

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 wish to offer the best New Year wishes to our Community.

Our CAIR Chapter continues its advocacy during the 'culture wars' unleashed by the 2016 National elections, and participating in causes that are intersectional. All minority groups, effected by reinvigorated prejudices and bigotry, are delivering their messages in the political sphere. We are in support of these struggles, since their root causes are similar. While the talk from the President is "equal treatment for all Americans", the reality is that civil rights are being eroded by every decision taken by this administration.

Enabled by generous donations from our Community, we continue to handle requests for legal assistance this year, with a record number of open cases. These cases range from workplace bullying and discrimination, excessive enforcement at schools, neighborhood harassment, to speculative harassment by Investigation agencies. We believe in upholding the rights of such marginalized people, and are encouraged by your support and participation in this effort.

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 from our Pittsburgh Community is precious and held in high regard by all of us at the CAIR Pittsburgh Board.

Wassalam
Safdar Khwaja
President, CAIR Pittsburgh Chapter

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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

Greetings to our community.

Our Board members and staff are always looking for opportunities to improve the relationship of our Community with people of all faiths, so we can co-exist harmoniously. In this endeavor, support from our Community and our allies makes our work much more effective.

Our work includes building coalitions with allies in the City who share a common platform: PIIN's immigration task force, Bend the Arc, the ACLU, PCHR, One PA, and are some of them.

On the civil rights front, we utilize assistance from CAIR-PA lawyer located in Philadelphia, plus we are able to utilize the services of our network of local civil rights lawyers. Alhamdulillah, this has been effective in handling local cases, enabled by financial support from our donor Community.

Civil rights violation cases cover a broad range. Following are significant recent samples:

A family was harassed by a bullying neighbor, and it came to physical harm. Our chapter was able to help with legal resources.

A high school kid was subjected to a nightmarish experience when he triggered a metal detector at school entrance gate. He was handcuffed and blindfolded, and treated like an adult criminal. Our chapter's help

was sought in this legal matter.

A sister was fired from her job, after a lot of dramatized harassment, with no documented reason, despite her long and recognized career. CAIR Pittsburgh provided her a high profile civil rights attorney.

A brother had speculative FBI visits, and an attorney was provided to him.

Another brother was confronted with hateful slurs written in his copy of the Quran at work place, and our CAIR-PA attorney is assisting.

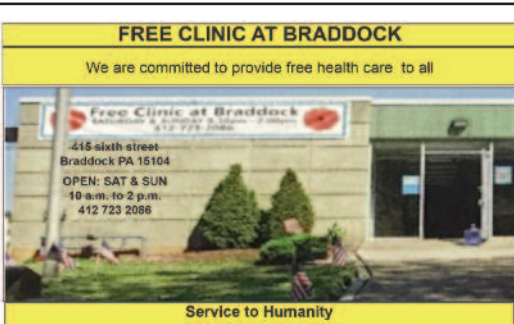
We are planning educational workshops for our Community. Media Training slated for March 10 will benefit everyone including our young members. We envisage every member of our community to be able to speak comfortably to the media. (Info on page 7). Remember to register early for limited seats.

Our chapter benefits from the great work of other chapters and CAIR National. CAIR is proud to serve Muslims in the U.S. In 2017 five new chapters were added: Austin, TX, Colorado, Oregon, Kentucky and West Virginia. There are now 35 chapters in USA and Canada. Recently CAIR National conducted leadership training in Wash, DC. for all chapter leaders, and it was a great learning experience. With that said, we hope to see you at our forthcoming events.

Jazakallahu Khairan.

Zohra Lasania

Free Clinic at Braddock



AN APPEAL

Free Clinic is the vision of the Muslim Community of Greater Pittsburgh area and this became a reality in 2011. Since then our volunteer physicians are serving the community. We provide vaccinations and do basic lab testing for free. Patients are seen from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday and Sundays. Your commitment would be highly appreciated. We encourage monthly commitments by direct debit from bank or credit card. Your donation is tax exempt, and zakat eligible. Tax ID - 20-2984138. We appreciate your ongoing support for this noble cause.

