



## Oral History Project Interview

Arab and Muslim Women's Research and Resource Institute (AMWRI)

Interview Number: HB 1.00

Date: 2/28/2021

Gender: Female

Name: Hanan Badaw

Country of Origin: Palestine

Year of Immigration: 1975

**Abstract:** Hanan Badawi is a first-generation immigrant from Al-Bireh, Palestine who immigrated to the United States in 1975, when she was fifteen years old. She lives in Hinsdale, IL, as a stay-at-home mom. She is Muslim and is conservative with her religion. She worked through a large number of adversities through her immigration and built a new life when she came to the US. She started a family, received an education, and surrounded herself with an Arab community to make her and her family more at home here in the US. She is very passionate about her family and friends, and although it was not her initial plan or idea to come to the US, she created a new life for herself, while staying true to her Arab heritage and culture, and practicing her Islamic beliefs.

**Key Themes:** Immigration, parenting, marriage, culture, tradition

**Note:** In the transcript, *I* refers to Interviewer, and *R* refers to Respondent/Interviewee.

I: Do I have permission to record you?

R: Yes you do.

I: Ok. Um I'm going to start the interview by asking some questions about your background and birth. So I'm going to start off by asking can you state your name and your age?

R: My name is Hanan Badawi, and I'm 60 years old.

I: Where is your um - where were you born and in what country and city were you born in?

R: I was born in Al-Bireh, Palestine. The city of Al-Bireh, the country of Palestine.

I: Um, how long did you live in Palestine?

R: I lived in Palestine until I was 15.

I: What was your childhood like?

R: It was a very simple, happy childhood. Um. I lived with my mom and my sister, and actually I lived with my two sisters and my brother when I was very very young, and then my sister got married after that, my oldest sister got married, and moved to America, and my brother after that followed her to America. So the most I remember is my little sister and my mom.

I: Um- What were places or buildings you spent a lot of time in when you were younger in Palestine?

R: At my home, my-you know we owned our simple home, and at my grandparents home, and of course at school.

I: What was your earliest memory living in Palestine?

R: Just my- being with my grandparents and my mom and sitting around the fireplace and uh just you know being with my grandparents who loved me so much.

I: What was your relationship with your parents like?

R: I grew up without a father, so with my mom, my mom was very very conservative, and um she um she worried a lot about me, um, she was kind of strict, but I know she was strict because she loved us, loved me.

I: Do you have any great memorable memories from school? Like anything that um really stands out to you?

R: Yes, although we were living very simple lives, I was always involved with gymnastics programs, I used to play- I used to be a gymnast at school, I used to participate in the end of the year celebration, and perform as a gymnast and that was my best memory.

I: How did your mom feel about you being on the gymnastics team?

R: Uh. That was you know when I had a tough time with my mom, she didn't understand because we had to stay uh 30 minutes or an hour for- in school for practice, and uh because most of my neighbors you know their children went home at like 2 o'clock and I was uh late for an hour she would always uh scold at me and telling me no just- she doesn't want me to participate because of the reputation because in a small village such as al bireh um there is some bad reputation about a few girls who stayed behind in school just so they can like you know talk with boys and stuff like that, so they were known, but I was on the gymnastics team so you know uh my mom didn't want me- she didn't want my neighbors or other people from the city to think how come she's not home early where was she because you know we had to explain to everybody and we cannot do that so nobody understood what's you know gymnastics or- because most of the girls in my village exception for you know the upper class uh who participated in this program and being I am poor not too many poor girls participated um I was I think the only one from my class who wanted-who always wanted to participate in the gymnastics program.

I: So do you feel that a lot of people- a lot of the ways your mom brought you up was based off of what other people think? Do you think that what people thought was a big factor in the Arab community?

R: Oh definitely. It was even uh even uh- you know I even always thought like that because you know- I knew i wasn't talking to anybody or talking to boys i mean no one can say they saw me or saw her doing that because I didn't it was an end of the school period it's not like it was an everyday thing where we practiced- the most usually we practiced was during the gym class or PE class but then at the end of the school that's when we did more of you know uh after school uh practice but yeah I was also worried about my reputation because I was taught to be like that I remember once my mom sent me to my uh- her parents I took some food for lunch and it was around mid-afternoon she sent me to her mom and dad's house with some food and at the same time one of our neighbors boys went out of his house and I- the whole time was at my grandparents like oh my god what does the neighbor think in the middle of the afternoon I left my house at the same time as the boy that was to me I was scared because I was worried about that. But yeah she did- she always made me feel like uh- yeah the reputation it's a big thing in my village that's all what you have- your reputation especially if you're poor.

