NOVA SCOTIA griefalliance SYMPOSIUM

MOBILIZING GRIEF - BUILDING NETWORKS OF CARE

Rainbow Refugees: Queering Grief Across Borders

Em Bailey

Volunteer Coordinator, Rainbow Refugees Association of Nova Scotia

Em Bailey (they/them) is a full spectrum doula, community organizer, sexual and reproductive health educator, and yoga/somatic movement practitioner of South Asian and European descent living in Kjipuktuk.

In their role as Volunteer Coordinator at Rainbow Refugees Association of Nova Scotia, Em draws on the lineages of harm reduction, pleasure activism, and healing justice in their work, training volunteers to serve as members of community care circles that facilitate interpersonal support for newcomers.

Last year, Em led a grief retreat, where 2SLGBTQIA+, refugee/newcomer, and mental health identities and experiences intersect. Following the retreat, participants built an interactive zine called “Queering Grief Rituals” that explores grief and loss.

Em loves sharing space with folks ready to hold the complexity of the systems of grief we live in and the small and big ways we move towards our collective liberation.