Contact:
 Anas Jilil - 412 328 4152
 Tariq Ali - 412 961 8326
 Adnan Qayyum - 412 378 1010
 Akas Shabbir - 412 708 1517
 Ahmad Moos - 412 491 4156
 Khalid Ajmal - 412 417 5281

Personal Information		Payment Information	
NAME:		ACH/Direct Deposit: (create a voided check or provide a routing and checking account number)	
ADDRESS:		Routing:	
CITY:		Checking Account #:	
STATE:		CREDIT CARD:	
ZIP:		Name on Card:	
E-MAIL:		Card #:	
CELL:		Expiry (MM/YY):	

Mail checks payable to Free Clinic at Braddock
 Address: c/o Anas Jilil, 1543 Parkview Blvd, Pittsburgh PA 15217 (Tax ID - 20-2984138)

Community members are requested to support Free Clinic at Braddock managed by Muslim Physicians of Pittsburgh. This is a noble cause serving humanity in keeping with our Islamic teachings. Please donate or give your time to volunteer, and may Allah reward you for your generous support.
Jazakallahu Khairan

Events



CAIR Pittsburgh Board President, Safdar Khwaja and Rev. Al Lingo pictured Thursday, February 8 at the PIIN Meeting. Rev. Al Lingo spoke about his role in protesting the hotel restaurant's refusal to seat Dr. King in the 1960s. Zohra Lasania also attended the meeting.

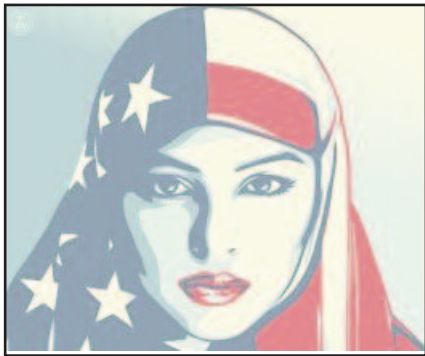
Pics on Right: On Friday, February 9 at MCCGP, CAIR Pittsburgh organized an educational yet fun Jeopardy game during MCCGP's monthly family night dinner. The game had a total of four participants who competed in various rounds testing their knowledge about basic U.S. citizen civil rights and trivia about CAIR. The game was received well by the audience.



Pics below: On Saturday, February 10 at Barack Obama Academy's International Festival, CAIR Pittsburgh along with the Muslim community displayed two Muslim country tables and one CAIR Pittsburgh table. Sis Bouchra was in charge of the the Morocco table and Sis Firdousi and Sis Maimoona were in charge of the Nigeria table which showcased the social, cultural, and geographic information, while the CAIR Pittsburgh table displayed CAIR and Islamic literature.



Community Advisory:



Muslim sisters in hijabs are frequently subjected to bigoted religious and racial slurs. At CAIR Pittsburgh we receive reports of such hate regularly. Some sisters prefer to ignore and walk away, to avoid escalation. But some sisters handle it well with a response that could educate the attacker.

We received one such report from a hijab wearing Muslimah who was at a Dollar General store check-out line. Consider that this sister is a native born American, and does not even look like an “immigrant”. A bigoted lady standing behind her got impatient and uttered a nasty remark about her hijab and asked her to go back to her country.

Our Muslimah, remained calm, and replied: “Maam, it is you who needs to get out of this country, because it seems you do not understand the rights of people in this country.” And she explained - “I am American born and raised here, and my country gives me the right to practice my religion. If you did not accept this, then you do not have a right to stay here. And you need to go back to where your ancestors came from. Your ancestors were immigrants themselves.”

Fortunately for our Muslimah, the manager of the store intervened, and apologized to her for the incident and walked the hate-spewing lady out the door.

We commend this sister for standing up for her rights, and giving a befitting reply in the face of bigotry and hate.

Our reminder to all Muslims, that if you are confronted with such a scenario, always remember your rights in this country under the Constitution of the United States; religious practice is guaranteed by the First Amendment to the Constitution, and protected further by the Civil Rights Act.

