BC Family Violence Task Force, and on the National Panel on Violence against Women. She has also served on the board of the YWCA of Canada in capacities including President.

Appointed to the Senate in 2001, Senator Jaffer became the first African, first Muslim, and first Indo-Canadian to serve in Canada's upper chamber. As Senator, she has continued to achieve significant goals in her work for women in Canada and internationally. As a Senator, she has been involved in numerous parliamentary committee studies into



issues such as the property rights of aboriginal women living on reserve.

Internationally, Senator Jaffer has focussed on improving the lives of women and girls affected by conflict. As chair of the Canadian Committee on Women, Peace and Security she has worked with women from many different backgrounds in Canada and internationally to promote the involvement of women in peace processes and bring attention to the unique way war and conflict affect women and girls including working in Sri Lanka, Palestine and Israel.

Her work in this area has culminated in three comprehensive reports that offer advice on how Canadians can participate in improving the lives of those women and girls that have suffered from conflict in Afghanistan and Sri Lanka. These reports are based on the recommendations of the women themselves, who might otherwise not have had the means to voice their concerns and recommendations to decision makers.

As Special Envoy for Peace in Sudan, Jaffer was Canada's representative in both the north-south peace process that ended decades of civil war between the government of Sudan and the Sudanese People's

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*Sudan,  
March  
2005*