

Asserting Our Voice: Advocating for Civil Rights

2012 Annual Report Council on American-Islamic Relations Pennsylvania



CAIR
PENNSYLVANIA



Who We Are

CAIR-PENNSYLVANIA IS A LEADING ADVOCATE FOR JUSTICE AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING

Our mission

Enhance the understanding of Islam, encourage dialogue, protect civil liberties, empower American Muslims and build coalitions that promote justice and mutual understanding.

Our focus

To resolve the greatest civic challenges facing American Muslims:

- Stereotypes, propaganda and misinformation
- Discrimination, profiling and disempowerment

Case priorities

Our civil rights department focuses resources on two distinct classes of case:

- Cases which affect the most vulnerable populations within the American Muslim community
- Cases which address the biggest threat to American Muslim civil rights: governmental and enacted post-9/11 policies which have the intent, or effect, of discriminating against American Muslims

CAIR-Pennsylvania occasionally takes cases outside these priority areas in order to fully advocate for community members.

Commitment

To advocate against governmental discrimination against American Muslims. The real danger of government discrimination against Muslims is that such policies legitimize anti-Muslim bias and discrimination.



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What We Do

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 and ethnic 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-Pennsylvania 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.





What We Do



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 Activism – 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-Pennsylvania 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-Pennsylvania monitors Islamophobe activity, directly challenges Islamophobic efforts, organizes appropriate local responses and educates the public and government officials on this issue.

Civil Rights

Legislative Advocacy House Bill 2029 Updates

CAIR has led the nationwide effort to challenge the constitutionality of “anti-Sharia” bills and other legislation that intentionally vilifies American Muslims. In Pennsylvania, CAIR-Philadelphia led opposition to House Bill 2029, Pennsylvania’s own anti-Muslim legislation, which was introduced in the Pennsylvania General Assembly in November 2011.

A public hearing for House Bill 2029 was scheduled by the bill’s sponsors for November 14, 2012, with no voting days remaining in the legislative session. However, the hearing was subsequently cancelled when CAIR-Philadelphia and other coalition partners announced their intention to testify in opposition to the bill at the public hearing.

House Bill 2029 was expired at the end of the 2012 legislative session. We will oppose any similar bill introduced in the future.

Timeline of major events:

- On January 27, 2012, CAIR-Philadelphia submitted a 70-page *Memorandum in Opposition to House Bill 2029* to all 25 members of the House Judiciary Committee.
- On February 2, 2012, the Philadelphia City Council unanimously passed a resolution in opposition to the bill which was prepared by CAIR-Philadelphia in partnership with the Arab-American Development Corporation.
- On March 6, 2012, the Pittsburgh City Council unanimously passed a resolution in opposition to the bill which was advocated by CAIR-Pittsburgh and CAIR-Philadelphia.



Legal Director Amara Chaudhry holds up and explains the Memorandum in Opposition to House Bill 2029 while Executive Director Moein Khawaja looks on proudly



Civil Rights

- In May 2012, the Philadelphia Bar Association passed its *Resolution Affirming Religious Freedom* opposing House Bill 2029. The resolution was presented by Legal Director Amara Chaudhry acting in her capacity as Vice Chair of the Bar Association's Public Interest Section.

Litigation Success **U.S Department of Defense**

Beginning in late 2011, CAIR-Philadelphia represented a Muslim federal employee who was denied a promotion due to concerns that he was susceptible to “foreign influence” and therefore no longer worthy of the federal security clearance needed for his government job. CAIR-Philadelphia became involved in this case when it became evident that the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) had based its decision largely on our client's identity as an American Muslim.

Our representation of this client included a day-long trial-type adjudicatory hearing before a federal administrative judge (AJ) in July 2012. The hearing took place before the U.S. Department of Hearings and Appeals (DOHA) in Arlington, Virginia. As this was a trial-type proceeding, and not merely an oral argument, the hearing included opening and closing arguments, witness testimony, admission of documentary evidence, and direct and cross-examination. In a showing of solidarity and support, the hearing was attended by CAIR-Philadelphia and CAIR-National staff and legal interns.

CAIR-Philadelphia's Legal Director served as sole legal counsel for our client throughout the adjudicatory proceeding. This case marks the first instance where any CAIR attorney has represented a client in a security clearance trial before DOHA. It demonstrates the willingness of CAIR-Philadelphia to go to court to litigate for the legal rights of American Muslims – with or without the assistance of outside counsel.

In January 2013, CAIR-Philadelphia learned that we had been successful in our efforts to have our client's security clearance restored. The AJ issued a recommended decision in our client's favor and the final decision-making authority on such matters, the DoD's Clearance Appeals Board (CAB), agreed with that recommendation and restored our client's security clearance.



Civil Rights

Though CAIR-Philadelphia's involvement in this case spanned little over a year, our client had been struggling with this case for many years prior to our involvement. The CAB's decision ended that struggle.

