



# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2024 - 25 FISCAL YEAR

BOLT SAFETY SOCIETY

The BOLT Safety Society was federally incorporated under the Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act on 07/07/2020. The organization was founded by youth, and is today operated fully by volunteers, aiming to create safer and equitable communities.

Make a donation: [ko-fi.com/boltsafety](https://ko-fi.com/boltsafety)

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# BY THE NUMBERS...

## Impact metrics year-to-date

**12.9k+** HOURS VOLUNTEERED

**\$23k+** IN GRANT FUNDING AWARDED (CAD)

**37.7k+** ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE IMPACTED

**2.1M+** IMPRESSIONS ACROSS SOCIAL MEDIA + WEBSITE

Awards received: **30+**

Media features: **80+**

Safe Hubs

Digital Map accesses: **9,100+**

Network size: **48** partner locations across **16** cities in Canada

Project LyghtNyng

Workshop attendees: **1,100+**

Workshops delivered: **33** across **22** organizations and **3** countries

Readership of resource articles on The Hub: **3,200+**

Safe Buddies event attendees (reach): **11,700+**

Unique website visitors: **7,700+**

Social media followers: **1,300+**

Public speaking audience: **3,000+**

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# Letter to our community

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Dear BOLT Safety Society (BSS) community,

This year, we marked a milestone: it has been over 8 years since we first embarked on the journey that has built BSS into what it is today. If you were part of our earliest chapter, you'll remember that we started by entering a global tech competition – that we were famously eliminated from – before pivoting into the non-profit space, while retaining the passion for leveraging technology towards social impact.

Since our 2020 federal incorporation, we've now completed 5 full fiscal years as a not-for-profit, and each year, we learn and grow more thanks to the dedication of our team and the support of our community in our fight against sexual violence. From donors, to mentors, to partners – you've walked this journey with us, and for that, we are immeasurably grateful.

A key highlight from the 2024-25 fiscal year was bringing our impact to new audiences and platforms globally. This included delegating at the One Young World Summit, the Concordia Annual Summit, and also being invited to share our expertise at a conference organized by the Office of the Vice President of Colombia. The latter led to a short film production – positioning BOLT Safety Society at the nexus of global human rights dialogue and storytelling.

We're at a pivotal chapter in our story, and look forward to your continued support in this adventure as we build more safe and equitable communities at home and abroad.

Onwards and upwards,

**Vedanshi Vala**

*Co-Founder, Executive Director, Board of Directors  
Chairperson*





# PROGRAMS & COLLABORATIONS

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# NIGHTCAP x BSS

## AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

At the **One Young World Summit**, we connected with **NightCap** (nightcapit.com) on an impactful partnership. Combining our knowledge in preventing and responding to violence, and Nightcap's innovative drink spiking prevention products (seen on Forbes and Shark Tank), we worked together to raise awareness on the prevalence of drug-facilitated sexual violence. In parallel to a social media campaign, we released a dedicated resource article on The Hub.

# 1 BILLION RISING

## PANEL EVENT

This panel of advocates and survivors was held at **LA Matheson Secondary School** in Surrey. **Vedanshi** spoke about the resources / programs BSS offers + left students with a framework to understand the concept of a *culture of violence*, and the ways in which each person can take action to foster safer communities.

# REA BY RHEA X BSS

## CONTENT COLLABORATION

We collaborated with **REA**, a brand created by **Rhea Singh**, to discuss how fashion can help create safe spaces to belong.

