



CAIR PITTSBURGH NEWS

COUNCIL ON AMERICAN-ISLAMIC RELATIONS -
IN THE NAME OF GOD, THE MERCIFUL, THE COMPASSIONATE

NOV 2017

HADITH

***The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said:
 "If you are put in a position of authority ... fear God and act with justice."***

From the President

Assalam Alaikum,

On behalf of the entire CAIR Board and Staff, I want to thank the Pittsburgh Muslim Community for an exceptionally good Annual Banquet held on September 23, 2017. Our young presenters were very well received, the Executive Director of CAIR-PA Jacob Bender gave us some good points to consider, in addition to being funny, and our Chief Guest Gold Star parent Khizr Khan had sage advice for our Community to become active and visible at all levels in society. The Banquet matched our best attendance from years past. The banquet committee and volunteers were excellent and highly appreciated.



The social upheaval unleashed by the 2016 National elections, that threatens to reverse over a century of progress and civilizational development in America, is now facing a growing resistance. All minority groups, effected by reinvigorated prejudices and bigotry, are organizing and getting their voices heard in the public square. It is incumbent upon us to support these struggles, as our own struggle is now joined by many others; some new and some centuries old. Our CAIR chapter needs and looks forward to a greater participation from our resourceful Community members; who can contribute either their Time, Talent, or Treasure (the three Ts). We have faced unprecedented requests for legal services this year, for which we are still striving to meet our fundraising target for 2017; and I again ask for your help in meeting our fundraising shortfall of \$30K.

By the grace of Allah, CAIR continues to advocate for the civil rights of Muslims, fight Islamophobia, promote dialogue and understanding between Muslims and other faiths, and improve the relations of our minority community with mainstream America. The support and contributions from our local Community is precious and held in high esteem by all of us at the CAIR Pittsburgh Board.

Wassalam
 Safdar Khwaja
 President
 CAIR Pittsburgh Chapter

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 Safdar Khwaja

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 (Vacant)

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 Noor Un Nahar

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Communications Coordinator
 Zohra Lasania

**To join our mailing list or
 file a civil rights complaint,
 reach us at:
 cair.pittsburgh@gmail.com
 Phone: 412 606 3601**

Mail your donations to :

**CAIR PA Pittsburgh Chapter
 801 Negley Avenue
 Pittsburgh, PA 15206**

Round-up

Assalam Alaikum,

The first verse of the first chapter of Qur'an begins with the word Alhamdulillah meaning all praise and thanks be to Allah. And we repeat this verse throughout the day in our prayers. Reflecting on this verse in our everyday life and more so today on this Thanksgiving Day, we know that we have much to be thankful for.

First of all, as Br. Safdar mentioned we are thankful for the support from our community and the success of our recent banquet. But today I want to take this opportunity to convey our special thanks to all the public and vocal support we received from our allies in the city. The day we gathered for the No Ban No Wall rally after the elections, proved that Muslims are not alone in the fight for justice, that our city folks will stand with us in this fight. Voices have the power to bring about changes. We are thankful to JVP, Bend The Arc, Thomas Merton Center, PIIN, PCHR, ACLU to name a few. And of course we cannot forget to thank our mayor who has openly declared Pittsburgh as a welcoming city, and has acknowledges that Pittsburgh was built by immigrants. In addition we have received constant calls of support from neighbors and peace-loving people who are repulsed by Trump's divisive rhetoric and genuinely expressed their wish to help us. It is Allah's Grace alone that immediately after the new administration took over our allies came forward with proposals to hold panel discussions, bystander intervention training, not to forget the attorneys in town who came forward to help us with cases on pro-bono basis in spite of their busy schedules. We are thankful to all of them.

Our special thanks also goes to Attorney Sara Burhan and Professor Haider Hamoudi for conducting Know Your Rights workshop on Immigration topics at Indiana PA and at ICP, Pittsburgh, which was the need of the hour in the face of Travel Ban Executive Orders released by Trump, one after another targeted and directed specifically at Muslims. Attorney Sara Burhan has also volunteered to help us with cases.

Since then, we have had civil rights violation cases coming in at a higher frequency, and recorded hate incidents, in the city, which had not existed before. To add to that we have had bullying incidents in schools, and brothers in the community facing FBI visits.

Our chapter is equipped with one sole staff member, dedicated to CAIR work, and we are fortunate to have dedicated board members, but none of us are attorneys. So under those circumstances when civil rights cases come in, we've had to rely upon referring our cases to



outside attorneys, (for which most oftentimes we pay), or we refer the case to the Philadelphia chapter staff attorney.