This is an important case for the American Muslim community. There is a danger that the federal guideline concerning "foreign influence" can be unfairly construed against Muslim and Jewish Americans who maintain contacts with persons and places in the Greater Middle East and/or who visit the region. Indeed, there are a number of federal court cases which have raised this concern. CAIR-Philadelphia took this case to enforce the existing federal policies relating to "foreign influence" and to ensure that the federal government does not use legitimate concerns regarding national security to discriminate against law-abiding American Muslims who pose no discernible threat to national security.

Non-Litigation Advocacy **Department of Corrections Policy Change**

In July, CAIR-Philadelphia was contacted by an American Muslim man who reported that he was unable to visit a friend at George W. Hill Correctional Facility, a private prison operating in Delaware County, because the "Visitor Dress Code" prohibited visitors who wear "hats." Because our client wears a kufi for religious reasons, he was denied entry.

CAIR-Philadelphia contacted George W. Hill on the client's behalf and asked for a modification to the visitor dress code. The dress code already permitted visitation by Muslim women in religious attire, provided that women are willing to submit to an additional search conducted by a female correctional officer and outside the presence of men. Therefore, the prison had already demonstrated an intent to make reasonable religious accommodations.

Our letter to the correctional facility, and subsequent conversations, noted the policy relating to Muslim women in religious attire and requested a policy modification which would apply a similar standard to Muslim men in religious attire, as well as to religious persons of all faiths.

George W. Hill Correctional Facility modified its dress code policy within days of receiving the letter from CAIR-Philadelphia. CAIR-Philadelphia thanks the George W. Hill Correctional Facility for making reasonable accommodations for religiously observant individuals while simultaneously protecting the legitimate penological interests of the facility.



Civil Rights

Litigation Support (Working with a Coalition)

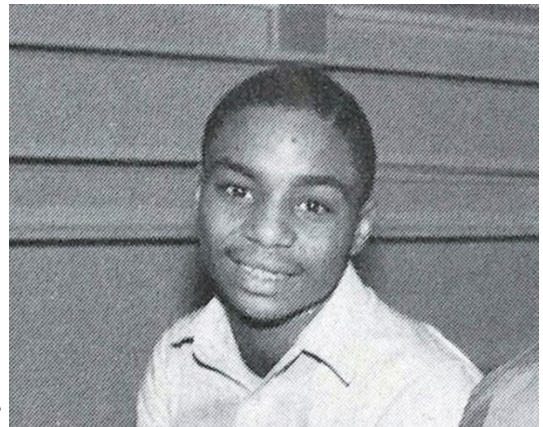
Terry Williams: A case for clemency

In September and October of this year, CAIR-Philadelphia along with a host of child advocates, prosecutors, judges, faith leaders, mental health professionals and law professors advocated for an execution halt by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court of Terry Williams, a death row inmate.

As CAIR-Philadelphia Legal Director Amara Chaudhry became aware of this case, was struck by the number of faith leaders who universally supported Terry in what was literally the fight for his life. However, as she surveyed the outpouring of support for Terry from the Philadelphia faith community, Ms. Chaudhry noticed one glaring omission – there was no Muslim voice representing the values of our community.

Moved by her own Islamic values, Ms. Chaudhry wrote a letter in support of Terry's clemency petition to Governor Corbett and the PA Board of Pardons. Ms. Chaudhry, a lawyer by training and practice, took the rather unusual step of citing no law in her letter. Instead, the letter, written on behalf of CAIR-Philadelphia, relied solely upon Islamic principles and values.

"I am constantly disappointed to learn how many in the Muslim community question my involvement in this case and my advocacy on behalf of a man who we have no reason to believe is Muslim," Ms. Chaudhry said.



*Terry Williams at age 17
Source: Germantown High School*

"Perhaps the people who question me need a little education about what it means to be Muslim," Chaudhry explained. "Muslim organizations are quick to talk about how Islam is a 'religion of peace,' but where are those people when it is time to use their actions to demonstrate those beliefs? This is why this was an important case for CAIR-Philadelphia. **Not only did we fight to save a man's life (which is wholly consistent with our faith), we also used our actions – not our words – to live the principles of Islam and to show our larger community who we are, as Muslims, and what our faith is really about.**"

The letter delivered to Governor Corbett is included on the subsequent pages.



Council on American-Islamic Relations

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September 13, 2012

The Honorable Thomas W. Corbett
225 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Board of Pardons
333 Market Street, 15th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17126

Re: Terrance Williams
Letter in Support of "Petition for Executive Clemency"

Dear Governor Corbett and Members of the Board:

I write to you in my capacity as Civil Rights Director and Staff Attorney for the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) Philadelphia Office. In this capacity, I write to you in support of the "Petition for Executive Clemency" submitted by Terry Williams.

In seeking clemency for Terry Williams, I am acting in accordance with the Islamic principles which underlie all of CAIR's advocacy efforts. As CAIR's leadership has previously stated, "CAIR believes that Muslims worldwide must offer themselves as personal examples of the *Islamic values of compassion, tolerance and moderation.*"ⁱ I also follow the precedent established by my fellow Muslims, both internal and external to CAIR, and other persons of faith.