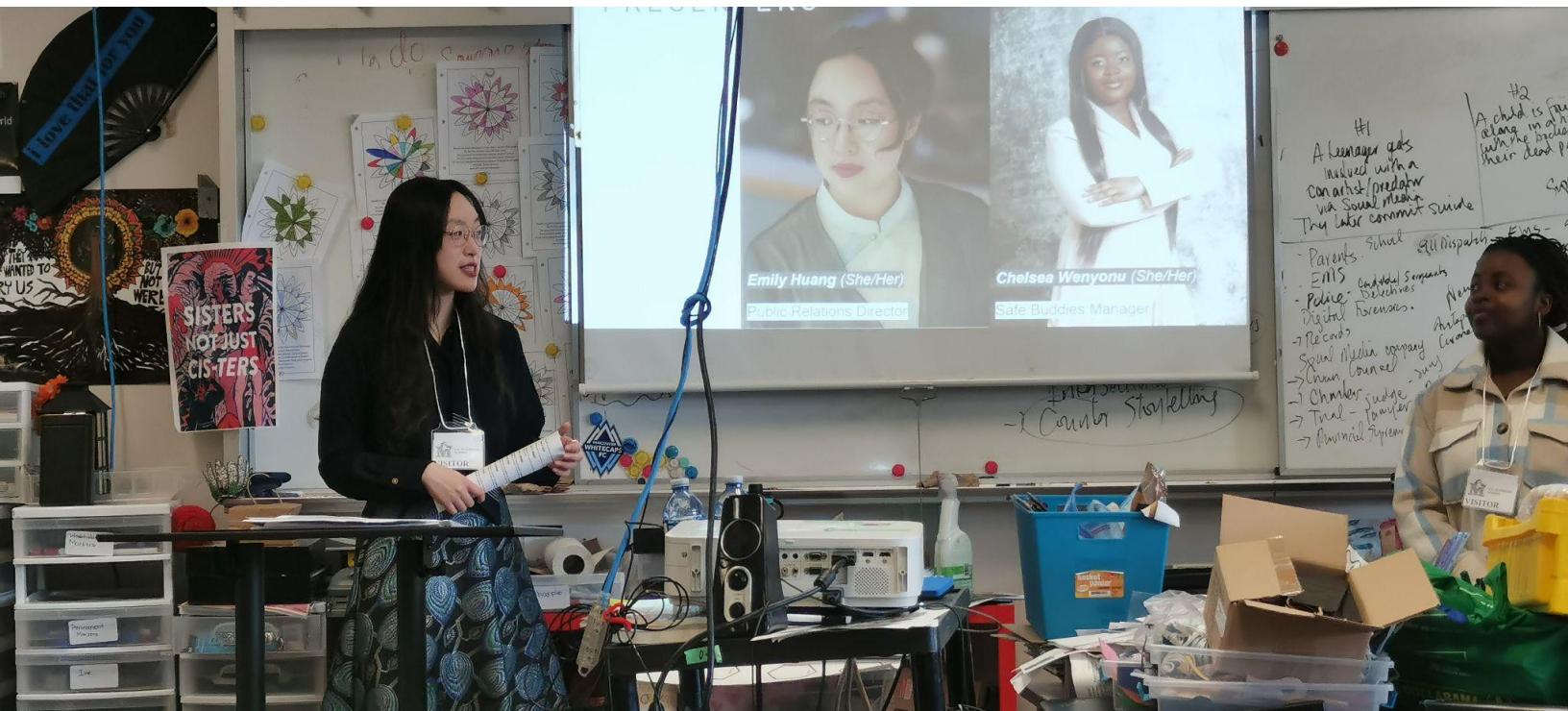
# HUMAN RIGHTS CHAMPION

## AWARD

We partnered with the **BC Heritage Fairs Society** and presented the Human Rights Champion Award to students across BC. Winning Heritage Fair projects demonstrated exceptional research and presentation on a human rights topic in Canadian history, including gender, race, sexuality, and reproductive health issues. The Heritage Fairs allow students to take a hands-on role in their learning by selecting a topic of interest to them and carrying out a full research project. Students sharpen their critical thinking, master advanced research techniques, and gain invaluable experience in interviewing and evaluating credible sources, empowering them to navigate and analyze complex information with confidence.

# LA MATHESON SECONDARY

Emily and Chelsea delivered workshops to high school Social Justice students.

