

*Resilience and Resistance:  
Unearthing the Lives of our Ancestors  
and Writing Ourselves into History*

Presented by:

Shivana Jorawar, Co-Director, Jahajee Sisters



# *The Work of Jahajee Sisters*



**Who are the Indo-  
Caribbean people?**

# *First Migration to the Caribbean*



**Guyana  
Trinidad**

**South  
East  
Asia**

# Indian Indentureship: 1838-1917



# Gender Based Violence Among Indo-Caribbeans

**“Between 1859 and indenture’s end in 1917, more than 167 women were killed by intimate or would-be intimate partners in Guiana. Infidelity - or, or the fear of it - motivated the crime in most cases, colonial authorities claimed.”**

*(From Coolie Woman by Gaiutra Bahadur)*



***“The violence against women was greater than the murder statistics suggest. Often, the aim was to disfigure, not kill. Indeed, the cases that didn’t end in death outnumbered those that did. Between 1886 and 1890, when twenty-five were murdered in Guiana [Guyana], thirty-five were wounded, usually with cutlasses. Noses, those representatives of women’s honor, seemed to be a particular target.”*** (From *Coolie Woman* by Gaiutra Bahadur)



# *Second Migration to NYC*





# Starting in the 70's...

In the 70's and 80's, people began migrating to NYC. They were fleeing social, political and economic upheavals in their home countries of Guyana and Trinidad.

They created a vibrant community in South Ozone Park and Richmond Hill, Queens, which is the epicenter of Indo-Caribbean life in NYC.



# *Indo-Caribbean Women in NYC*

**Gender-based violence persists today in NYC and disproportionately impacts Indo-Caribbean women.**



Rajwantie Baldeo



Guiatree Hardat



Stacy Singh

# *Writing Ourselves into History*

