



**CAIR**  
PHILADELPHIA



**Unwavering Advocacy**

Our Legacy, Our Promise

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**2011 Annual Report**

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

We believe America's greatness comes from the endless opportunities for all of her citizens and that this greatness is maintained through active civic participation.

We believe that advocacy through the American Muslim experience is advocacy for a better America.

We believe that American Muslim life can and must be better, more equitable and more engaging.

We believe we cannot wait for others to address the most challenging issues American Muslims face.

We believe we have the tools to change our reality.

We believe the time is now.

CA  
The Council on American  
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# Who We Are

The Council on American-Islamic Relations of Philadelphia is a not-for-profit organization with the vision to be a leading advocate for justice and mutual understanding for and among all Americans.

Our immediate focus is to help resolve the two greatest civic challenges facing the American Muslim community: those of stereotypes, propaganda and misinformation, and the consequences of those stereotypes, such as discrimination, profiling and disempowerment.

In the spirit of addressing those problems holistically, the CAIR mission is to enhance understanding of Islam, encourage dialogue, protect civil liberties, empower American Muslims, and build coalitions that promote justice and mutual understanding.

CAIR-Philadelphia is part of a large association of interlinked CAIR chapters across the nation, together forming America’s largest Muslim civil liberties and advocacy group.

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# What We Do

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**Civil Rights Advocacy** - American Muslims must be treated fairly and equally in employment, education, travel, with law enforcement, government and in all facets of public life. Without fairness and justice, there is no true citizenship. We respond to individual cases of religious discrimination through mediation, litigation and other advocacy channels. We also challenge policies of disparate impact and profiling.



**Media Engagement** - We must speak and be a part of the public discourse. Only by being at the table can we challenge stereotypes, dispel myths and promote positive self-representation. Along with producing our own media, CAIR-Philadelphia assists journalists covering Islam and Muslims, monitors local media, responds to numerous interview requests and drives stories and opinions that reflect a confident, assertive American Muslim perspective.



**Education & Dialogue** - We conduct consistent presentations, courses and conversations with the Muslim community and fellow Americans. Mutual understanding between Americans of all faiths is essential for healthier public sentiments towards Islam and Muslims. We give presentations at mosques, other houses of worship, universities, libraries and public venues whenever requested.





**Interfaith & Coalition Building** - Without allies and partners, none of our work could be accomplished. We are part of an extensive network of interfaith, secular, government, legal and civil rights organizations and often serve as a nexus between the Muslim community and these entities. We cosponsor conferences, dialogue forums, and government meetings and participate in campaigns undertaken by our partners.



**Youth** - A better American Muslim experience requires the promise of a better future. The youth are our future, and they must be equipped with confidence and empowered with knowledge. CAIR-PA conducts a year-round Muslim Youth Leadership Program for Muslim high school students to proactively address these needs.



**Challenge Islamophobia** - Anti-Muslim hate is now an organized, well-funded and pervasive phenomenon. An effective challenge to Islamophobia must also be well organized. CAIR-Philadelphia monitors Islamophobe activity, directly challenges Islamophobic efforts, organizes appropriate local responses and educates the public and government officials on this issue.



# Executive Summary

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Year in Review, by Executive Director Moein Khawaja



Assalaam'alaikum (peace be unto you). As the year 2011 drew to a close in December, CAIR-Philadelphia learned of Pennsylvania House Bill 2029, proposed legislation with insidious roots aimed at targeting Islam and Muslims. When our staff learned about this, we did not get nervous, but rather, we looked at each other with brimming confidence –this is precisely what this organization was built for.

Getting to this level of confidence would not have happened without a long year of growth and development. Defeating legislation like HB 2029 requires broad coalitions, the ability to sway media and public opinion, knowledge of government mechanisms and much more. Over the years, we acquired these networks, skills and resources, but one piece was missing – an in-house, civil rights legal expert. With your support, I'm proud to say we achieved a great milestone in September 2011 when our first staff attorney came on board, thus completing the organization's staff and taking our ability to advocate for the Muslim community to the next level.

2011 was also a landmark year in terms of presentations, lectures, large and small events and workshops. CAIR-Philadelphia staff and board members organized or were featured in over 45 events – almost one per week. Staying true to our mission, we constantly educated the community on civil rights issues and Islamophobia. We led interfaith events and conducted *Introduction to Islam* presentations at churches and community centers. We conducted nine Muslim Youth Leadership Programs at local mosques. Our media engagement resulted in several press releases, two press conferences, and over fifty media appearances, interviews and published op-eds. And those are just some of our proactive efforts in educating the public and sowing the seeds of better understanding of Islam and Muslims.

But lectures, presentations and media appearances cannot remedy injustices occurring today and now. When someone is wronged, justice must be upheld and methodically fought for, and that is the bread and butter of CAIR – civil rights. The civil rights department processed over 90 incoming cases in 2011, ranging from employment discrimination to school bullying, law enforcement profiling and targeted government policies. For many of these people, CAIR-Philadelphia was their final refuge after long and difficult struggles. And that's what sets CAIR apart – to us, every individual is worth it. And through the struggles of single individuals, lasting change can occur.

The American Muslim community is at a cross roads. We must not waver, but rather we must choose to build institutions that will shape the future of American Muslim life, on our own terms and with confidence, knowing that our struggles are already contributing to the fabric of America. Thanks to your support, CAIR-Philadelphia is emerging as one of those institutions.