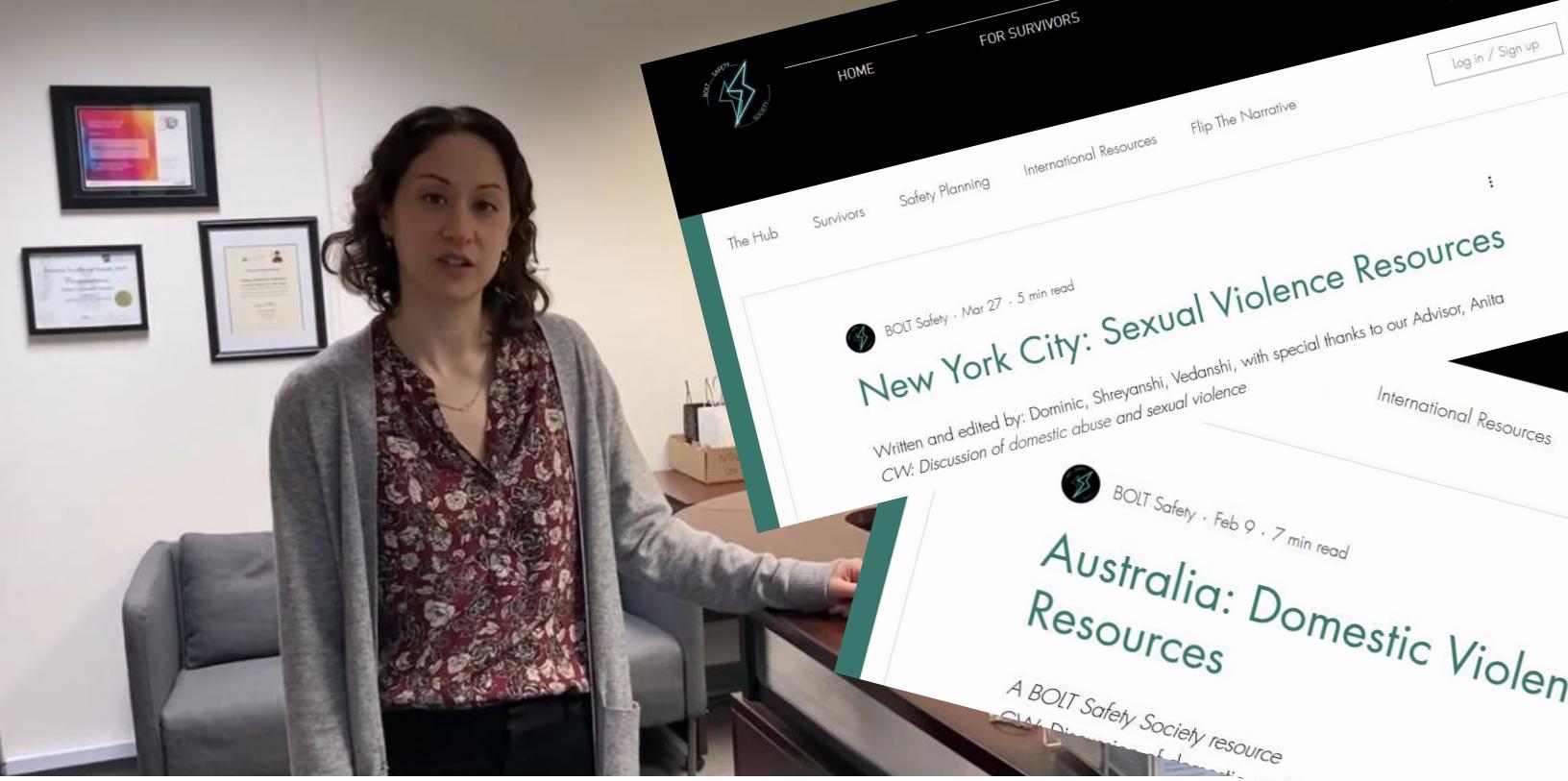


## BOLT X SAITM

### WEBINAR, INDIA

Our team was invited to deliver a webinar in collaboration with **Spectrum** (a Gender Champions Club) at **SAITM** based in Gurgaon, India. The webinar was timed in recognition of April being both Sexual Assault and Harassment Prevention Awareness Month, and National Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month.





## THE HUB: NEW RESOURCES

### FT. CHIMO

We collaborated with **CHIMO Community Services** to showcase a guided tour of their counseling offices. This is part of a larger roll-out of resourceful content on our YouTube channel and The Hub on our Digital Platform.

### AUSTRALIA + NYC

We released new resources for survivors of violence located in Australia and New York City, available on our Digital Platform.

### INTERSECTIONAL THINKING: VIOLENCE AND DISABILITY

This resource was created and launched in conjunction with the **69th Commission on the Status of Women**, held at UN headquarters in NYC. We collaborated with NYC-based Disability Rights Advocate, **Emeline Lakrout**, to lend her expertise on this intersectional topic. We also connected with **Rajwardhan Joshi** of **BMI Trust**, an Indian NGO, whose team works at a grassroots level to make communities more inclusive for people with disabilities.

# IBEYOND CONFERENCE

## PINNACLE HOTEL HARBOURFRONT

**Vedanshi** and **Shreyanshi** were invited to be panelists at this conference, where they spoke to grade 12 students about choosing unconventional career paths, growing impact on a global scale, and balancing social impact work with academics.



# INSPIRE

## BUSINESS CASE COMPETITION

In partnership with **YLSBC** ([ylsbc.org](http://ylsbc.org)), **Emily** and **Vedanshi** spoke about the journey of growing our impact to a room full of eager high school students (and future business leaders)!





# BOLT X ICED HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT PROJECT

A high school student team reached out to partner with us on their project, creating a resource to raise awareness on the issue of sexual violence + delivering a presentation to their peers.



# HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION RESEARCH CONTRIBUTIONS

BSS contributed towards study led by a **Thompson Rivers University** research team, prepared for the **BC Office of the Human Rights Commissioner**. The research report was published in February, with **Vedanshi** interviewed on our behalf. We're grateful to have contributed towards the future of human rights education in BC!



## Report name:

Exploring Human Rights Education in BC  
*A research report on educators' offerings, perspectives, and practices*

## Authors:

Jennifer E. Shaw  
Devumini Caldera  
Agamnefechim Onyeakazi



# MEETINGS, EVENTS, CONFERENCES

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# VANCOUVER FASHION WEEK (VFW)

## X BANI ARTESANAL

We attended our first VFW as guests of Mexican designer **BANI Artesanal**, a woman-led team that envisions building a brand standing for the preservation of traditional arts, prioritization of sustainability, and making lasting social impact. BANI employs both women and men as their seamstresses and artisans, providing a collaborative and gender-inclusive model of building economic equity across communities.



## ART PARTY

### VANCOUVER ART GALLERY

We were delighted to be invited to celebrate Diwali and the unveiling of the new Firelei Baez exhibit with our friends at **5X Fest** and the **Vancouver Art Gallery**. Our team was also interviewed on the red carpet by **Fiona Forbes** of **Global News**.



# STUDENT ENTREPRENEURS

## ePROJECTS at UBC VANCOUVER

We were invited to present at this event, which highlighted students who have successfully operated an entrepreneurial venture. We were represented by **Shreyanshi**.

## EMPOWERING CHANGE: ADDRESSING VIOLENCE IN SOUTH ASIAN COMMUNITIES

We attended this event at KPU, which featured notable presenters from organizations working to address violence, exploitation, and harassment of international students. We were represented by **Vedanshi** and **Lanette**.

## IB PARENT-STUDENT INFO NIGHT

**Vedanshi** was invited to speak about her journey through the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma program, and how it influenced her choice to pursue social entrepreneurship. The IB emphasizes intercultural understanding and respect to build a more peaceful world.

## YOUTH NETWORKING SURREY BOARD OF TRADE (SBOT)

**Chelsea** represented us at this business event hosted by the SBOT, connecting with young leaders in the Surrey community.

## YLSBC MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE OPENING

Model United Nations conferences are a platform for students to gain an understanding of world issues and refine diplomacy and public speaking skills. **Vedanshi** spoke at the opening session of this year's **Youth Leadership Society of BC Model UN Conference** about her first-hand experiences at the United Nations.



# RELATIONSHIP SAFE-TEA

## BOOTH PRESENTATION

We were excited to be one of the partners presenting a booth at Relationship Safe{TEA} at Douglas College in recognition of 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence. This event was hosted by **Port Moody Police Victim Services, New Westminster Police Victim Assistance and Douglas College**.

## SFU BEEDIE SUMMIT CONFERENCE

**Vedanshi** was invited to be an Industry Mentor at the inaugural SFU Beedie Summit Conference, which provided senior students with the opportunity to present their insights, experiences, and professional growth, while students earlier in their academic journey can learn and explore career options from their peers, industry mentors, and alumni.





## 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM TO STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

We connected with other leaders working to fight gender-based violence to discuss avenues of partnership: **Jasmine Bhambhra** of the **Punjabi Mutiyaraan**, an organization supporting women from all walks of life, and **Balbir Gurm** of the **Network to Eliminate Violence in Relationships (NEVR)** at **Kwantlen Polytechnic University**.

