



Hamdi Mohamed
Executive Director
Ottawa Community Immigrant Services Organization (OCISO)

Hamdi Mohamed has a Ph.D. in History from the University of Ottawa. She obtained her Master's degree in International Diplomacy from the University of Ottawa and her Honours degree in Education from the Somali National University.

Hamdi is currently the Executive Director of the Ottawa Community Immigrant Services Organization (OCISO). OCISO is a non-profit, multi-service agency with award-winning community programs and services; serving more than 25,000 clients a year. These support services, including language instruction, settlement workers in schools (MLO), community integration, clinical counselling, and public education, assist immigrants in their journey to making Ottawa their home and provide successful models for economic and social integration of new Canadians, a key variable in the economic competitiveness of Ottawa in an increasingly globalized world.

As the Executive Director of a growing and dynamic community organization, Hamdi has played a crucial role in transforming the organizational culture and service delivery model. She has negotiated major contracts with principal funders, effectively addressing complex operational challenges, providing coaching support to staff to help them execute OCISO'S organizational strategic vision and priorities, to achieve higher levels of community engagement and dialogue on social inclusion in Ottawa.

Prior to her role as the Executive Director of OCISO, Hamdi was the Executive Director of the Ottawa Rape Crisis Centre. She has been in senior management positions for over 11 years and has extensive experience in research, policy analysis, grassroots community development and community organizing. She has been a strong advocate for social and economic inclusion and access to services for immigrants and refugees both in Canada and internationally for over 18 years. Hamdi's own experiences as a refugee shaped her personal and professional choices and lifelong engagement with the community.

As a trained teacher, Hamdi taught high schools and was a lecturer on social work and on human rights issues at the School of Social Work and the Institute of Interdisciplinary Studies at Carleton University for five years. She is the author of a number of reports and articles on immigrant and refugee access to community health and social services. She has been actively involved in grassroots organizations, coalitions and groups committed to social equity and human rights issues. She has been a member of various community boards and advisory committees at the local, provincial, national, and international levels, including, Poverty Reduction Strategy Steering Committee, Immigrant Women Services Organization, Social Planning Council, Multifaith Housing Initiative, Canadian Mental Health Association, Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO), Ontario Coalition for Agencies Serving Immigrants (OCASI), and Ontario Coalition of Rape Crisis Centres.