
**How Did 1984
Change Your
Family?**

**How Did It
Change All Our
Families?**

Today marks 40 years since the genocidal attacks against Sikhs by the Indian government. Every Sikh who was alive in 1984 and survived 1984, remembers its reverberations--the impact varied greatly across the diverse community.

We regularly see the connections of State violence with family violence in our work. External violence never excuses internal violence, but it can explain some dynamics and triggers. We recognize the irreparable harm done by 1984 to our people, our relationships, our community.

This historic week, as we all remember those maimed and killed, and celebrate those who first survived and then have tried to thrive, we wish each one of you reflection, community, simran and strength.

We have a lot of work to do to heal the many inter-related wounds in our families that have festered unattended for decades.

While the funded women's shelters in the U.S. had slowly opened doors by the early 1970s and the first Asian women's shelter in the U.S. is recorded in 1985, the Sikh community was mired in the project of survival in India in 1984 and in migrations and new diaspora politics in the U.S.

When the first Violence Against Women Act was passed in 1994, and gender justice organizations began receiving funding, activists in the Sikh community in the U.S. were negotiating fractured organizing attempts to grow recognition for grave human rights violations and attempted annihilation. We have always been out-of-step with the trajectory of the feminist movements in the U.S.

The Khalsa has consistently marched to its own drum, and march we shall, till we eradicate all forms of violence by any oppressive forces in our lives.

We refuse to cower; we are a community of survivors AND we are a community that needs love, care, trauma-recovery.