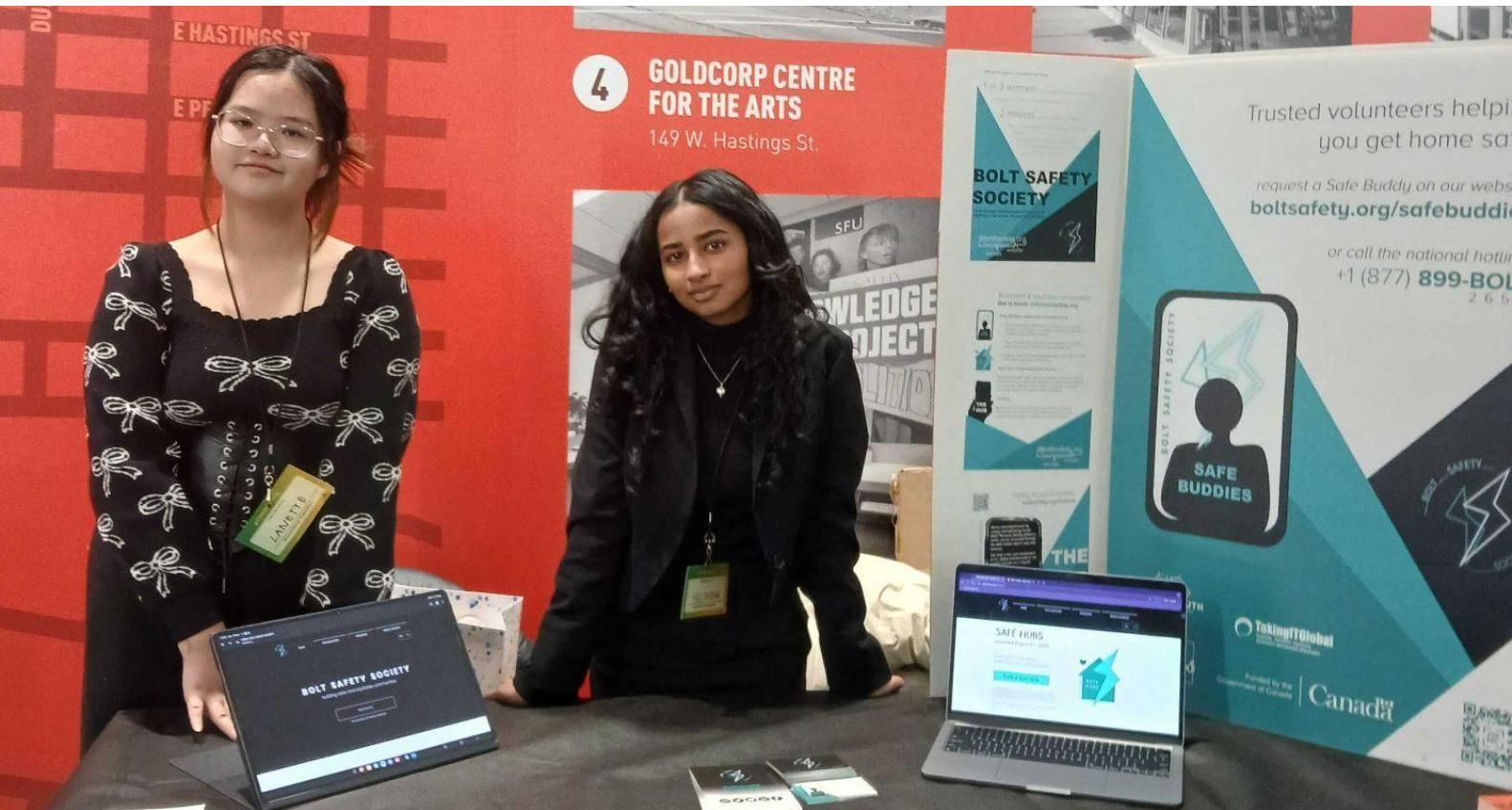
## SBOT x TRANSLINK ROUNDTABLE MEETING

**Chelsea** represented us at a roundtable meeting with **TransLink** hosted by the **Surrey Board of Trade**. The meeting served to discuss vital topics such as transportation infrastructure, accessibility, affordability, sustainability, and safety for women and youth.



# SFU ENACTUS FORWARD VISION

Lanette and Hrishitha presented a BSS booth at the InnoVentures Expo, part of the **Forward Vision** event hosted by the **Enactus** student organization at **Simon Fraser University**.



## STEPS TOGETHER FOUNDATION PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

Along with the other judges, **Vedanshi** provided insights and guidance to youth on using the power of their voice to enact change in their communities – much like we do here at BSS!



# ONE YOUNG WORLD SUMMIT (OYW)

## MONTRÉAL, CANADA

**Vedanshi** represented us and Canada at the OYW Summit as a **Novartis** Scholar, awarded to 10 outstanding healthcare leaders from across the country.

This year, OYW received 74,000+ applications for scholarships, of which only 490 scholars were selected globally, meaning there was an acceptance rate of just 0.66%.

The OYW Summit convenes social impact leaders from 190+ countries from many different sectors and areas of work. Throughout the Summit, Delegates hear from influential political, business, and humanitarian leaders.

Vedanshi was also one of only 6 delegates selected to be counseled by Ms. Angela Williams, CEO of United Way Global, was invited to a meet-and-greet with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, and interviewed by the BBC about our work.



# CONCORDIA ANNUAL SUMMIT

## NEW YORK CITY, USA

As the leading public-private sector convening alongside the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly, Concordia's 14th Annual Summit provided an optimal platform for the creation of powerful partnerships to the world's biggest challenges. Attendees of the conference had access to over 300 speakers and over 100 sessions through keynote discussions, interviews, panels, roundtables, and receptions.

