

Spilling The Tea On Our History!

Date and Time:

Friday 23rd February 2023 at 6:30 pm to 8 pm

Location: Stockport Central Library

Description:

A relaxed discussion about LGBTQ+ history. Light refreshments will be available.



Free Ticket
here



Shivananda Khan

Shivananda Khan was born in a remote north-eastern state of India to a family encompassing diverse religious and ethnic identities. At the age of ten he was sent to England for education. He grew up in the U.K. and went to university in Manchester in the 1960s. While in the U.K. he created an organization for South Asian gay men and lesbians called Shakti.

After witnessing the lonely death of a gay Muslim in 1990 who had been rejected by his family for contacting AIDS, Khan founded the NAZ Foundation in his memory. This organization works throughout the Asian and Pacific worlds to address homophobia and the lack of co-ordinated policies on education, health issues, and treatment of HIV-AIDS in the region. Khan worked to ensure that access

to HIV protection, treatment and care was seen as a human rights issue.

In the process, Khan turned his attention to homophobia in India and the wider South Asian region itself. This grew to

include Nepal and Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Pakistan. In Khan's observation, he noted that HIV-AIDS transmission in these unique cultures was occurring between male-on-male sex not just because of homosexual attraction, but also simply because it was sex.

To address this challenge, Khan developed education programs to change the way society in the region sees gender, sexuality, masculinities, and femininities. In his studies, having a gay identity in the region was linked to class and income and not a generic framework.

The result was his founding of the Asia Pacific Coalition on Male Sexual Health (ACOM). This organization brought together governments with the United Nations organization

and civil society to address the health and social development agenda for the Asia and Pacific region on the issue of HIV-AIDS. Khan was the founding Chair of APCOM.

Khan's most notable achievement in the field of LGBTQ rights came in 2009 when, through the NAZ Foundation, he successfully challenged India's Section 377 which criminalized gay sex. This was a monumental change for both the country and the entire Pacific region. Khan saw this change in law as an important step because it allowed the issue of HIV-AIDS to be addressed more clearly and openly.

Khan himself faced declining health, and it is believed he died by committing suicide at this home. He is remembered as a passionate, inspiring, committed, and visionary individual who did much to rally India, Asia, and the Pacific worlds around the issue of HIV-AIDS. The Shivananda Khan Award for Extraordinary Achievement was created in his honour and is awarded annually by the Regional HIV and LGBT advocacy organization, APCOM.