# Civil Rights

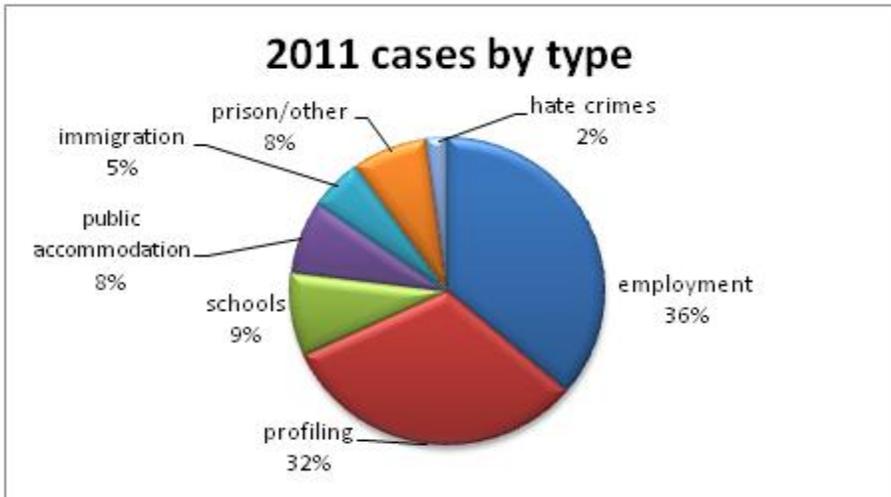
## Discrimination at the Hands of our Own Government and Public Institutions

After analyzing our 2011 intake data, one message is clear: most of the discrimination suffered by Pennsylvania Muslims comes from our own government. In 2011, 56% of our requests for legal assistance involved claims of discrimination by governmental entities.

This statistic includes cases in every area of law in which we practice, including: discrimination by public employers, harassment & bullying in public schools, misconduct by law enforcement and discrimination by governmental agencies which serve the public.

*“When anti-Muslim discrimination comes from a governmental entity, the government legitimizes anti-Muslim bias and discrimination and encourages anti-Muslim discrimination in the private sector,” says Civil Rights Director Amara S. Chaudhry. “Why would an individual perceive anti-Muslim conduct as wrong if the government supports it?”*

Because government discrimination is so prevalent, the Civil Rights Department is placing a high priority on cases in which Muslims suffer discrimination at the hands of our own government.



## 2011 Timeline of Events

- ❖ **Understanding Islam - Presentation**  
Doylestown Friends Meeting  
January 23<sup>rd</sup>
- ❖ **Stop FBI Entrapment of Muslims**  
Calvary Church  
January 25<sup>th</sup>
- ❖ **Muslim Youth Leadership Program**  
Foundation for Islamic Education  
January 30<sup>th</sup>
- ❖ **Inside Islam - Film Screening & Discussion**  
First Unitarian Church  
February 9<sup>th</sup>
- ❖ **Resistance to Oppression - Panel Disc.**  
Women’s International League for Peace & Freedom  
February 19<sup>th</sup>
- ❖ **Know Your Rights - Presentation**  
Muslim Association of Lehigh Valley  
February 19<sup>th</sup>
- ❖ **Jesus in the Islamic Tradition - Lecture**  
Lutheran Theological Seminary  
February 22<sup>nd</sup>



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## Muslim Youth and Public Schools

CAIR-Philadelphia continues to receive multiple complaints about bullying and harassment experienced by Muslim youth at public schools throughout Pennsylvania. The unlawful conduct is being perpetrated not only by students, but also by school faculty, administration, and staff. Unfortunately, many schools and school districts are aware of such situations and refuse to act.

The mistreatment suffered by Muslim students can, at times, appear insurmountable. In one recent school bullying case, CAIR-Philadelphia was contacted by a young woman who had experienced such extreme harassment by public high school faculty and staff that she was considering suicide – despite a strong faith which condemns suicidal thoughts or actions.

Another young man called us having suffered from verbal harassment, threats of violence, and physical violence at a public high school. His mental anguish escalated to the point that he began suffering physical symptoms of stress – including sleeplessness, depression, and nausea.

Fortunately, CAIR-Philadelphia has been able to provide some level of assistance to these students. We connected the suicidal young woman to appropriate mental health services and are happy to report that her health has dramatically improved. Also, we contacted the school and district where the young man attends school, and we will continue to remind these entities that they are legally required to ensure a safe educational environment for all Pennsylvania students – including Muslims.

The U.S. Department of Education has taken a strong position against school bullying and has issued specific guidance that Muslim students are protected from such bullying by the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Furthermore, the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act specifically prohibits religious discrimination in schools.

Due to the size and scope of this problem, we are working with the Philadelphia Bar Association, and area law firms, to create a network of cooperating attorneys to advocate on behalf of the Muslim community's most vital asset – our young people.





## 2011 Timeline of Events

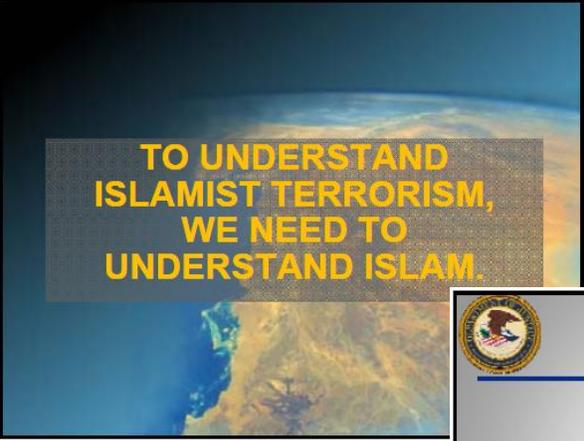
### Islamophobic Law Enforcement Training

Recent reports have uncovered a nationwide phenomenon of anti-Muslim law enforcement training. Accordingly, we are investigating the extent to which local, state, and federal law enforcement in Pennsylvania are utilizing Islamophobic rhetoric in their training programs. To date, we are in possession of a few examples of Islamophobic law enforcement trainings which can be tied to law enforcement agencies here in Pennsylvania.

Our concern is that such trainings indoctrinate law enforcement personnel with a deep-seated sense of fear, loathing, and disgust of Islam and Muslims and that these feelings cause them to misinterpret, misapply, and trample upon our constitutional rights.