**Vedanshi** represented us at this summit, and she had the invaluable opportunity to hear from some of the biggest leaders of our time. From heads of state, to government leaders, to royalty, to NGOs, to business leaders, there were riveting conversations on global affairs, entrepreneurship, diplomacy, and social impact.

Public-private partnerships are key players to addressing real-world problems. We can't wait to see where things go from here, and would like to thank the team at Concordia for making our participation possible.



# 69TH COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (CSW)

## UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS, NYC

Arguably, the CSW is globally the largest and most high-profile gathering on the topic of women's rights, occurring annually at UNHQ in NYC. The 69th session of the CSW, held from March 10-21, 2025, was a milestone opportunity to mark the 30th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995). Representatives of Member States, UN entities, and ECOSOC-accredited NGOs were invited to attend the session.

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### OUR KEY OBJECTIVES: WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

The CSW provides an important platform:

1. **GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY:** Individuals and organizations can directly address world leaders and advocate for legislative changes
  2. **NETWORKING:** Connect with stakeholders and form global partnerships (our Missions to Kenya and India were direct outcomes of relationships formed during the CSW!)
  3. **LEARNING:** Participate in the transmission of knowledge on best practices, new approaches, novel interventions, and progressive developments
  4. **VISIBILITY:** Through public engagements (speaking, events, media, collabs, etc.), amplify grassroots work
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### QUANTIFYING IMPACT AT THE CSW

Here's one example of how we *measured* our productivity, ensuring there's a high ROI of our time + resources.

COLLABORATIONS / OUTPUTS: **5**

CSW MEETINGS & EVENTS ATTENDED: **20**

INTERVENTIONS MADE: **7**

EST. PEOPLE SPOKEN IN FRONT OF: **475**



## CSW69 COLLABORATIONS / OUTPUTS

We worked in close collaboration with several organizations and advocates to mutually amplify our message and raise awareness.

Partner	Focus / deliverables
BMI Trust (BMIT)	BMIT is an ECOSOC-accredited NGO based in India that we've worked with previously during our documentary production and workshops tour in the country. They generously opened the opportunity for us to delegate at CSW69.
REA by Rhea	Leveraging the power of fashion for awareness, we collaborated on releasing a new resource on The Hub for survivors of violence in NYC.
Rosy & Ernest	Documented behind-the-scenes of a day at the CSW in collaboration with this women-led Canadian perfume brand.
Emeline + BMIT	Focusing on the intersection of disability and violence, we collaboratively released social media content for awareness on the topic, and a dedicated resource on The Hub.
Notes from the UN	A summary of key takeaways from various CSW events published on The Hub.



### Roll the credits.

*Many thank you's are in order...*

Delegation partner: **BMI Trust**

BSS representative to CSW69: **Vedanshi Vala**

### BSS CSW69 Taskforce

*In alphabetical order, here's the dream team behind-the-scenes*

Aaron

Ananya

Chelsea

Dominic

Emily

Hrishitha

Shreyanshi

Victor





2025 / 05

## Cali, Colombia



Our Executive Director was invited to **Colombia**, bringing BSS' impact to an entirely new geographic region.

A fellow recipient of the LEADHER Award, **Vedanshi** met the country's Vice President, spoke on panels at an international conference marking the anniversary of the abolition of slavery, and spearheaded film production on-ground.

Our work in Colombia was made possible thanks to the combined efforts of BSS team members: **Shreyanshi, Emily, Victor, Chelsea, Dominic, Ananya, and Hrishitha**.



## [1] Meeting the VP

H.E. Francia Márquez, Vice President of Colombia, was presented with the LEADER Award for her remarkable leadership (Vedanshi is a fellow recipient).

## [2] Speaking on panels

Vedanshi joined global thought leaders, activists, and entrepreneurs to discuss economic justice for people of African descent at a conference marking the abolition of slavery in Colombia.

The conference was organized by The Office of the Vice President of Colombia, Equal Chance Foundation, The Global Black Coalition, Global Black Economic Forum, and Rolling Stone Africa – among others.

## [3] Film production

We connected with key stakeholders in various areas of human rights work as part of a film production.



# MEDIA & AWARDS

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# LEADHER AWARDS

On International Women's Day, **Vedanshi** and **Dominic** represented BSS at the **Women Who Work Gala** in Gatineau. Vedanshi received the **LeadHER Award**, presented by the **Royal Bank of Canada (RBC)**, alongside some of the most powerful women and allies around the world. Vedanshi's win of this award was featured on the **ELLE Magazine** International - Côte d'Ivoire Instagram.



