

Nadia Kanhai is a SJW (social justice warrior) in the Aurora / West Suburban area, concentrating on issues of ethnicity and race, immigration, and peace and justice. She got her first taste of politics at the age of 16 when she won a trip to the United Nations and Capitol Hill in a World Peace Essay contest. That same year she and her family became U.S. citizens and she traveled to her birthplace, Grenada, just days before the U.S. invaded the tiny island nation.

As a student at North Central College, Nadia traveled to Nicaragua as a peace & goodwill mission team member, where she spoke with families whose young people were fighting the Contra war as well as those who lost their children to the war. Almost as coincidence, she later worked on the Iran-Contra hearings as an intern on Capitol Hill.

Since moving to Aurora, where she raised her family, Nadia has been active volunteering for school activities, church, political campaigns, peace and justice, and racial justice and immigration education and advocacy. She served on the Midwest team for religion and race for several years and currently co-chairs the Northern Illinois team. Through her volunteer and advocacy work, she has traveled back to DC over the years, addressing issues of peace, racial justice, and immigration reform through congressional visits and marches. She is the site coordinator for Justice For Our Neighbors (JFON), a free, high-quality legal immigration clinic in Aurora, and volunteers with other local immigration services and organizations such as Family Focus, Indivisible Aurora, World Relief and the Aurora Freedom Coalition.

A life-long learner, Nadia is completing her Masters of Arts in Liberal Studies in the Culture and Society track. Her thesis work explores Millennials and Generation Z as Social Change Leaders, drawing on her experience in Ferguson, MO; the Arizona/Mexico border; and Standing Rock, ND.