CAIR-Philadelphia is investigating whether there are more examples of such blatant Islamophobia here in Pennsylvania. We will continue to report our results as we receive them.

- ❖ **Islam 101 - Lecture**  
Villanova University  
Political Science  
Department  
February 23<sup>rd</sup>
- ❖ **Muslim Youth Leadership Program**  
Islamic Society of Delaware  
March 6<sup>th</sup>
- ❖ **CAIR-Philadelphia Fifth Annual Banquet**  
Springfield Country Club  
March 12<sup>th</sup>
- ❖ **Understanding Islamophobia - Presentation**  
Masjid Mahdieh  
March 17<sup>th</sup>
- ❖ **Egypt and its Neighbors- Lecture**  
Grove United Methodist Church  
March 27<sup>th</sup>
- ❖ **Ten Years After 9/11 - Panel Discussion**  
South Asian Summit  
April 3<sup>rd</sup>
- ❖ **Understanding Islamophobia - Presentation**  
St. Joseph's University  
April 7<sup>th</sup>



**TO UNDERSTAND ISLAMIST TERRORISM, WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND ISLAM.**



US Attorney's Office  
John Marsh

Any Questions?

FBI Joint Terrorism TF  
Philadelphia, PA  
(215) 418-4000

SEND THE EDITOR A THANK-YOU CARD

THE NEW YORK TIMES  
LIES PROGRAM TRACKS  
TERRORIST FINANCES

John.E.Marsh@USDOJ.gov

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*Slides from a 132-slide PowerPoint presentation in which the central theme was that the root of terrorism is Islam itself. Presented to law enforcement in central Pennsylvania by an employee of the U.S. Attorney's Office of the Middle District of Pennsylvania.*



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## FBI Profiling

In 2011, CAIR-Philadelphia met with officials from the U.S. Attorney's Office in Philadelphia who assured us that the FBI office in Philadelphia does not engage in anti-Muslim profiling or otherwise discriminate against persons of Islamic identity. Regrettably, our own statistics paint a different picture.

In 2011, we received numerous complaints of anti-Muslim profiling by law enforcement – mostly against the FBI office in Philadelphia. CAIR-Philadelphia is submitting letters to the FBI notifying the relevant agent that an individual is represented by counsel and that we, as legal counsel, must be present during any interview proceeding.



## Muslim Federal Employees and “Foreign Influence”

CAIR-Philadelphia has learned that the United States Government has an official policy which indicates that federal employees can be denied promotions and other opportunities for job advancement simply because they have a friend, relative, or acquaintance in a Muslim-majority country. For federal employees, opportunities for job advancement are highly dependent upon the ability to obtain a requisite security clearance, and such clearances can be denied due to concerns over “foreign influence.”

What constitutes “foreign influence”? An employee can be deemed susceptible to “foreign influence” simply because they have “contact with a foreign family member, business or professional associate, friend, or other person who is a citizen or resident of a foreign country if that contact creates a heightened risk of foreign exploitation, inducement, manipulation, pressure, or coercion.”

CAIR-Philadelphia believes that this policy is being disproportionately applied against American Muslims. We have already voiced our concerns to the U.S. Department of Defense which provided us with a copy of this policy. We are also considering litigation.

# Challenging PA's Misguided Anti-Sharia Bill

By Civil Rights Director, Amara S. Chaudhry, Esq. | As published in *The Legal Intelligence*, April 4, 2012



Following the examples set by Tennessee, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas and Arizona, Pennsylvania is poised to pass its own “anti-Sharia” bill — House Bill 2029 (HB 2029), currently pending before the state House Judiciary Committee. The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) has led the effort to challenge the constitutionality of “anti-Sharia” bills as these are introduced throughout the country, and CAIR-Philadelphia has led the effort to challenge HB 2029 here in Pennsylvania.

More than 50 “anti-Sharia” bills have been introduced in 25 states based upon the model “American Laws for American Courts” (ALAC) legislation drafted by the American Public Policy Alliance (APPA). Because ALAC legislation raises significant constitutional concerns, most of these bills have died in committee without going to a vote. In the end, only five states have adopted the bills.

CAIR-Philadelphia’s greatest concern regarding HB 2029, and the larger ALAC movement, is the blatant infringement upon the Establishment Clause of the U.S. Constitution. The U.S. Supreme Court has held that the Establishment Clause prohibits any government action that either endorses, or disapproves of, a particular religion because such an action communicates a message that members of the disfavored religion are not full members of the political community.

It is difficult to deny that the intent of the ALAC movement was the official governmental disapproval of the Islamic faith. On its website, the APPA has asserted that the model legislation was created specifically to guard against “the infiltration and incursion of foreign laws and foreign legal doctrines, especially Islamic Shariah Law.” The APPA further asserted that the model ALAC legislation does not interfere with “Jewish law or Catholic Canon Law” because these religious laws do not pose the same threat to constitutional rights or public policy as “Islamic Sharia Law.”

Furthermore, CAIR has documented that David Yerushalmi, the purported author of the model ALAC legislation and the leader of Society of Americans for National Existence (SANE), has called for a “war against Islam” in a SANE “manifesto.” SANE has also called for making “adherence to Islam” a crime punishable by up to 20 years in prison. The group’s website is not publicly available.

Though the ALAC movement initially appears to target only Muslims, the movement draws its strength from more general nativist, xenophobic and anti-minority sentiment. The New York Times has reported that Yerushalmi has been quoted as saying that “most of the fundamental differences between the races are genetic” and that he’s railed against a politically correct culture that avoids open discussion of why “the founding fathers did not give women or black slaves the right to vote.” The Anti-Defamation League has quoted him as saying that African-Americans are a “relatively murderous race killing itself.” He has also been quoted by the ADL as saying that liberal Jews have “destroyed their host nations like a fatal parasite.”