Also remember that this country was built by immigrants. So being an immigrant is normal.

And always remember to report such incidents to CAIR Pittsburgh at -
412-606-3601

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.

Joy to the world: Jesus is a celebrated prophet in Islam, too, peace be upon him

This article appeared in Pittsburgh Post-Gazette on Dec 20, 2017:

Joy to the world: Jesus is a celebrated prophet in Islam, too, peace be upon him

By: Safdar Khwaja

The Christmas season brings lights, cheer and charity across America and prayerful celebration of the Christian savior's birth in churches across the world. Greeting cards proclaim "Joy to the World," though people might wonder just how to spread joy.

Christian Americans also might wonder how non-Christians perceive the festive Christmas season — particularly Muslims, given all the controversy about them that's been stirred up in recent election cycles.

It may come as a surprise to many people that Muhammad, peace be upon him (pbuh), recognized Jesus (pbuh) as the promised final leader for mankind. As recorded in multiple Hadith (sayings of the Prophet) (Bukhari, Vol. 3, Book 34, No. 425 et seq.), "... Jesus (pbuh) son of Mary, will descend amongst you as a just ruler, kill the anti-christ, and abolish unfavorable practices. Money will become in abundance so that no one will accept it as charity."

This significant Hadith is neither unique nor an isolated forecast in Islam. As the youngest of the three major Abrahamic faiths, Islam recognizes all of the revelations and commandments of a singular God (Eloh in Hebrew, Alah in Aramaic, Ilah in Arabic, Allah as "the-God" in Arabic), as a continuum of God's messages. The Scrolls (Abraham, pbuh), Torah (Moses, pbuh), Psalms (David, pbuh), Gospels (Jesus, pbuh), and Quran (Muhammad, pbuh), are all recognized as of divine origin and included in the faith of Islam.

Quran 2:136: "Say: (Oh Believers) 'We believe in God and in what was sent down to us and what was sent down to Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, and the Tribes, and what was given to Moses, Jesus, and all the prophets by their Lord. We make no distinction between any of them, and we devote ourselves to Him (God).'

"

Followers of these divine revelations are recognized as "People of the Book," with marriages allowed among them, which has led "mixed" families over the centuries to develop close relationships.

Jesus is mentioned 25 times in the Quran in many contexts, including as a messenger of God, as the Messiah, as the "word" and "sign" of God, as endowed with healing miracles, as ascending into heaven, as promising to return.

The Quran mentions the virgin birth of Jesus many times. He is the only prophet who is mentioned along with his mother. The Quran's chapter 19 is dedicated to Mary (Maryam), who holds a singularly exalted place in Islam, being the only woman named in the Quran. She is referred to 70 times in multiple chapters, and she explicitly is identified as the greatest of all women.

To Muslims in America, celebration of the life of Jesus and acts of charity during the Christmas season are very similar to their own traditions. The two major Muslim celebrations, or Eids, feature charity, prayers and festivities. They occur following the month of fasting (Ramadan) and at the commemoration of Abraham's (pbuh) commitment to personal sacrifice. Celebrations such as Christmas and Eid are meant to renew the foundations of our beliefs.

Sadly, we see anxiety and suspicion between Christians and Muslims, which are politically inspired and cause us to overlook our shared heritage. If we were true to the teachings of our faiths, we would see that the values we collectively cherish are rooted in a common history. Such a realization could become the basis for cooperation, for friendship, for truly spreading "Joy to the World."

Humanity has massive challenges to overcome; disease, poverty, hunger, ignorance, war, the list goes on. These challenges require a new paradigm of collaboration among people of all faiths, or no faith, from the local to the global level.

Interfaith dialogue is growing here in Pittsburgh, but participation remains sparse. In our "home of the brave," we need more brave souls who are willing to listen to the narratives of people who are very different from themselves.

Here is my wish for this holy, festive season:

May our leaders be brave. May they employ their energies and talents toward bringing us together rather than driving us apart. May they help us solve the intractable problems we face by harnessing our common values and humanity. May this spirit of cooperation bring us joy.