I: So did you live in any other countries before immigrating to the US?

R: Before moving to the US?

I: Yeah.

R: No.

I: Were you the first in your family to immigrate to the US?

R: No no. My sister and my brother uh came before me

I: What are their names and how old are they?

R: How old were they when they moved?

I: Yeah.

R: My sister Elham uh when she moved to uh US I think she was 21.

I: Did any of your family members immigrate after you?

R: Oh my sister Amal.

I: What was their reasoning for immigrating?

R: She got married back home and she just brought her husband so he could find a job in the US.

I: What was your reason for immigrating to the US?

R: I got married early and my ex-husband was living in the US and his job was in the US

I: Can you tell me a little bit more about your first marriage

R: Um it was just something my mother- my brother immigrated to the us and because he didn't go to school and he was lost she was worried about him so this guy came from the US who was a second cousin from me and he promised my mom if she married me to him or accept his proposal he will save my brother he will come and look after my brother and you know put him in school and my mom sacrificed me for her son, her only son.

I: So your marriage was arranged?

R: Oh definitely yes without me even I- you know I heard about the marriage in school like some of the girls from my city or from my town told me oh we heard you were getting married that's when I kinda like collapsed and uh called my mom I didn't know what the hell is marriage and being also that guy who's my fathers cousin he's much older than me, to me he was an uncle.

I: Why didn't your mom tell you about the marriage?

R: Because I was young. What is she going to tell me I guess he came to her and it was between him and her.

I: Did you resent your mom for arranging your marriage at such a young age? What age did you get married at?

R: Yeah. Fifteen.

I: Um did you have kids with this man?

R: Yes

I: How many kids did u have?

R: 4

I: What are their names?

R: Uh Duraid, Nisreen, Hussaid, and Anas.

I: Um. So in your culture is there a tradition of a dowry? Is that practiced?

R: Yeah it was.

I: So did your first husband offer you a dowry when he agreed to marry you?

R: He- it was between- if you ask me right now how much- it was between him and my mom so I have no idea how much. Yeah I don't know how much was it.

I: So obviously your mom was looking for a way to get to your brother when she arranged your marriage but did she think of any other qualities when meeting this man? Did she think he was a good man or was it like money or just the fact that he was planning to find your brother was that what the marriage was about?

R: He was old, so to her like you know old and mature and he was highly educated and so he believed in education and he asked her he asked why Hanan doesn't want to get married she told him she was young and she just you know wants to finish school and he promised my mom that he will put me in school when I come to the us but he lied to my mom and he lied also about- he

didn't try to look for my brother or to put him in school either so he did not even want to see my brother he lied actually to my mom, but he was educated.

I: So when your daughters end up getting married or if they ever do is a dowry something you're looking for? Is that something you want for your daughter to marry into?

R: No

I: Do you have any children? And if so, what are their names and ages?

R: Yeah - mom you know I have children and you know their ages. Nida is 30 and Zeana is 23 and you are 18 and Khalid is 29

I: Um do you have married children?

R: Nida.

I: How did she choose her husband? How involved were you in her marriage?

R: She met him uh she met him in high school and they were close friends and she just told me uh I knew of him and i knew his aunt and yeah i knew his aunt and i knew him from high school and when Nida came to us and told us about him we supported her but we never asked about dowry or anything like that.

I: So where does Nida live now?

R: She lives in London.

I: What was your level of education before immigration?

R: Uh high school.

I: Did u receive an additional formal education after you immigrated?

R: yes

I: What is it and where was it completed?

R: It was completed in Illinois after I divorced, after my divorce, and I had my bachelor's degree and started in my masters.

I: Bachelor's degree and masters in what field?

R: Business in bachelor and masters I didn't finish masters but part of the master's in education.

I: Are you currently employed or working outside your home if so what's your job?

R: No after I had Nida I used to be working as an accountant, a bookkeeper accountant and after I got pregnant, I was a full time mom and student because you know I finished my school when I was married

I: I forgot to ask you this before but are you currently married?

R: Yes I am

I: What's your husband's name?

R: Mahmoud Badawi.

I: Was that marriage arranged?

R: No no.

I: How did you meet him?

R: I met him in Illinois.

I: I mean how did you meet him?

R: We were both an activist for the same cause Palestine we both belonged to an organization called the gups the general union of Palestine students we met that way through the organization.