The history of HB 2029 also demonstrates an intent to effectuate an official governmental disapproval of the Islamic faith. The strongest evidence that HB 2029 targets the Islamic faith is a June 14, 2011, co-sponsorship memorandum titled “American and Pennsylvania Laws for Pennsylvania Courts — Sharia Law.” The mere title of this memorandum reveals the bill’s primary purpose of targeting “Sharia law” — not all foreign laws. The memorandum continues to mention “Sharia law” multiple times throughout its text as something that is “foreign,” ominous and menacing. Copying, almost verbatim, the language used on the APPA website, State Representative RoseMarie Swanger, R-Lebanon, warns that “unfortunately, increasingly, foreign laws and legal doctrines — including and especially Sharia law — are finding their way into U.S. court cases.”

Most alarmingly, Swanger singles out Islam as the target of HB 2029 and specifically warns of “Sharia law, which is inherently hostile to our constitutional liberties.” Swanger, HB 2029’s sponsor, has asserted in the media that she did not authorize this memorandum. However, the memorandum is available on the General Assembly website and is part of the legislative record for HB 2029.

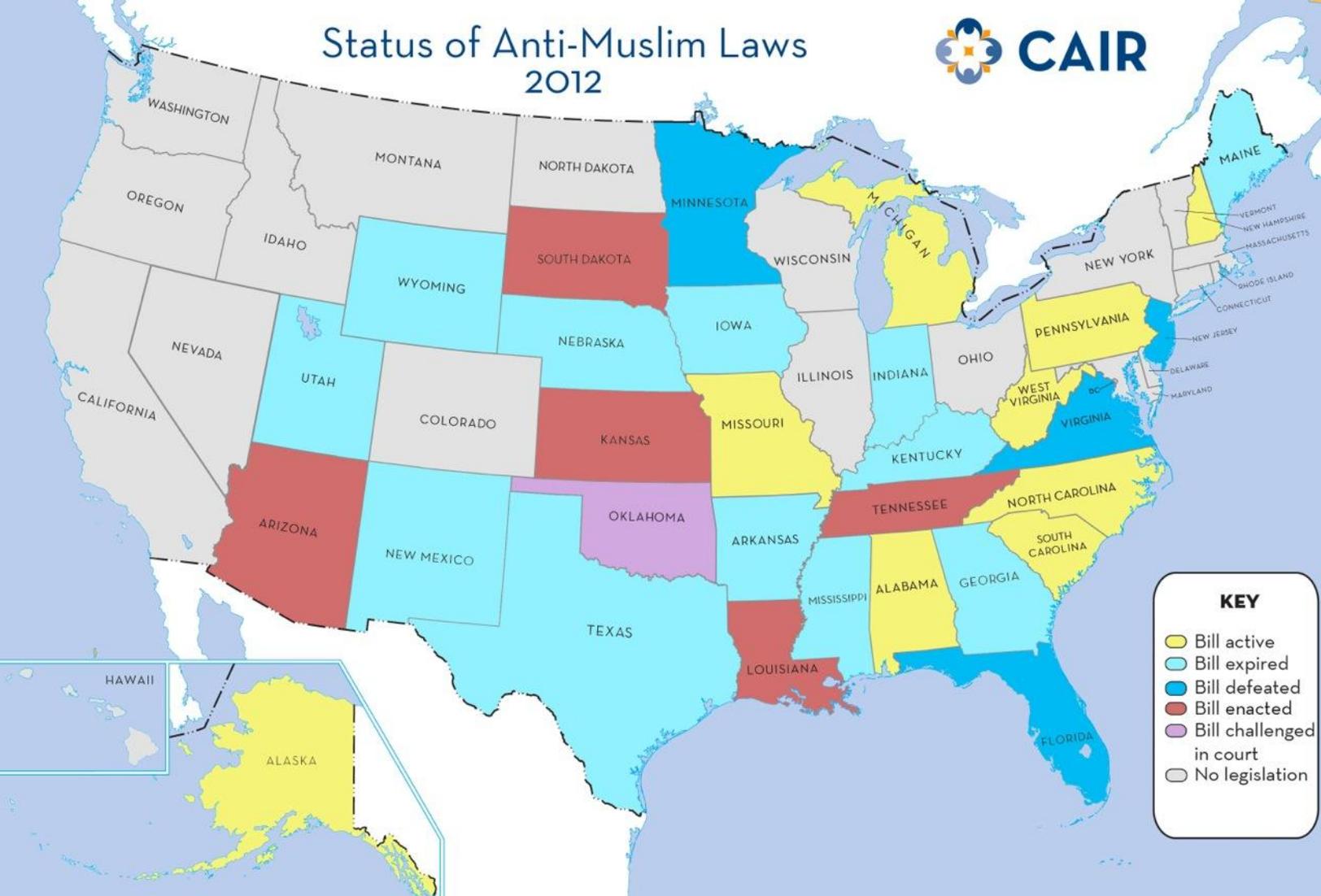
Given this context, it is not surprising that HB 2029 has generated negative attention. HB 2029 gained little media attention before CAIR-Philadelphia hosted a press conference concerning HB 2029 on Dec. 14, 2011. This press conference featured CAIR-Philadelphia’s civil rights director and staff attorney, Amara S. Chaudhry, the author of this article; Rabbi Linda Holtzman, senior rabbi of Philadelphia’s Mishkan Shalom synagogue; and Khalid Blankinship, director of graduate studies for Temple University’s Department of Religion. Following this press conference, HB 2029 has been discussed in media outlets including the Philadelphia Inquirer, CBS 3 Philadelphia and the Lehigh Valley’s Channel 69.