# SPROUT IDEAS FELLOWSHIP

**Emily** and **Shreyanshi** were selected as 2025 Sprout Ideas Fellows by **TakingITGlobal**. Fellows gain leadership training + a seed grant towards a social impact project.



# SPROUT IDEAS FELLOWSHIP

## NATIONAL SUMMIT + AWARD

**Vedanshi** received the **Community Mentor Award** and was invited to deliver an educational presentation to social impact leaders from across Canada. **Shreyanshi** was selected as a delegate, taking part in professional development sessions during the residential experience in Toronto.

# BBC GLOBAL NEWS

## PODCAST FEATURE

Whilst at the **One Young World** Summit, **Vedanshi** was interviewed by the **BBC** alongside many other delegates, featured in *The Happy Pod: The young people changing the world*. Here's her quote from the episode:

***"We are strong alone, for sure, every person has the ability to lead a movement, but we are so much stronger together."***

## SPROUT YOUR IDEAS PODCAST INTERVIEW

**Host:** Loizza Aquino

**Guest:** Vedanshi Vala

**Episode release date:** December 19, 2024

## WOMEN'S NONPROFIT NETWORK FEATURE

## FLIPPING FOUNDERS PODCAST INTERVIEW

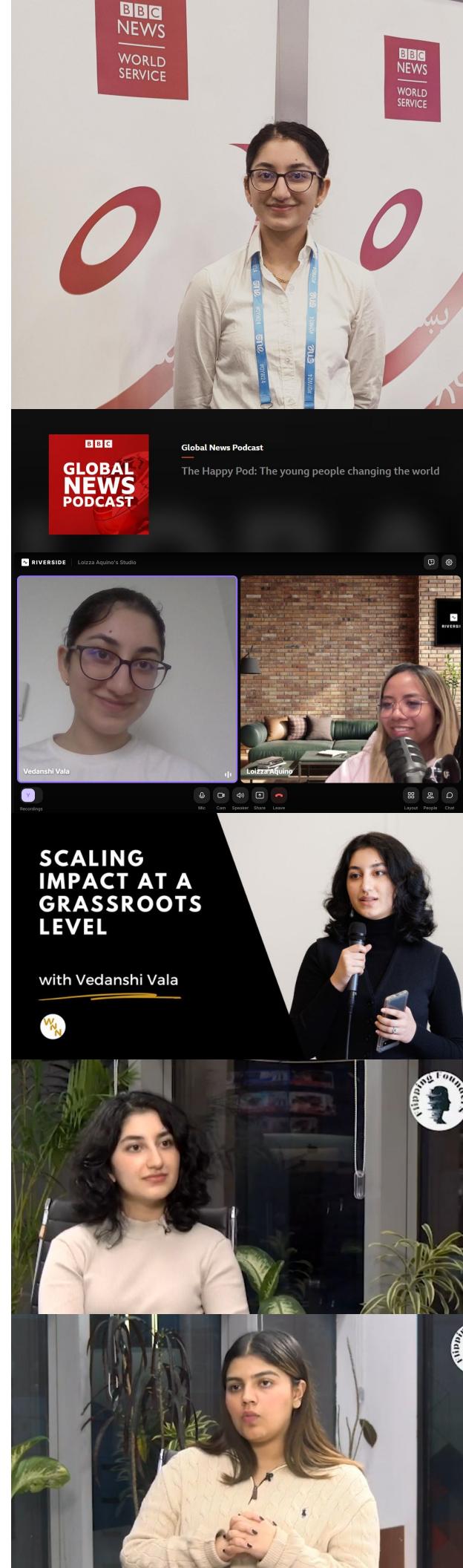
Filmed while on tour in India in 2024.

**Episode title:** Breaking the Silence: Fighting Sexual Violence in India with Vedanshi Vala

**Host:** Khushi Sethi

**Release date:** August 25, 2024

**Where to watch:** [youtube.com/@flippingfounderss](https://youtube.com/@flippingfounderss)





# REDFM VANCOUVER LIVE RADIO INTERVIEW

## The Evening Show

**Aired:** November 25, 2024 [07:30 pm]

**Host:** Naina Grewal

**Featuring:** Jasmine Bhambhra, Vedanshi Vala

This interview was held on the UN International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. Jasmine shared the story of her sister's murder at the hands of her partner and how the loss affected her family, and Vedanshi shared insights into different forms of abuse and existing support systems in the community.



# SPROUT IDEAS FELLOWSHIP ALUMNI INSIGHTS: VIDEO INTERVIEW

Vedanshi was interviewed by the TakingItGlobal team as part of their Sprout Ideas Fellowship Alumni Insights series. The Fellowship provided our team with both funding and professional development opportunities which helped us extend our impact to rural BC communities. The full interview is on our YouTube channel.