I: Um so when you first immigrated to the US initially how long were you planning on staying in the US?

R: I didn't want to. It wasn't a choice. It wasn't my choice so i cannot not tell you that- how long I was planning to stay because it was not my choice.



I: When you first immigrated what was your life like here?

R: It was very very sad and miserable I missed my sister and my mom I was crying all the time I came to a country which is- I didn't know the language I didn't know the area so I was very miserable.

I: When you first arrived here did you learn how to drive?

R: No.

I: Did you ever learn how to drive? When was that?

R: I learned how to drive after I got my divorce because my ex-husband did not want me to drive.

I: How did you deal with the obstacles? How did you deal with being really upset and wanting to go back home to your family in Palestine?

R: Everytime- I didn't do anything because first of all I had no money no access to a car no access to anything so I used to cry every time I call my mom I would just be sobbing I couldn't even talk on the phone.

I: Did you resent your mom for sending you there with that man?

R: Yes definitely yes but I still loved her because I was sad I mean you know you miss your mom and your sister because you're young.

I: For sure. What level of education does your spouse have?

R: Who are you talking about which one?

I: Your second spouse Mahmoud.

R: He has just a bachelor going into- no (in arabic) not complete bachelor's degree he has an associate degree, but he also has some hours going into his bachelor's associate going into his bachelors.

I: Are there any like special places that you spent time in when you first immigrated here?

R: I was in DC.

I: Did you just go there because that's where your husband was?

R: Yeah he was working there.

I: What did he do there?

R: He worked!- (gets cut off)

I: Hello? I'm sorry you're cutting off, can you repeat what you said?

R: I said he's a professor he worked there.

I: So the next set of questions I'm going to ask are kind of about marriage in your culture so in your culture how are women viewed? What's their typical role and what about men?

R: Can you be more specific?

I: In your culture how are women viewed and what is the typical role in Islam and in Arab society?

R: Oh no. it has nothing to do with Islam or anything it has something to do with culture now culturally women 50 years ago were treated differently than now, now its different. 50 years ago or during my mothers time or grandmother's time they got married very very young and she was expected to take care of her home and have kids and that's basically it, but now its completely different and it has nothing to do with religion because our religion does not tell you that. It has something to do with culture, so you know culture is more imposed than religion.

I: So how are men viewed in your culture?

R: Men are of course superior to women in the culture but not in the religion. In the religion if you marry someone whose educated its equal so- but in culture no they're not.

I: What are some ways in which you balance your faith in your American identity?

R: Say that again Sarah.

I: What are some ways in which you balance your faith in your American identity?

R: I think I value family life I value- like I do sacrifice lots of things for my children that's the value I think Americans also have uh now you know in our religion of course the woman has to respect herself she has to respect her body so even though you are not married or divorced or even while you're married you're supposed to be true, clean you cannot just go and have any outside relationship unless your married so this I value.

I: What does marriage mean to you?

R: Just a partnership. Its something that uh you have somebody in your life that you can spend- friendship, partnership yeah its a commitment to your family, to your kids.

I: So what were the first characteristics you were looking for in your husband when it wasn't arranged, like did you want him to be from Palestine?

R: Yes. First of all its a must from Palestine that's a must, Palestinian, and I looked into honesty honesty was very important. Mahmoud was very very honest and also patriotism to Palestine it has to be something like that because I will not able to be with someone who didn't care about our country, yeah 3 things honesty, never thought about money honestly, it's all honesty patriotism towards Palestine, and clean cut, you know he was clean cut.

I: Tell me about your wedding day and the ceremonies you went through.

R: My wedding day it was funny, my wedding day I was supposed to have uh a person come to the apartment and do my hair uh they couldn't find the address and we got married in the- he said he couldn't find the address but I think it was too snowy because it was in January third, it was one of the worst you know it was in '88 and it was very very cold and very snow, and he decided not to come so I had to do my hair and my makeup and- but it was fun because you know I have

the people we invited were like our friends and it was a simple wedding but it was mostly- there was like 100/250 people and it was mostly our friends and we had a lot of fun and family.

I: Are there certain rituals in an Arab ceremony that are important to you or that you guys did?

R: Well we had to do our ketab al aktab which is like you know in the Masjid that's something after we get our marriage license yeah that's something you have to do that in Islam.

I: So when does that usually happen is that on the day or months before?

