



For Immediate Release  
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### **Dr Dhalla hosts Roundtable Discussion on Violence Against Women**

Brampton– On Saturday March 7th, 2009 Dr. Ruby Dhalla, Member of Parliament for Brampton Springdale brought together service providers, non-profit organizations, Members of Parliament and Senators from across the Greater Toronto Area for a roundtable discussion focused on violence against women from ethnic communities.

Stakeholders, community leaders, politicians, advocates, and families gathered on Saturday to develop a better understanding of the availability and accessibility of services that exist in the Greater Toronto Area for women from ethnic communities that are victims of domestic violence.

The event, which took place at the Brampton Convention Centre (La Suhaag Banquet Hall) was of special significance as it was hosted on the eve of International Women's Day and garnered support from MPs and Senators in attendance including Hon. Judy Sgro, Dr. Kirsty Duncan and Senator Lorna Milne who have all been strong champions and advocates of this cause.

"As a female parliamentarian from an ethnic community I have seen and heard first hand from women who have been beaten, abused, and impacted by domestic violence. These women who are mothers, wives, daughters, and grandmothers don't know where to turn for help or are too scared to seek the help they need out of fear from the cultural and traditional stereotypes that are their reality" said Dr. Dhalla.

As a result of the roundtable, an action plan was identified by the participants to increase awareness amongst families about the issue of violence against women which included educational programs and initiatives that are culturally and linguistically sensitive.

"I look forward to working with these service providers, families, and women across the GTA to ensure our mothers and daughters are safe and provided with the necessary tools and resources they need to succeed. It is my hope that from this discussion, women will no longer suffer in silence. " said Dr. Dhalla.

- 30 -

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