

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Writing in the Wound: A Groundbreaking Memoir on Immigration, Acculturation, and the Sacred Act of Voice

Shumaila Hemani's debut book confronts 17 years of immigration precarity with lyrical power and spiritual clarity



Cover: *Writing in the Wound* by Shumaila Hemani (Release date: July 1, 2025)

[Calgary, AB] — July 1, 2025: Musician, scholar, and internationally recognized performer Shumaila Hemani, Ph.D., launches her debut memoir *Writing in the Wound*, a searing literary account of her 17-year struggle for recognition, residency, and belonging in Canada.

At the crossroads of music, migration, and memory, Hemani charts her journey from Alberta to Harvard, from Karachi to Calgary. *Writing in the Wound* is a powerful story of survival, artistry, and spiritual transformation. It documents her experience of academic betrayal, gendered exclusion, displacement, and healing—while forging a new path as a composer and performer in the Canadian arts landscape.

“This memoir is extraordinary. Shumaila Hemani has turned pain into poetry, erasure into voice, and longing into literature.”

In the lineage of Audre Lorde and Arundhati Roy, Hemani’s work is a literary intervention: a voice for the voiceless, a call to compassionate citizenship, and a luminous offering to the displaced.

“This is not just a memoir—it’s a literary testimony to survival and the right to structural inclusion,” Hemani writes. *“It is for the unheard, the undocumented, and the displaced.”*

Combining poetic prose, ethnomusicological insight, and deeply personal storytelling, *Writing in the Wound* bridges Islamic mysticism, environmental justice, and embodied resistance through sound. It also includes a critical essay exploring the intersections of trauma, acculturation, and music—engaging with thinkers such as Hannah Arendt, Sara Ahmed, and Gabor Maté.

Hemani has served as music faculty aboard *Semester at Sea*, taught at the University of Alberta's Faculty of Extension, and held residencies with Mount Royal University, Music to Life, the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity, and others. She is the recipient of the Cultural Diversity Award (2015), the Women in Music Canada Honor Roll (2023), first prize from the Society for Ethnomusicology (2017), and the **Listening During COVID Contest** (2020). Her performances and essays have moved audiences across Canada and internationally.

Despite her wide-ranging contributions, Hemani has lived for nearly two decades in Canada without permanent residency. *Writing in the Wound* confronts this erasure and turns it into art.

"A literary masterpiece that testifies to the spiritual journey of a human being—through darkness, exile, faith, heartbreak, and healing."

BOOK DETAILS

Title: *Writing in the Wound: Acculturation, Trauma, and Music*

Author: Shumaila Hemani, Ph.D.

Publisher: Self-published via Amazon KDP

Available: July 1, 2025 (Paperback via Amazon)

ISBN: [Insert when available]

MEDIA CONTACT

Shumaila Hemani

 shumaila@deeplistingpath.ca

 www.deeplistingpath.ca

 @deeplistingpath | @shumailahemani