R: It can be before the ceremony before the wedding it can be in the morning but who has time to do that in the morning, usually it's a few nights before I prefer it but some people do it from the day they get engaged because again culture tells you in order to be able to know this guy and go out with him you have to be ketab al aktab you have to do it in the mosque so I don't believe in that I believe ketab al aktab should be- uh a week before- what if it didn't work or something happened that means you need a divorce I believe that it needs to be the day before.

S: Do you have any pictures from your wedding day?

R: Yes I do

I: Will you share some of these with us so we can use them for education purposes?

R: Yeah.

I: How open were your parents' um when it comes to marrying outside your religion/national group?

R: They will not agree to that.

I: Would it be a problem if someone outside ethnic/religious group, someone with less education or someone with less social status asked for your daughter or son?

R: It won be less education or- it will be the religion. Religion will be something for my daughter I'd like her to marry a Palestinian or a Muslim. Now if it's not p\Palestinian, somebody from the

countries around Palestine meaning Syria, Lebanon, maybe Jordanian but Islam is very important because Islam is where the kids follow the father's religion. So also, in Islam we believe that the woman when she gets married because she's going to have kids and you know she was supposed to have Muslim kids and in Islam the kids are supposed to follow the men's religion that would make her not accepted in Islam.

I: What would you do if your daughter did come to you asking to marry someone who was outside your marriage/religious group?

R: I would advise her in the long run it's not going to work especially if you have kids because that's where the problem is going to be, because in my experience in life from reading or watching stories or listening to documentaries, usually maybe at young age people don't think that much about religion once they have kids it becomes very important it will be less of a problem-less problems for her and her husband that if both were the same religion so there's something they don't disagree on in life.

I: Um would you- How do you feel about men converting to Islam in order to marry a Muslim woman?

R: Well I don't think men converting to Islam unless he converted or he knows his religion but it happens a lot of men- western men convert to Islam so she can marry them because that's- he believes that's what his parents want or that's the only way they'll accept him in the marriage but I honestly don't believe that's uh something that the Americans- the non- Muslims let's say not just American unless- the Islam it needs time to know it and to study it nobody can say oh I converted to Islam without knowing Islam he really has to study Islam or 100 percent be sure that's what he wants it's not easy just to say oh I convert that's it. How? Why? So you can marry

somebody and then you're not really- you are not true to your religion or true to her religion so that makes him a selfish hypocrite.

I: Um what are some cultural barriers that you have faced or someone you know faced because of their decision to marry outside of his/her group?

R: Oh I have a lot of experience with that. Lots of men from the group came from the Middle East, Jordan and um Palestine they were international students they couldn't afford uh tuition and they got married to Americans and uh 99 of the people that I know of course they ended up in divorce after having kids because they figured out its not working because uh religion mattered to them especially when they got older the tradition and religion so it didn't work no it was very hard to accept it especially when they took their wives when they met- Palestinians married to a Palestinian and other couples the same and there's one couple who is married to an American it just didn't it didn't click it was very hard to accept it.

I: When it comes to marriage who makes most of the decisions like for example in your marriage?

R: My marriage right now its equal it's you know its equal we both make decisions; we discuss things and we both make decisions.

I: How would that compare to your parents' marriage who do you think more of the decisions and why do you think that was different?

R: Because- my father made the decision because uh and again because I didn't see much of my parents bc my father immigrated to Germany when I was very young so I really didn't see much of that, but from my aunts and from you know my neighbors the man usually made the decision most men I would say most men, not all men because there were women who were very strong and made the decisions but yeah the men made the decisions for the family. The women just

accepted that and thought always the men knows more or he's the one who's the provider he's the one who takes care of the family, so she was submissive to uh- that was a long time ago but it's not like this anymore not at all.

I: What do you think about dating?

R: It depends on what's- how- like dating how? Dating is like meeting somebody and jumping in him in the sack that's not to me that's absolutely bad but dating if you get to know somebody and know him and learn about him and study him and just you know yeah that's acceptable but dating is like uh going around and sleeping and stuff like that no its bad- I mean at the end of the day its all about respect it has nothing to do with religion to me a body, our body or my body is very sacred so you cannot just like I don't understand how people just meet somebody and just go and sleep that's something bad.

I: Ok well do you think nowadays like with social media and in modern day do you think it's easier for Arab and Muslim- Americans to meet?

R: Yeah I heard that there is apps and there is something that you know dating apps and they get to know each other I still don't think this is the appropriate way because when you're on the computer by yourself you can say anything you want how are gonna, really gonna understand or get to know somebody without actually seeing him and you know face to face i don't- I kind of disagree but its a way of kind of introduction and then go from there maybe it's good.