*Most alarmingly, Swanger singles out Islam as the target of HB 2029 and specifically warns of “Sharia law, which is inherently hostile to our constitutional liberties.”*

CAIR-Philadelphia has engaged in more direct advocacy as well. CAIR-Philadelphia submitted a letter requesting “an opportunity to be heard” with both chairs of the House Judiciary Committee, state Representative Ronald Marsico, R-Dauphin, (chair) and state Representative Thomas R. Caltagirone, D-Berks (minority chair). CAIR-Philadelphia also submitted a bound, tabbed, 62-page memorandum of law opposing HB 2029 to the Harrisburg office of each of the 25 members of the House Judiciary Committee.

Additionally, CAIR-Philadelphia and other organizations asked Philadelphia City Council to consider a resolution in opposition to HB 2029. City Council unanimously passed Resolution 120031 in opposition to HB 2029 under the leadership of Councilwoman Maria Quinones-Sanchez and Councilman Curtis Jones. Furthermore, CAIR-Philadelphia and CAIR-Pittsburgh encouraged Pittsburgh City Council to pass a similar resolution, and Pittsburgh City Council passed Resolution 163 opposing HB 2029 on March 6.

# Status of Anti-Muslim Laws 2012



In its national effort, CAIR’s position against ALAC has had support from legal organizations, the interfaith community, civil rights organizations and the federal court system. On a national scale, the American Bar Association passed Resolution 113A in opposition to all federal and state ALAC legislation. In Oklahoma, the Alaska Conference of Catholic Bishops submitted a letter in support of CAIR against ALAC legislation. In Oklahoma, the ACLU served as co-counsel to CAIR in litigation that has resulted in successive rulings in CAIR’s favor against ALAC.

The only courts that have considered the constitutionality of ALAC legislation have ruled in CAIR’s favor against ALAC. In a case in which CAIR-Oklahoma Executive Director Muneer Awad served as lead plaintiff, the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit upheld a lower court ruling that concluded that the Oklahoma ALAC bill, known as the “Save Our State Amendment” to the Oklahoma Constitution, created a “justiciable” Establishment Clause claim.

Proponents of ALAC legislation argue that ALAC legislation is necessary to prevent “Shariah law,” used as a reference to Islamic beliefs and practices, from circumventing the U.S. Constitution. However, the U.S. Supreme Court has repeatedly indicated that religion cannot be used as an excuse to circumvent generally applicable laws. For example, the U.S. Supreme Court has held that the Free Exercise Clause cannot be used to circumvent generally applicable criminal laws relating to bigamy (in *Reynolds v. United States*, 98 U.S. 145 (1878)) and ingestion of controlled substances (in *Employment Division v. Smith*,

494 U.S. 872 (1990)). The Free Exercise Clause cannot be used to circumvent laws designed for the protection of children (see *Prince v. Massachusetts*, 321 U.S. 158 (1944), relating to child labor laws), the regulation of business (see *Braunfeld v. Brown*, 366 U.S. 599 (1961), relating to Sunday closing laws), the payment of taxes (see *U.S. v. Lee*, 455 U.S. 252 (1982), relating to Social Security taxes), and issues involving national security and the regulation of the military, (see *Gillette v. United States*, 401 U.S. 437, 461 (1971), relating to registration with Selective Service).

In truth, ALAC proponents cannot credibly claim that their goal is to preserve the U.S. Constitution. Yerushalmi has expressed a legislative strategy aimed toward “avoiding the sticky problems of our First Amendment jurisprudence” by using “facially neutral” language in the plain text of the model legislation. Moreover, the APPA has criticized the drafters of the Oklahoma ALAC legislation on the basis that the drafters were not sufficiently skilled at drafting a bill that would survive these “sticky problems” of U.S. “First Amendment jurisprudence.”

*If HB 2029 is passed, CAIR-Philadelphia will immediately file a federal civil rights law suit challenging HB 2029 on constitutional grounds.*

However, HB 2029's arguably “facially neutral” language fails to insulate HB 2029 from the religious freedoms guaranteed by the Pennsylvania and federal constitutions. The U.S. Supreme Court has held that, in determining whether legislation was intended to target a particular religion, the court may consider all evidence of discriminatory intent and is not limited to the plain text of the legislation itself.

Moreover, HB 2029 creates a carveout exception for corporations, which, rather than insulating HB 2029 from constitutional scrutiny, makes the legislation more susceptible to constitutional challenge. The carveout exception for businesses demonstrates that HB 2029 is not targeted at all “foreign law,” as the plain text suggests, but instead is targeted only against “Shariah law,” as a moniker for the Islamic faith.

If HB 2029 is passed, CAIR-Philadelphia will immediately file a federal civil rights law suit challenging HB 2029 on constitutional grounds. In the meantime, CAIR-Philadelphia is educating the public about HB 2029 and the larger ALAC movement from which it hails.





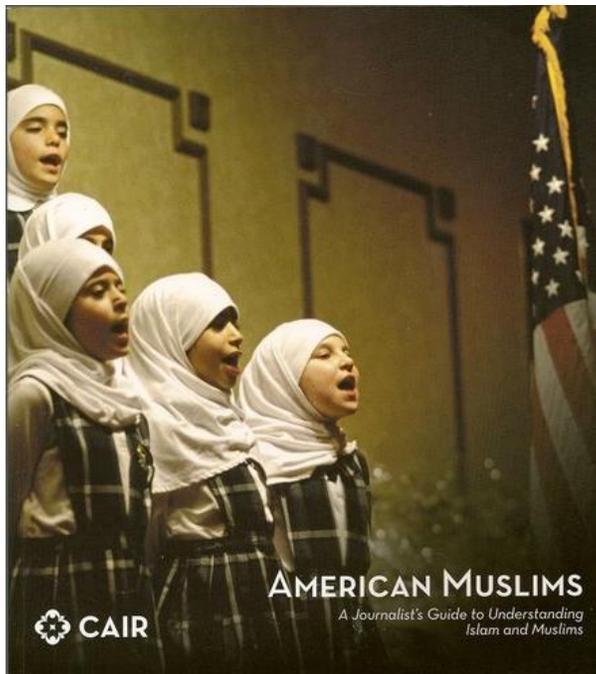
# Media Engagement

## Not Just Quotes, but a Go-To Resource for Media

Media engagement is not just answering the phone and giving a quote about a controversial issue whenever Islam or Muslims come up in the news. Rather it is building relationships and serving the media's needs so that journalists, columnists, producers and editors have a reliable source of information regarding Islam and Muslims.