(Safdar Khwaja is president of the Pittsburgh chapter of the Council on American Islamic Relations, the largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization in the United States.)

Chilling affect of Trump's Travel Ban

Days after coming to America, Aden Hassan's life fell apart.

Hassan, 25, a Somali native who had been living in a Kenyan refugee camp, didn't want to leave his mother when he left the camp on Jan. 20, 2017 to be resettled in Columbus, but he was assured she would be days behind him. He couldn't have known that the country where he was going was changing, and that just a week after Hassan arrived in the United States, new President Donald Trump would announce an executive order that would change Hassan's life.

The order, issued on Jan. 27, 2017, is commonly referred to as a "Muslim travel ban" because it suspended people from seven countries, including Somalia, from entering the United States for 90 days and stopped the refugee program for 120 days. Now, more than a year later, Hassan's mother still hasn't been able to come to the country and he has no idea when to expect her. (GateHouse Media Ohio)

Muslim Storefront Encourages Women To Be Entrepreneurs

A new retail storefront is the latest effort by the Muslim Women's Association of Pittsburgh to empower women and support its mission.

The association opened a Muslim women and children's shelter three years ago, and helped finance it through the sale handmade goods like knit ware, quilts and pottery. Now, they're selling those items at the FEW OF A KIND store, which opened in Oakland in September.

Executive Director Sarah Martin said her organization sees their faith as being one which empowers women.

"Muslim women, since the days of the Prophet, have been encouraged to be educated, to work, and to be producers, and so we're keeping a long line of traditional Islamic values," said Martin.

The organization also provides classes for women to work on leadership and financial skills.

"We encourage women to be entrepreneurs and we provide a space where they can bring their goods and develop concepts for small business," said Martin. The store, located at Craig Street and Centre Avenue, also serves as a Muslim bookstore, and interfaith community space for lectures and classes. (Pittsburgh Post-Gazette)



Congressman Tim Ryan Condemns Deportation Order

Youngstown, Ohio -- Congressman Tim Ryan released the following statement condemning the Trump Administration's deportation order of Youngstown businessman Amer Othman.

"The case of Amer Othman is a tragic illustration of the abject failure of our immigration system and why it must be fixed. Amer has lived in this country since the age of 19, is happily married with four children, and is a successful local business owner. He is contributing mightily to Youngstown and our country. He does not deserve to be deported, and I am proud to have introduced a bill that, for a time, prevented his deportation. It was a long-standing policy at the Department of Homeland Security not to deport people who are the subject of introduced legislation. The Trump Administration's decision to ignore this policy is what led to Amer's deportation order. Amer's wife, his children, and the entire community of people who care about him deserve better. This a disgrace and only worsens our already broken immigration system," said Congressman Ryan. Since 2013, Tim Ryan has introduced legislation (termed a "private bill") that prevents the deportation of Amer Othman and grants him legal status. Although those bills did not yet become law, the Department of Homeland Security has had a policy of not deporting people who are the subjects of pending legislation.

CAIR Wins Another Legal Challenge to Trump's 'Muslim Ban 3.0'

The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), the nation's largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization, today announced a win in a federal lawsuit on behalf of six individuals challenging the lawfulness of President Trump's "Muslim ban 3.0."

A panel of 13 judges on the U.S. Court of Appeal for the Fourth Circuit in Richmond Va., today declared Trump's Muslim ban illegal and unconstitutional.

In its ruling against the Trump administration, the court concluded that "the Proclamation [Muslim Ban 3.0] is unconstitutionally tainted with animus toward Islam."

The court went on to state that the Muslim ban violated the First Amendment's Establishment Clause because the primary purpose of the ban is "to exclude Muslims from the United States."

The Fourth Circuit recognized the great harm endured by those affected by the Muslim ban: "Prolonged and indefinite separation of parents, children, siblings, and partners create not only temporary feelings of anxiety but also lasting strains on the most basic human relationships cultivated through shared time and experience."