I: Well then how do you think um Arab girls should meet other Arab men? Do you think they should meet at like events, like Arab events?

R: Yeah there's a lots of Arab organizations that's including human rights for Palestinians a lot of religious and political organizations that people can meet or work same at work.

I: So we're going to discuss parentings next. So when you came to the US, you had said you already had children from your first marriage how involved were you with them?

R: When I came to the us I didn't have kids I was a young kid Sarah so uh when I- and to me it was something it was a trap I was a child I didn't want to have any kids but the guy that got married to me he thought you know once I have kids it will be more of uh- something to trap her something to you know- yeah.

I: Do you feel like that in a lot of Arab communities boys are raised differently than girls?

R: It's not that boys are raised differently than girls it's just you know uh it's just like you know the mom always tends to give more to the boy- like you know the mom will ask her kid to do something for the boy, for her brothers, to clean after him, to pick up after him and that's changing because the girls are refusing to do that.

I: Um next questions are about your culture so how do you identify yourself?

R: I identity myself as a woman, uh Muslim, and Palestinian, and also a mom.

I: Do you also consider yourself an American?

R: Of course.

I: What languages do you speak at home?

R: Both Arabic and English.

I: Which do you think is more emphasized at home?

R: It depends, if I'm speaking to my husband it's Arabic and if I'm speaking to my kids its English.

I: How would you describe your religious life do you attend the mosque on the regular basis?

R: No but I do the minimum in religion I do like fast things, sometimes praying especially in the month of Ramadan and I you know I kind of read Quran most of the time I read the Quran even



if I am by myself like in the car or especially if I'm in crisis or I feel like you know for my kids- i want something from God so I kind of recite the Quran on my own.

I: How would you describe your political participation in the US do you regularly vote?

R: I sure do yeah I do.

I: When it comes to candidates from your own religion would that affect your voting behavior?

R: Of course I would maybe work a little bit harder.

I: Um- do you feel like the Muslim community has shown solidarity with BLM?

R: Yes.

I: What do you think Muslim communities in the U.S. should be doing, with regard to social justice for example issues of racism, Islamophobia, violence against Muslims/Blacks/Hispanics/LGBTQ?

R: Excluding the LGBTQ we should because we are discriminated against so that puts me in the defense of Hispanic, black, you know African-American so yeah.

I: Um why would you exclude LGBTQ?

R: Because in religion not just the Muslim religion is- this is not it's against religion to accept, to practice this kind of life so and I'm a Muslim.

I: In what ways have any political events in the homeland affected you here?

R: Can you ask this question again?

I: In what ways if any, have any political events in the homeland affected you here?

R: Its my God- its occupation its the fact that our government here in the US is giving weapons to our occupier which is the state of Israel that's a big time effect on me- to demolish our homes in Palestine my peoples homes and you put little kids in jail to prevent them from going to school it affects me big time.

I: Were you in the US during September 11, 2001?

R: Yes.

I: How did you feel during the time 9/11 and the days and months that followed?

R: Actually when that happened when I heard of that I was on the news i was taking Zeana to Montessori.

I: What is Montessori?

R: Preschool, Zeana, I was driving Zeana to Montessori.

R: I heard it on the news immediately I called my friend who was at home her name is Abeer I said are you watching tv she said yes I said did you hear what happened she said oh I'm watching the Arabic tv, so I said for heaven's sake turn it on the English, on the local channel so yeah it was shocking.

I: What were your feelings at the time about it?

R: I always thought that the people who did it that we heard about I thought there was something bigger behind it and it looked like it was so it was devastating for us.

I: Thank you for sharing about that I'm going to switch topics to cultural clothing.

I: Do you have any traditional clothing like Dishdasha, Abaya...?

R: My mom does we have the Thobe in Palestine we don't have Dishdasha it's basically um it's a long dress with embroidery with lots of different embroidery and each embroidery is a story about the village or the culture let's say the harvest there's a story about that, a wedding there's a story about that like a story there's each a story for every embroidery there's culture for that like people look at the thobe and say oh it's pretty but its just like a painting you look at it and you need to know what is that painting all about.

I: Um do you wear a thobe on a regular basis?

R: Not on regular. Its more comfy and cheaper to wear athletic clothes it's easier to wash them and throw them in the washing machine, but to do a thobe its expensive and also it's not convenient because its long and the weather here is not but on occasions especially Palestinian occasions I like to wear it like you know.

