



ATTIYA KHAN

*Social
Justice*

Attiya Khan is a Toronto-based filmmaker, anti-violence activist, and longtime counselor and advocate for women and children who have experienced abuse. After escaping a two-year abusive relationship at just 18 years old, Attiya resolved to dedicate her life to ending gender-based violence.

Attiya graduated from the University of Toronto and obtained additional training from George Brown College before spending more than 15 years working with women and children who have experienced violence. Her career highlights include serving as the director of child and youth services at a shelter in Boston and overseeing the YWCA December 6 Fund, which offers interest-free loans for women fleeing domestic violence.

Recently, Attiya brought increased attention and a new perspective to the conversation around intimate partner violence through her ground-breaking documentary, *A Better Man* which she co-directed and wrote. The film bravely documents Attiya's personal experience of reconnecting with her abusive ex-partner to shed light on the survivor experience, examine why men choose to use violence, and explore what can happen when people who harm take responsibility. The film's interactive companion, *It Was Me*, was nominated for a Canadian-Screen Award for best original interactive production. It features personal stories from six men who have participated in programs for people who use violence, who remain committed to forming healthy caring relationships.

A Better Man has been screened internationally at festivals and community events on five continents and has been endorsed by a wide range of prominent community leaders as a critical tool in ending gender-based violence. Attiya is now working on her second film called *Weathering*, which addresses the impact of racism on pregnancy, childbirth and the postpartum experience.

Attiya's body of work has combined front-line service, advocacy, activism, and the arts - all towards the goal of achieving gender justice and eliminating racism.


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