Today, CAIR-Philadelphia is not only a reliable source, but the go-to organization for media requests concerning Muslims in the Delaware Valley and beyond. Whenever a Muslim opinion or statement is needed, CAIR-Philadelphia gets the call. Often, we connect the media professional to another Muslim leader or interviewee to assist with their report and tight deadline. In other cases, a reporter may need orienting around an issue, and CAIR-Philadelphia personnel are there to assist in whatever capacity.

For civil rights, interfaith, and other issues within CAIR's scope, CAIR-Philadelphia is on hand for interviews and to ensure that an accurate American Muslim perspective is represented in a news report. In 2011, CAIR-Philadelphia staff and board members appeared in over fifty media stories in newspapers, blogs, television and radio.



*Every year, CAIR-Philadelphia distributes several copies of 'A Journalist's Guide to Understanding Islam and Muslims', produced by CAIR-National*

## 2011 Timeline of Events

- ❖ **Our Legacy and Future Destiny**  
Islamic Cultural Preservation and Information Council  
April 16<sup>th</sup>
- ❖ **Women in Islam - Lecture**  
Osher Institute of Lifetime Learning  
April 21<sup>st</sup>
- ❖ **Muslim Youth Leadership Program**  
Association for Islamic Charitable Projects  
April 29<sup>th</sup>
- ❖ **Understanding Islamophobia - Presentation**  
University of Delaware MSA  
May 3<sup>rd</sup>
- ❖ **Ethics in Islam - Lecture**  
St. Thomas Episcopal Church  
May 15<sup>th</sup>
- ❖ **TSA: Patting Down Your Rights - Panel Discussion**  
Pennsylvania Bar Institute  
May 18<sup>th</sup>
- ❖ **Interfaith Walk for Peace & Reconciliation**  
City of Philadelphia  
May 22<sup>nd</sup>



“It is crucial that we do not waver but remain confident, empowered and resolute in continuing the push for a more just, equitable and tolerant America.”

-Osama Al-Qasem, *The Philadelphia Tribune*

“We’re here to explain that we’re Americans, too, and that Sept. 11 was a double whammy for us. It hit us as Americans and it hit our religion.”

-Sally Selim, *Philadelphia Daily News*



“We want to make employers and employees aware that, not only do these laws exist, but there are people willing to stand up and enforce these laws.”

-Amara S. Chaudhry, *ABC News*





## 2011 Timeline of Events

### Opinion Shaping and News Making

A key component of our media engagement strategy is to make news ourselves and pitch stories to news outlets. In 2011, CAIR-Philadelphia sent eleven press releases, prompting news outlets to cover Ramadan and Eid celebrations. CAIR also led the way in framing the American Muslim community's response to the elimination of Bin Laden and the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9/11.

Aside from the standard interview request, CAIR-Philadelphia staff also participated in radio debates with conservative talk show hosts - with the understanding that engagement must take place on both sides of the political aisle.

Finally, columns and op-eds are crucial to our proactive media strategy. Every year, CAIR-Philadelphia publishes at least two op-eds in major area newspapers. Op-eds serve as a platform to engage in conversations with our fellow citizens, to present American Muslim views, and to change attitudes about Islam and Muslims. Following the publication of an op-ed, our office receives many pieces of support mail and feedback, often from people of other faiths who have never met a Muslim.

- ❖ **Muslim Youth Leadership Program**  
Vorhees Islamic Center  
May 29<sup>th</sup>
- ❖ **Islam 101 - Lecture**  
Huntingdon Valley Rotary Club  
June 8<sup>th</sup>
- ❖ **Muslim Youth Leadership Program**  
Islamic Society of Chester County  
June 19<sup>th</sup>
- ❖ **Muslim Youth Leadership Program**  
Brothers and Sisters in Islam  
June 26<sup>th</sup>
- ❖ **Sharing Ramadan Iftars**  
Various Delaware Valley Mosques  
August
- ❖ **A Decade of Advocacy - Panel Discussion**  
Drexel Law School  
September 7<sup>th</sup>
- ❖ **Introduction to Islam and Muslims**  
Villanova University  
September 7<sup>th</sup>
- ❖ **Ten Years Later: The Aftermath of 9/11**  
World Affairs Council of Harrisburg  
September 10<sup>th</sup>



*'Lessons of Ramadan and 9/11,' published in The Philadelphia Inquirer on August 18, 2011*



# Muslim Youth Leadership Program

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Young Muslims are increasingly affected by Islamophobia and anti-Muslim bigotry. Whether it is a terrorist in an action-packed Hollywood film, a news headline of a criminal with a “Muslim sounding name” or the annual 9/11 school lesson highlighting that people from Muslim majority societies attacked our country. Youth are dealing with more challenges in middle and high school than just trying to belong; they are coping with bullying, teasing and harassment because of their religious identity. The psychological effects are devastating. In one of our cases, a Muslim high school student returned from school one day and told her parent that she no longer wanted to be Muslim.

As a community we must provide Muslim youth with proper tools to deal with contemporary issues that arise in school and in their local neighborhoods. CAIR-Philadelphia has taken the lead by designing a youth program specifically for Muslims that develops leadership skills, builds a healthy American Muslim identity and promotes activism in the larger society. The program produces confident, proactive citizens and leaders that are proud of their Muslim identity. CAIR-Philadelphia understands that the youth are our future and has made it a priority to invest in our future today.