Upcoming events



**CAIR
PITTSBURGH
PRESENTS**

MEDIA TRAINING

FOR COMMUNITY LEADERS & ACTIVISTS

SAT. REGISTER TODAY
<https://tinyurl.com/RegisterPittsburgh>
 For more info: 412-606-3601

MARCH 10, 2018
9:30 AM-2 PM
 Islamic Center of Pittsburgh
 4100 Bigelow Blvd.
 Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Sound Vision is bringing its Media Workshop to Pittsburgh. It will provide you with the tools to understand the ins and outs of how the media works and train participants in how to become effective spokespersons for your community.

THE TRAINER:
 For 29 years Dr. Mohammad Ahmadullah Siddiqi has taught at the Western Illinois University and served as chair of the media and public relations department. He has conducted public relations and media workshops in more than 100 cities across the US & 35 countries in Europe, Africa, and Asia. Dr. Siddiqi has authored several books. His most recent book is Islam, Muslims and Media: Myths and Realities.

Sound Vision
helping tomorrow's Muslims today!

RadioIslam MuslimFest
www.SoundVision.com
 SoundVisionFoundation

Media Training Pittsburgh.indd 4

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**Save
the
Date**

Civic Engagement Training

March 17, 2018.

Please stay tuned for more info

Muslim Capitol Day

April 24, 2018

More info to follow

Responding to the Rohingya Crisis

Background

The Rohingya are an ethnic minority of the Rakhine State of Burma. Before July 2017 they were estimated at 1.1 million in population, when Burmese Security Forces began engaging in systematic rape, shooting of citizens (including children), and burning of villages. UN Ambassador Nikki Haley described the situation as a "brutal, sustained campaign to cleanse the country of an ethnic minority," and called on members to suspend weapons provisions.

According to a New York Times report, this violent persecution drove 650,000 Rohingya to flee to neighboring Bangladesh. Along the way they face targeted landmines and upon reaching Bangladesh they found themselves in extremely overcrowded refugee camps. Living on top of mountains, they face major health and security concerns and threats of monsoons, cyclones and floods and without opportunities for school or work.

Engage Action is asking Congress and the Trump Administration to sanction the Burmese military and government as a clear signal that this breach against humanity cannot be tolerated. We ask that you:

Co-sponsor The Burma Unified Through Rigorous Military Accountability Act (H.R.4223). This bi-partisan bill will:

Implement targeted sanctions against Burmese military officials responsible for the atrocities in Rakhine State and other regions of Burma.

Effectively prohibit U.S. military-to-military cooperation with Burma's army.

Mandate the U.S. government to take steps to help end the repression and violence against the Rohingya and other ethnic peoples of Burma, including the Karen, Shan, and the Kachin.

Facilitate continued U.S. humanitarian assistance to affected people.

Co-sponsor H.Res. 528 which condemns the horrific acts of violence against Burma's Rohingya population and calls on Aung San Suu Kyi to play an active role in ending this humanitarian tragedy.

Urge President Trump to reinstate executive orders that imposed economic sanctions on Burma that were terminated by President Obama in 2016.

Here is what you can do:

1. Call Congress Switchboard (202) 224-3121 and ask to be connected to your Congressional representative or look up your Senator and Representative at www.GovTrack.us/Congress
2. Ask them to strengthen both S Bill. 2060 and H.Bill 4223.

We must get our Senators and Representatives to support both bills. The bills will:

- Mandate the U.S. government take steps to end the persecution against the Rohingya, and other ethnic peoples of Burma.
- Facilitate continued U.S. humanitarian assistance to the affected people.
- Implement targeted sanctions against Burmese military officials responsible for the atrocities.
- Prohibit U.S. military-to-military cooperation with Burma's army.
- Call for full implementation of the recommendations of the Kofi Annan Commission on Rakhine State.

The goal of the campaign:

Passage of Senate Bill S 2060 and House Res. 4223 to impose sanctions on almost all leaders of Burmese military and facilitate a path to determine it as a genocide

Demanding no repatriation of Rohingyas without security and citizenship.

(Compiled by Zohra Lasania)

(To support or volunteer contact: wmohamed@emgageusa.org)