Our chapter requires funds for this endeavor, in order to serve our community with legal support, and our recent fundraising banquet was done with that in mind. Unfortunately we did not meet our goals.

In the past year and a half, our chapter had been really busy. Pre-election, we were invited by colleges in the city for talks on Islamophobia, then we did rounds of Know Your Rights workshops in different masajids in the city, and our volunteers came forward to help in the Get Out the Vote phone calls. Post election, we organized panel talks, organized a Bystander Intervention training, Ramadan Iftar sharing with neighbors and friends of all faiths, participated in rallies and gave radio and TV interviews. Our board and staff had been busy.

In the coming months, we have plan to screen Jacob Bender's award-winning movie, "Out of Cordoba." We also have in the pipeline, a panel discussion focusing on community services from Islam and Jewish religious traditions; and media and civic engagement trainings for our community members. The dates will be announced soon. Please stay tuned for updates.

As Br. Jacob Bender in his speech said, "This abundance of activity is only possible, however, because of the donations of people like yourselves all across the country. So please become involved and help CAIR-Pittsburg grow. You will not only be fulfilling the obligation to protect the UMMAH, the Muslim community, but helping to insure that your children will grow up as proud Muslims in an America committed to the notion that all human beings are equal in the eyes of their Creator, endowed with the rights of liberty and religious freedom, and secure in the belief that the United States of America is their country too."

We at CAIR Pittsburgh, board and staff, wish you a very happy Thanksgiving, and are thankful to all our volunteers. Our work would not be complete without them. We are positive that InshaAllah, this great community will come forward to help us reach our goal of affording legal help for our community, so please do not hesitate to voluntarily contribute for this good cause. InshaAllah.

Jazakallahu Khairan.
Zohra Lasania.

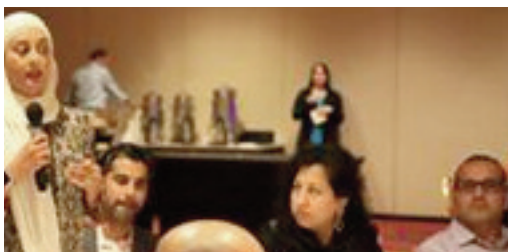
Please visit Few of a Kind Store and support the Muslim Women's Shelter in Pittsburgh



Classes held at the store:



Banquet 2017 - Photo Gallery



Know Your Rights

With increase in FBI visits to homes, we have had cases where brothers and sisters in the community talk to the FBI and answer their questions, invite them into the house, even offer them tea, and only after that call CAIR office. Please know that in such a scenario, the damage has already been done. Please know that you have rights, and you must exercise your rights to protect yourself in these trying times.

3 simple steps to take if you are contacted by FBI

- 1. Tell the FBI agents: "I don't want to speak with you without my lawyer. Please give me your business card (or if on the phone, "your full name, job title, and phone number") and my lawyer will contact you."**
- 2. Take the agents' business cards (or if on the phone, take their full name, job title, and phone number), and just end the conversation by saying, "Thank you. My lawyer will contact you. Good bye." (do not let them enter your home or business unless they have a warrant signed by a judge.)**
- 3. Call CAIR-Pittsburgh at 412 606 3601. We will then connect you with a lawyer free of charge so the lawyer can contact the FBI agent on your behalf to make sure your rights are protected and so you don't have to answer inappropriate questions.**

Do not make any promises. According to the law, law enforcement agents have the right to lie to you but it is a crime for you as a civilian to lie to law enforcement. The agents might lie to you and tell you, "You do not need a lawyer," or "are you trying to hide something?" or "having a lawyer will make things worse." These are all scare tactics. Do not let the agent pressure you into speaking with him/her without a lawyer. Simply repeat, if needed, "I do not want to speak with you without my lawyer. My lawyer will contact you. Goodbye."

As always, if you have any concerns or questions, please call us at 412 606 3601. Your Civil Rights is our primary concern. Remember, all of CAIR-Pittsburgh's civil rights services are confidential.

ABOUT CAIR

CAIR is America's largest Muslim civil liberties and advocacy organization with over 35 chapters nationwide and in Canada. Its mission is to enhance the understanding of Islam, encourage dialogue, protect civil liberties, empower American Muslims, and build coalitions that promote justice and mutual understanding

El objetivo del CAIR es lograr que se respeten los derechos de las personas y que se alcance un entendimiento mutuo, al mismo tiempo que se fomenta el diálogo constructivo, la justicia y la comprensión social.

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