



Hello everyone and welcome to the first issue of Children of 1971's newsletter, *Ki Khobor?* We are a nonprofit organization dedicated to healing those within the Bangladeshi diaspora through shared stories and social awareness.

We have connected with many of you throughout the years, and continue to do so by sharing this newsletter. Every other month, we will share featured stories, episodes from our podcast, and community highlights and events. If you prefer not to receive it, you can opt out by clicking on the unsubscribe link at the bottom of this email.

If you enjoy our content, please check out our [website](#) and [Instagram](#), and share with your loved ones. We look forward to expanding our community with you.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



TERESA CHOUDHURY ALAM
CEO & Co-founder

Like many of you, I am a Bangladeshi American navigating my identity. I've always been grateful to my parents for teaching me about my roots. Growing up, my family helped organize cultural programs regularly. I remember being draped in traditional sarees and adorned in vibrant jewelry. Trying the array of bharta and pitah brought by each family. Performing folk songs, dances, and kobitas on stage with my Bangladeshi friends. These were the times when I felt most like myself.

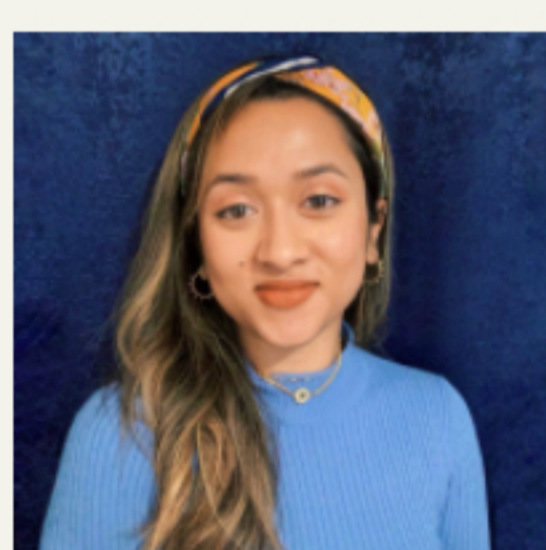
Then there was school. There were barely any South Asians, let alone Bangladeshis. I felt like I had to shut off a side of me. It wasn't until college that I found a huge group of South Asian friends and felt a little more comfortable embracing all parts of my identity. Still, I had an inkling that I didn't fully belong or fit in anywhere.

Children of 1971 fell right into my hands when I least expected it, but needed it the most. We started as a storytelling platform for the Bangladeshi diaspora to share personal narratives that weren't often brought to light in the community. Since then, our organization has evolved into so much more—an archive for future generations, a safe space to make connections, and a support system to break intergenerational cycles of trauma.

I finally feel like I found a place where I belong. I found my people and purpose. I want to extend that feeling to all of you. You have shown us what is possible when you bring a community together. We bring ideas to life and watch everything fall into place with your support and encouragement. I hope this becomes your space to create, learn, and grow.

Thank you for being a part of Children of 1971. I am forever grateful to my team and our incredible community.

MEET THE DIRECTORS



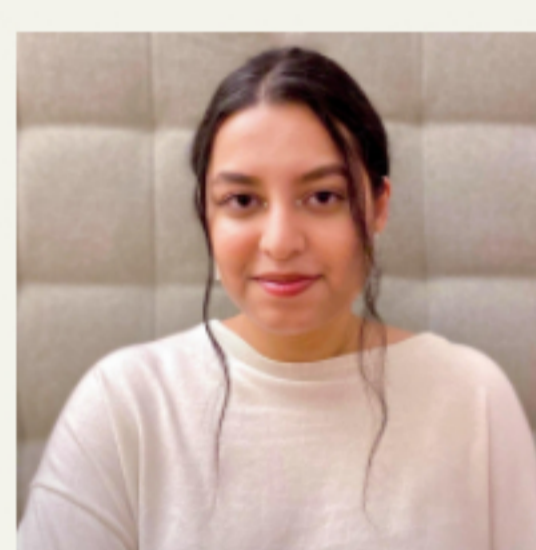
TORI SERAZI
Creative Director

Tori is a Co-founder of Children of 1971, having been here from the start as the creator of our logo and brand, before going on to be Creative Director. She enjoys guiding the creative team in the production of marketing material. Her eye for detail and passion for art is embodied in her visual direction. With each image, she and her team share a moving and impactful message.



PARVIZ ALAM
Strategy Director

Parviz forged the roadmap for Children of 1971's journey in becoming a nonprofit organization. He manages merchandise, educational content, and development, and he loves generating innovative ideas. You'll find him digging for strategic plans to create new opportunities and maximize growth and sustainability. His ultimate goal? Giving back to the community.



ASHFIA ALAM
Editorial Director

Ashfia brings forth the vision of Children of 1971's publications. She oversees the production of all written material, ensuring that our content speaks to our community and mission. She is passionate about storytelling, connecting people across the diaspora, and flourishing our editorial department. When she's not editing, you'll find her whipping up new projects. Look out!

[Meet the Team](#)

ASK APU PODCAST

Need some advice and don't know who to ask? Ask APU!

Hi everybody! I'm APU, which means "big sister" in Bangla. I'm here to answer questions you may have on relationships, life changes, mental health, family drama—anything and everything!

Your questions will be answered on my podcast, *Ask APU*, with the help of guests like Dhulabhai, Bhabhi, and Bhalya. In each episode I'll select a few questions and curate an answer based on my experiences as a Bangladeshi American. Everyone's identity will be kept anonymous in an effort to create a safe space and foster authentic and genuine conversation.

Follow [@AskApuPodcast](#) on Instagram for updates!



Check out the first episode of *Ask APU*:

"Moving In or Moving Out? Time To Unpack Your Emotional Baggage!"

[Listen Now](#)

STORY SPOTLIGHT



Zebunessa Begum

"Young children were running through the streets with our nation's flag flying like a cape on their backs. Our neighbors and friends had tears streaming down their faces, proudly shouting 'Joy Bangla!'"

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Daniyal Chowdhury

"He's a social butterfly, my brother Nedal, and loves to be out and about...[he] is one of the most understanding and caring people I know. No matter what, he'll always have my back and I'll always have his."

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Raeesa Hossain

"I lost my Nana, Nani, and Baba in a short span of four years, which made for the most challenging years of my life...It was death that taught me the value of life and inspired me to pursue a profession that preserves it."

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Fareen Azeem

"I want to share with those of you struggling with your identity...You are not alone. If you think that no one will understand you, remember this: those that love you will and will always be there for you."

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Sharmin Akhter

"I found my balance as a therapist navigating COVID-19; I couldn't do it until I gave myself permission to grieve and take care of myself first, a step that's sadly too often missing from our culture's process of helping."

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