



Photo courtesy of Senate of Canada

The Hon. Salma Ataullahjan, P.C.

Salma, daughter of a former senator, is a granddaughter of Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan (“Bacha Khan”), leader of a non-violent Muslim movement for independence from British rule.

Since her early 80s arrival (as a young bride) to the Toronto area, she has been actively involved with several organizations —the Citizens Foundation, Canadian Pashtun Cultural Association, and South Asian Regional Council of Canada among them.

Our first senator of Pakistani origin (2010), Salma is a member of the Senate’s Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians and deputy chair of its standing committees on Human Rights; Foreign Affairs and International Trade; and National Finance.

Dedicated to human rights issues—especially those that affect women and youth—she has instigated studies of Afghani women’s engagement, cyberbullying, and Syrian refugee settlement. She played a critical role in a landmark resolution on maternal, newborn, and child health—the first of its kind to be adopted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), which aims to foster connection, coordination, and exchange of experience among parliamentarians from 159 countries.

