

# SHAKTI NEWSLETTER

June 2011  
www.shakti.org.nz

**Shakti Community Council  
Inc.**  
**Member Organisations:**

**Shakti Asian Women's Centre  
Inc.**

**Shakti Asian Women's  
Safehouse Inc.**

**Shakti Legal Advocacy &  
Family Social Services Inc.**

**Shakti Ethnic Women's  
Support Group Central Region  
Inc.**

**Shakti Ethnic Women's  
Support Group Christchurch  
Inc.**

**Shakti Education Training &  
Advisory Company Ltd.**

**Project Women Against  
Violence**  
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**0800Shakti  
24 hrs helpline for women**

## **Shakti is 16 years old!**

### **THANK YOU**

**for being part of our 16-year journey of working with New Zealand's migrant and refugee communities! Our work has had its own unique challenges and celebrations, but we continue to take new strides to address the emerging issues and needs within our ethnic communities.**

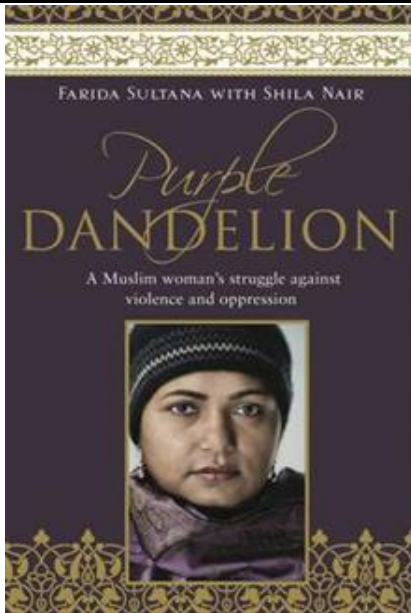
### **News Highlights:**

**Forced/Underage Marriage:** For the past couple of years, a major focus has been on our youth and the issues they present. While battling cross-cultural conflicts within their homes and on the outside, they have to deal with the prospect of being forced into marriages they are not ready for, with some being under-age. Shakti has been lobbying for appropriate legislation with the government to address forced/under-age marriage, dowry abuse, etc. This is work in progress as recommendations have been made by the Parliamentary Select Committee which heard Shakti and a number of other agencies on the matter.

**Youth Unit:** In response to the increasing and diverse need of youth, we have set up a dedicated Youth Unit serviced by trained youth for youth. Check out their developing website <http://youth.shakti.org.nz>

**Shakti's Family centre** is in the process of relocating to South Auckland to cater to the increased need for our services in that region. Watch the space!

**Christchurch:** Last but not least, we share the trauma that the people of Christchurch are in post-earthquake(s). While we pray for those who have lost their lives we hope for the best for those who have escaped the tragedy and are banking on resilience. Our refuge has been affected, but our services will continue.



### Shakti Counselling Services

Shakti's counselling service is attracting a number of members from the ethnic communities. Our confidential services include individual counselling, couple counselling, family group conferencing, group therapy, counselling for youth, etc.

Call 0800 SHAKTI / 09 2768457 / 09 6368514

Email: [counselling@shakti.org](mailto:counselling@shakti.org)

**0800SHAKTI – 24 hrs helpline for women**



### Shakti Legal Advocacy Services

Shakti has introduced legal clinics for family law and immigration-related matters. Our team includes a legal advocacy officer, Madhu Behl and a Barrister.

Contact:

09 2768457 / [legal@shakti.org.nz](mailto:legal@shakti.org.nz)

We are pleased to announce that our founder Farida Sultana has published a book, **Purple Dandelion**, which is the story of her life and the lives of many others who made a difference in society. The book is published by Exisle Publishing (NZ) and is available at all leading book stores and online book sites. A percentage from the sale proceeds of the book will be donated to Shakti's Project Women Against Violence.



### Minister Paula Bennett at our SKIP Parents Day

Shakti has been running the SKIP parenting programme for the past two years for single mothers through our Second Chance Lifeskills Programme for survivors of violence. **Second Chance** has completed 4 batches of the 12-week holistic programme that includes this parenting programme. We were delighted to have the Hon.

Minister for Social Development attending our SKIP Parents Day in December 2010 and handing out the certificates to our courageous women.