## 2011 Timeline of Events

### Structure and Topics of the MYLP

Our Muslim Youth Leadership Program (MYLP) is comprised of small, mobile workshops held in mosques and community centers throughout the area, year-round. These two-hour workshops cover a variety of topics, including:

- ❖ Building a Positive, Healthy American Muslim Identity
- ❖ Standing up Against Injustice
- ❖ Dealing with Bullying and Harassment
- ❖ Learning about Civil Rights
- ❖ Understanding & Working with People of Other Faiths
- ❖ Media and Communications
- ❖ Challenging Islamophobia

Following these mobile workshops, CAIR-Philadelphia plans to hold annual, two-day symposiums for more in-depth training for students.

#### What are MYLP participants saying?

*"I like that fact that it [the workshop] was so interactive."*

*"It was very useful to learn what to do if someone tries to bully me."*

*"I liked the discussions. I really felt that I had a voice, and what I said was important."*

### Outcomes

By the end of 2011, over 300 Muslim students had participated in the MYLP. Following the workshops, students who experienced bullying or discrimination reported to CAIR-Philadelphia that they had the confidence and knowledge on how to address their situation. Furthermore, many students left feeling a greater sense of their rights and responsibilities as American Muslims.

- ❖ **Hands Across the Square: An Interfaith Remembrance of 9/11**  
Rittenhouse Square  
September 11<sup>th</sup>
- ❖ **Interfaith Youth Festival**  
New Covenant Campus  
September 24<sup>th</sup>
- ❖ **Introduction to Islam and Muslims**  
United Methodist Church of Germantown  
September 25<sup>th</sup>
- ❖ **Jesus in the Christian and Islamic Traditions - 10 part series**  
Various Churches  
September – October
- ❖ **Philadelphia Day of Dignity**  
First Unitarian Church of Philadelphia  
October 1<sup>st</sup>
- ❖ **State Dept. Meeting with Bulgarian Leaders**  
International Visitor's Council  
October 4<sup>th</sup>
- ❖ **Muslim Youth Leadership Program**  
Islamic Center of Reading  
October 8<sup>th</sup>



## Interfaith

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CAIR-Philadelphia partners with interfaith groups, churches, synagogues and other religious organizations in order to promote mutual understanding among people of all faiths while working towards common civic goals. Our interfaith coalition is also vital in helping to bring about public awareness of civil rights abuses. CAIR-Philadelphia attends regular meetings with faith-based organizations to ensure that Muslims are represented in city and state-wide events. Additionally, educational events are co-sponsored with interfaith partners and religious congregations that are dedicated to promoting mutual understanding. In 2011, CAIR-Philadelphia helped organize the Annual Interfaith Walk for Peace and Reconciliation, the Philadelphia Children's and Youth Interfaith Festival and Hands Across the Square: An Interfaith Remembrance of 9/11.



*CAIR-Philadelphia and community participants at Hands Across the Square*



## 2011 Timeline of Events

### Hands Across the Square: An Interfaith Remembrance of 9/11

Over 500 citizens of Philadelphia and the surrounding area joined CAIR-Philadelphia and 14 other Center City religious congregations and organizations to remember and commemorate the tenth anniversary of the 9/11 tragedy. The event began with people visiting tents sponsored by the organizations, enjoying free food and drinks and learning about other faiths.



The remembrance ended when all participants linked hands across Rittenhouse Square, observed a moment of silence, and a nearby carillon sounded its bells in memoriam. The event was a great display of peace, tolerance and acceptance on a day when national unity is imperative.

### Interfaith Walk for Peace and Reconciliation

The annual Interfaith Peace Walk is a walking demonstration of over 500 people of many faiths that visit different houses of worship, usually a church, mosque and synagogue. CAIR-Philadelphia is a sponsor of the event and a member of the planning committee.

The Interfaith Peace Walk was established as a response to enhance community relations after 9/11. The vision of the grassroots organization is “to nurture a transformative process of reflection, relationship-building and action among faith and secular groups working toward peace and justice through periodic dialogues about challenging issues, community service and ethnic groups experiencing intolerance.”

### Philadelphia Children’s and Youth Interfaith Festival

The festival is a two-day outdoor event for youth and their families to celebrate diverse faith traditions and for organizations to display community programs that enhance the minds and bodies of young people. In 2011, we launched our *Explore the Qur’an* program by distributing English translations of the Holy Qur’an to festival attendees.

- ❖ **Understanding Islamophobia - Presentation**  
Grove United Methodist Church  
October 16<sup>th</sup>
- ❖ **The Arab Spring - Lecture**  
Grove United Methodist Church  
October 23<sup>rd</sup>
- ❖ **The Role of Religion in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**  
Pennridge High School  
October 27<sup>th</sup>
- ❖ **Comparing the Shema to the Shahada**  
Or-Hadash Congregation  
November 13<sup>th</sup>
- ❖ **Muslim Youth Leadership Program**  
Zubaida Foundation  
Mosque  
November 20<sup>th</sup>
- ❖ **Interfaith Thanksgiving Eve Service**  
First Unitarian Church  
November 23<sup>rd</sup>
- ❖ **Muslim Youth Leadership Program**  
Islamic Society of Greater Valley Forge  
December 17<sup>th</sup>



## Education

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The majority of our events are educational presentations across the Delaware Valley. CAIR-Philadelphia is called upon by churches, universities, legal groups, various organizations, schools and government agencies on a regular basis to give lectures, participate on panel discussions and host dialogues. Along with the MYLP, education is a key component of our mosque programming. We deliver *Know Your Rights*, *Understanding Islamophobia* and customized workshops at mosques across the region. We also conduct introductory and advanced presentations on Islam and Muslims, comparative religion, and current issues facing American Muslims to a variety of interfaith audiences consistently throughout the year.

CAIR-Philadelphia also conducts regular presentations and meetings with international visitors from the U.S. State Department programs through our outreach partners. Many visitors come to the United States exploring issues of religious pluralism, interfaith and government relations.