# 25 UNDER 25 AWARD

Congratulations are in order for our Co-Founder & Operations Director, **Shreyanshi**, for being honored with this year's 25U25 award, presented by the **Surrey Board of Trade**. Winners were celebrated at a ceremony in May.

## ONE YOUNG WORLD

### GLOBAL AMBASSADOR SPOTLIGHT

Every month, Coordinating Ambassadors at OYW identify someone from their region who has created significant social impact to feature. **Vedanshi** was selected as the **January 2025 Spotlight Ambassador for Canada**.

## GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

### 2024 CANADA'S VOLUNTEER AWARDS

The Hon. Jenna Sudds, Minister of Families, Children, and Social Development officially announced the 21 winners of this award on March 13 (2025). Through this award, the Government of Canada highlights the country's most inspiring volunteers. **Vedanshi** and other recipients will be honoured at a celebratory ceremony, and choose a not-for-profit organization to receive \$5,000.



# YWCA METRO VANCOUVER

## WOMEN OF DISTINCTION AWARDS

**Vedanshi** was presented the YWCA Women of Distinction Award in the Young Woman of Distinction category. We're grateful that our work was spotlighted in front of the 1,200 people who had come together to celebrate and champion Metro Vancouver leaders. Congratulations to all nominees and winners!

## BCBUSINESS 30U30

Did you catch **Vedanshi** on the cover? We are grateful for the recognition of our impact alongside other BC-based ventures. As part of the BCBusiness 30 Under 30 class of 2025, our leadership is listed next to some of our province's most innovative, bold, and impactful young entrepreneurs.



# CBC RADIO

## LIVE INTERVIEW

Our ED was interviewed live on CBC Radio along with fellow YWCA Women of Distinction award winner, Annita McPhee. **Vedanshi** discussed how BOLT Safety Society provides survivors with digital resources, and Annita spoke about her work raising awareness on MMIWG2S+. Full conversation on the April 30th 'On The Coast' segment, hosted by Gloria Macarenko.

# RADIO CANADA

## LIVE INTERVIEW

**Vedanshi** and **Shreyanshi** were interviewed about their respective wins on Radio Canada (French CBC) – the YWCA Women of Distinction Award and the Surrey Board of Trade 25U25 Award. They spoke about the work we do and ways community members can get involved in improving safety + equity!





# FUNDRAISING

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**Shoutout to Empathia AI:**  
Your AI Medical Scribe



**THANK YOU**  
FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

✉ join@empathia.ai  
🌐 www.empathia.ai



# FREE PICK-UP LINES YES, ACTUALLY.

Okay, we're really just making sure you're actually reading. We *did* actually hand out free pick-up lines to spread some smiles, while fundraising.

# PURDY'S FUNDRAISER

We're grateful to everyone who purchased chocolates and supported our holiday fundraising efforts. We'd like to give a special thanks to Empathia AI for their beyond generous contribution to our campaign.

# THANK YOU NORTH AMERICAN CELLULOSE SERVICES

We are grateful to our Advisor, Mr. Ravinder Safaya for the beyond generous donation towards our work. Our Advisory Committee is invaluable in providing mentorship, connections, and resources to guide the success of our youth-led team.

# OUR TEAM

We are grateful to our current and former team members for their service. Collectively, we've volunteered over 12,900 hours (to put things in perspective, if we paid just a \$20 hourly wage, it amounts to **\$258,000 in donated time**).

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Vedanshi Vala  
*Chairperson*

Brina Li  
*Secretary*

Ravi Nichols  
*Treasurer*

## EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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Vedanshi Vala  
*Executive Director*

Shreyanshi  
*Operations Director*

Emily  
*Public Relations Director*

Victor  
*Financial Director*

## MANAGEMENT

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Ananya  
*Safe Hubs Manager*

Chelsea  
*Safe Buddies Manager*

Dominic  
*Digital Platform Manager*

Hrishitha  
*Project LyghtNyng Manager*

Sharon  
*Human Resources Manager*

# Let's stay in touch.

We look forward to working hand-in-hand with community leaders, thinkers, and advocates alike as we strive towards a better world for all. Thank you to all who have helped us grow and learn. We'll continue fighting for a safer and equitable future with your support.

**Partnership and media inquiries are welcome via email: [info@boltsafety.org](mailto:info@boltsafety.org)**

**boltsafety.org | @boltsafety**

**Donate:**

**[ko-fi.com/boltsafety](https://ko-fi.com/boltsafety)**

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