

Back in May 2012, I sent my passport to the US State Department for renewal. To my surprise, the application was rejected because my photograph in which I wore a headscarf which and I quote "obscured my hair line".

I contacted CAIR's Director of Civil Rights Ms. Amara Chaudhry seeking her assistance in this matter. Ms. Chaudhry promptly prepared a letter on my behalf where she was diplomatically firm. She referred to their guidelines for wearing head gears for religious reasons. Ms. Chaudhry concluded her letter by stating that she will represent my interest should there be an issue.

Based on her letter, my application was accepted with my initial photograph and the passport was renewed.

I would like to express my appreciation to Ms. Chaudhry for her assistance in this matter. Without that, I am sure my passport renewal would have taken a long time to resolve since I was not sure how to respond to their letter rejecting my application.

Sincerely

Manal Shurafa