I: Did your mother wear traditional dresses?

R: Yes she did all the time.

I: Did she pass any of those down to you?

R: Yeah there's a few.

I: Do you feel like the dresses you have now

R: Yes of course.

I: Would you pass down your thobes to your children and if yes..

R: Only because I think its rich in culture it's like to me when you give your kids a beautiful picture or painting its very rich and very nice to have.

I: The next few questions are going to be about your beliefs in disabilities.

I: Do you think people with disabilities can lead lives that are as fulfilling as people without disabilities? Generally speaking, do you think there is prejudice towards people with disabilities in your community?

R: Yes.

I: In what ways do you think so?

R: Um now again we're talking about some uneducated communities it's just like feeling sorry or bad for the person who has disabilities its just like more of a feeling sorry rather than acceptance its a little hard to accept a disabled person although things are changing its amazing you're asking me this question i just heard on the Arabic news one girl she's young and

everything she married somebody who has uh legs got amputated because he was bombed by the Israeli government and she accepted him and they were asking her you're young and beautiful you can get someone else and she said she loved him and she didn't see the disability as an obstacle in her life so uh but in general and I don't think it has something to do w Islam in culture being disabled is taboo family hide it family don't wanna talk about it, family deal with it secretly even in the best of families for instance also I found out in the English royal family three were two girls they were committed to the asylum just they have problems they didn't even mention them they said that they were dead.

I: Do you think the marriageability option to disabled males is more than that available to disabled females?

I: Hello? Mom?

R: Hello?

“Gets cut off”

I: Hello?

R: Hello?

I: Ok she got cut off, so i'm going to call her again

R: Hello?

I: Sorry i think you got cutoff or the phone call ended

R: The question about..hello?

I: The question about marriage of disabled males and females?

R: Who has the better uh chance?

I: Yes.

R: I think in all cultures I think in uh well you're asking me about my culture but in all cultures man has a better chance only because women have to get pregnant and face the challenges of carrying a baby so for instance a woman who is disabled who cannot walk its very hard to get pregnant, versus a man who is disabled and cannot walk he can get a woman pregnant and she can still bear children, so I think that's a thing its bearing children so that makes the man an advantage and the woman disadvantage.

I: Do you have any firsthand experience with disabled people?

R: Yeah I do have my son from my second marriage who is- who was born with down syndrome and um it's very hard it took a toll on us.

I: So the next few questions are going to be about COVID-19 Pandemic's Impact on Your Personal Well-Being?

I: Has the outbreak of covid virus affected you personally, in terms of your financial, social, and health situations?

R: It affected me kinda socially not so much financially, socially and uh the fact is staying at home it did affect me it has a big toll on me in the social aspect yeah.

I: What are your primary ways of communicating with friends/family who aren't in your household?

R: Mostly with phone calls uh they visit a few, not a lot, maybe one or two, especially outdoors in the summer but in the winter it's kind of hard, outdoor social more than right now in the winter.

I: Do you have any other ways of communicating with friends/family?

R: No it's through social media.

I: Before covid-19 were you employed?

R: No I'm a mom so I'm a stay at home mom.

I: Has Covid-19 affected your religious

R: No because it wasn't just for me it's a universal thing.

I: So what was an uplifting experience

R: I think it's more of a help for the family to spend more time together for instance cooking at home together, eating at home together I think I got the family to spend more time together that's the positive, the negative socially, mentally it was very hard.

I: What is one thing you're looking for once COVID-19 abates?

R: Travel.

I: To close off, is there anything else about your history you'd like to tell me?

R: Yeah I spend my best years traveling with my daughter playing tennis and competing, with my sarsoora.

I: Are there any particular resources you think the Arab and Muslim Women's Resource and Research Institute should provide, to meet the needs of communities to which you belong?

R: Again, the question again, slowly,

I: Are there any particular resources you think the Arab and Muslim Women's Resource and Research Institute should provide, to meet the needs of communities to which you belong?

R: I think we do have we do have uh a its called family services and it caters to most Muslim women and families, uh families and they kind of help them with their needs.

I: Do you have any other family and friends you think it would be important to interview?

R: I have a lot of friends and family ,but interview for the same, I mean I can give you if you want some friends names you can interview.

I: Okay so you can just email me that

I: Um

R: My best friend Etaf she's in Palestine.

I: Well thank you for your time and your energy and for sharing your experiences with me. You have given us valuable information about your life and your family history.