

# **A Panel on the Intersections of Injustice: Centering Queer and Trans Voices (16 Days of Activism Against Gender based Violence)**

This panel aims to center the voices of trans and queer artists and activists to share their insights about newly prominent forms of gendered violence. Unpacking the moral panic now unfolding against trans and queer youth, (including the One Million March 4 Children and the anti-trans legislation in Saskatchewan and New Brunswick) panelists will discuss the differential harms faced by QTBIPOC communities. Despite these attacks, we center our capacity for joy and strength in mobilizing resistance through activism, art making and building co-conspiratorial relationships.

Learn more information about our panelists and moderator below:

## **d'bi young**

d'bi.young anitafrika is a nonbinary African-Xaymacan-Tkarontonian dub poet, monodramatist and scholar. They are committed to embodying liberatory art practices that ritualise acts of emancipation from oppressions inflicted upon the people and the planet. The three-time Dora-award-winning Canadian poet of honour, author of twelve plays, seven albums, and four collections of poetry, was recently celebrated as a Global Leader in Theatre and Performance by Arts Council England and is a recipient of the Rosemary Sadlier Freedom Award. d'bi.young's PhD research investigates how Black womxn theatre-makers in Canada, cultivate decolonial praxes and pedagogies of transformation through performance. Their doctoral thesis further develops their Anitafrika Method—a Black-queer-feminist framework that emerges from the dub theory of Anita Stewart (d'bi.young's mother).

## **Summeiya Khamissa**

Summeiya Khamissa (they/them) is a queer and nonbinary Muslim and educator who is based in Toronto, ON. They are the founder of Queer Muslim Network, a grassroots organization aimed at creating community and services for 2SLGBTQ+ Muslims (and Muslim-ish) folks in the GTA and internationally. They are also the Youth Network Project Coordinator at CCGSD, where they provide educational programming for queer and trans youth across Ontario. Summeiya roots their work in concepts of radical love, community building, and revolutionary dreaming.

## **Meech Mfoafo-M'Carthy**

Meech is a dedicated Student Justice Advocate for 2S&LGBTQ+ Advocacy at Brock University. Their primary role involves representing and cultivating the thriving 2S&LGBTQ+ community on campus through engaging workshops, vibrant community events and various other initiatives. Meech is genuinely excited to connect with everyone. As the Student Justice Advocate, Meech is driven by their passion for community building and fostering positive change. Their warm and welcoming spirit set the stage for an inclusive and supportive environment for all members of Brock's 2S&LGBTQ+ community.

## **Chance Rashid**

Chance (she/they) is a 4th year concurrent education student. Currently, Chance holds the role of the President of Brock University's Pride Club. In this role, Chance has worked to advocate for both students of Brock University, trying to increase support systems and ease of access for queer and transgender students, and for the Niagara community as a whole, leading rallies and participating in counter-protests against anti-trans rallies. This position has allowed Chance to fight for their community, and to gain a better understanding of the threats that it is currently facing, as well as to explore ways in which we can challenge these threats. Fun Fact: Chance has (not very successfully) competed in the Canadian Youth Chess Championship

## **Panel moderated by Sherri Vansickle**

Sherri Vansickle is from the Onondaga Nation, Six Nations of the Grand River Territory and is an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Education at Brock University. She holds a Masters of Education in Social and Cultural Contexts of Education. Her research interests include Haudenosaunee Knowledge Systems, Indigenous education, Indigenous arts and activism, decolonial and anti-racist education, and body and land sovereignty.