Along with educational events, we serve as an advising organization for Muslim Voices of Philadelphia, a community media project led by Scribe Video Center that provides an opportunity for Muslim community groups to document the histories, practices and contributions of Muslims across the Philadelphia area.



*CAIR-Philadelphia executive committee member Iftekhar Hussain makes regular presentations about Islam and Muslims to interfaith audiences.*



## A National Institution

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CAIR includes nearly 30 chapters in major cities across America, over 75 paid staff and hundreds of board members, volunteers and interns. It is not only America's largest Muslim civil liberties and advocacy group, but America's largest Muslim organization by number of offices and domestic staff. It is a national institution in every sense of the word and its growth has been phenomenal over the last ten years. Of the 75 staffers across the country, 20 of them are civil rights attorneys, a critical mass of legal expertise the American Muslim community should be proud of. Over 20,000 people attend CAIR banquets across the country any given year. Indeed, the American Muslim community has spoken – it wants CAIR to be its advocacy organization and continues to invest in it.

CAIR-Philadelphia is able to tackle the enormous challenges of the anti-sharia movement, Islamophobic law enforcement trainings and the issues American Muslims face through the information and knowledge sharing that occurs across CAIR. This is a tremendous asset and strength. CAIR-Philadelphia is not alone in these struggles, but a part of a national team of experts and activists. Our swift response to the anti-sharia bill was made possible due to collaboration with CAIR-Oklahoma and CAIR-National in Washington D.C., for example. As CAIR continues to grow into a major American institution, CAIR-Philadelphia will become an even stronger advocate for Delaware Valley Muslims.



*CAIR chapters across the country*



# Operational Expenses & Projections

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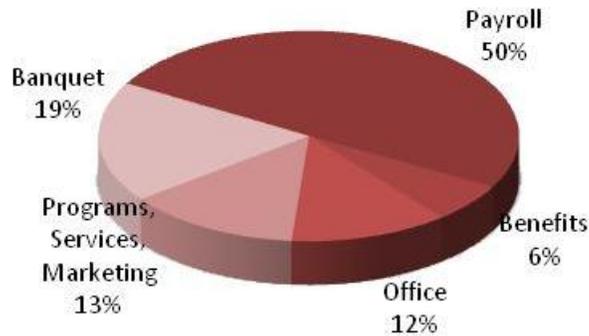
## 2011 Operational Expenses

### 2011 INCOME

Donations	\$ 226,748.00
Banquet ticket sales and ads	\$ 42,135.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 268,883.00</b>

### 2011 EXPENDITURES

Payroll	\$ 119,373.00
Benefits	\$ 14,561.00
Office rent and utilities	\$ 20,766.00
Office supplies and equipment	\$ 8,530.00
Programs, Services & Marketing	\$ 32,144.00
Annual banquet	\$ 44,727.00
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 240,101.00</b>



## 2012 Projected Expenditures

Payroll	\$ 150,000.00
Benefits	\$ 25,000.00
Office rent and utilities	\$ 20,000.00
Office supplies and equipment	\$ 8,000.00
Programs, Services & Marketing	\$ 32,000.00
Annual banquet	\$ 45,000.00
<b>Total Projected Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 280,000</b>



# How to Support Us

We are confident that you understand the importance of CAIR-Philadelphia and its ability to perform high quality work on behalf of the American Muslim community. But this work is only possible through the generous support of the community we serve. Grants and foundations are only supplemental - a community must first invest in itself and demonstrate its values. Let's have the ability to defend our own religious freedom and to shape our future on our own terms. This ability will only come through serious, long-term investment. All of our funding comes from Southeastern Pennsylvania and Delaware, it is 100% local, and we need your support. CAIR chapters across the country raise funds from the localities they serve and do not receive funds outside of their service area. Please consider making a tax-deductible, zakat-eligible donation today.

The executive committee of CAIR-Philadelphia prides itself on running the organization with the highest standards of non-profit governance. CAIR-Philadelphia is a recipient of the GuideStar Exchange Seal, a leading symbol of non-profit excellence. The Seal demonstrates our deep commitment to non-profit transparency and accountability, giving our donors assurance that their investment is used wisely.



Donors can view our annual reports, financial statements and other information, as well as make direct contributions through the GuideStar donation system via [guidestar.org](http://guidestar.org).

## Stay in Touch

- 1) Sign up for our mailing lists at [pa.cair.com](http://pa.cair.com) and explore our website
- 2) Invite CAIR-Philadelphia to make a presentation at your mosque or community group, attend our annual banquet and other numerous events
- 3) Follow us on Facebook, like our page at [facebook.com/CAIRPhilly](https://facebook.com/CAIRPhilly)

## Donate Generously

- 1) Empower American Muslims and invest in CAIR-Philadelphia by signing up for the dollar-a-day program
- 2) Make a general donation and commit to that amount monthly or annually
- 3) Invite your friends to contribute to CAIR-Philadelphia and tell them why you do

*CAIR-Philadelphia is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, non-profit organization (Tax ID 542174614). Your donations are tax-deductible and zakat-eligible.*



# Board and Staff

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## CAIR-Philadelphia Executive Committee



**Sally Selim**  
*President*



**Monika Nagpal**  
*Vice President*



**Osama Al-Qasem**  
*Fundraising Chair*



**Kareem Ali**  
*Treasurer*



**Fatu Badiane**  
*Secretary*



**Nivine Rihawi**  
*Banquet Chair*



**Carlin Saafir**  
*Community Outreach Chair*



**Iftekhhar Hussain**  
*Fundraising and Development*



**Tarik Selim**  
*Interfaith Outreach*



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### CAIR-Philadelphia Staff



**Moein Khawaja**  
*Executive Director*



**Amara Chaudhry, Esq.**  
*Civil Rights Director & Staff Attorney*



**Rugiatu Conteh**  
*Outreach & Communications Director*



**Leena Jaffer**  
*Operations Coordinator*

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