As I seek to save the life of Terry Williams, I am inspired by a man named Rais Bhuiyan. Shortly after 9/11, Mr. Bhuiyan was shot in the face at point blank range and miraculously survived. When his attacker was sentenced to death for related murders, he launched a campaign to save his attacker's life --- a campaign which Mr. Bhuiyan stated was driven by his Islamic faith, his beliefs as Muslim, and the dictates of the Koran. As reported by the *Huffington Post*, he explained that "[t]he Koran teaches that those who forsake retribution and forgive those who have wronged them become closer to God."ⁱⁱ As powerful as this statement was, it was followed by a statement which should touch the soul of any God-fearing person of faith: "*My faith teaches me that saving a life is like saving the entire human race.*"ⁱⁱⁱ Because he spoke so eloquently about the sanctity of human life, and the religious imperative for mercy, from an Islamic perspective, CAIR has utilized Mr. Bhuiyan as our surrogate on these issues. He has been honored for his compassion by CAIR-National and, in his home state, by CAIR-Texas.

As the life of Terry Williams hangs in the balance, I feel it is imperative that CAIR, as a civil rights organization based upon Islamic principles, to forgo the use of a surrogate to speak on

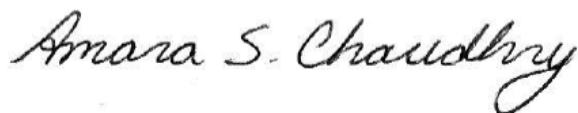
matters of life and death. Therefore, I concur with the other persons of faith who have written to you in support of Terry Williams. I also echo the sentiments expressed in the September 6, 2012, letter written by clergy from other Abrahamic faiths.

I also write to honor the wishes of another believer of an Abrahamic faith --- **Mamie Norwood**, a woman who was married to Amos Norwood at the time of his murder in 1984. As Mrs. Norwood herself articulated: **“I do not wish to see Terry Williams executed. His execution would go against my Christian faith and my belief system.** He is worthy of forgiveness and I am at peace with my decision to forgive him and have been for many years. I wish to see his life spared.”^{iv} Mamie Norwood, who seeks clemency for Terry Williams, is acting in symmetry with the stated belief of Rais Bhuiyan – because of her own faith tradition, she has forgiven Terry Williams and she does not seek retribution against him.

Respectfully, I strongly urge you to act in accordance with the stated desires of Mamie Norwood. As an operation of Pennsylvania law, a decision to commute the sentence of Terry Williams does not release him from responsibility for the death of Amos Norwood – he will remain in the custody of the Commonwealth for the remainder of his natural life. A decision to commute the sentence of Terry Williams simply recognizes a fundamental truth --- the cessation of Terry Williams’s life will never restore the life of Amos Norwood. The death of Amos Norwood took a life from this earth unnecessarily. I urge you to refrain from taking another life from this earth unnecessarily. I ask you, simply, to save the life of Terry Williams --- and, in saving the life of one man, I ask you to save the entire human race.^v

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to grant the Terry Williams’s “Petition for Executive Clemency.

Respectfully submitted,
Peace be upon you,



Amara S. Chaudhry, Esquire
Civil Rights Director & Staff Attorney

ⁱ Council on American-Islamic Relations National Office, Executive Summary, <http://pa.cair.com/about/who-we-are/#Summary> (September 13, 2012) (emphasis added).

ⁱⁱ *Huffington Post*, available at http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/07/18/rais-bhuiyan-pleads-to-spare-mark-stroman_n_902137.html (Posted July 17, 2011).

ⁱⁱⁱ *Id.*

^{iv} Declaration of Mamie Norwood Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 1746 and 18 Pa.C.S. 4904.

^v *Supra*, notes ii-iii.

Special Interest Advocacy

School Bullying

Empower Youth. Empower Parents. Direct Advocacy.

Anti-Muslim school bullying (bullying due to perceived or actual identity as a Muslim) is on the rise. According to a 2010 survey conducted by Muslim Mothers Against Violence, a Washington-based advocacy group, all 57 Muslim respondents between the ages of 11 to 18 reported being called a name because of their faith, including 80 percent who said they had been called “terrorist”.

CAIR-Philadelphia launched an initiative in 2012 raising awareness of anti-Muslim bullying by asserting a Muslim voice in the national conversation on school bullying and equipping young Muslims and their parents with tools to challenge school related harassment. Our school bullying effort includes incorporation of 2-hour anti-bullying workshops in CAIR-Philadelphia’s Muslim Youth Leadership Program (MYLP), a strategic focus on school bullying intakes and direct advocacy in the legal community.

Youth & Parent Workshops

CAIR-Philadelphia staff conducted three major anti-bullying workshops for youth and their parents in 2012. Over 100 students and parents attended these workshops and learned how to recognize school bullying, cyber-bullying (bullying occurring over electronic media) and teacher harassment, all of which can have devastating results on a student’s self-esteem and academic performance.

Results from Workshop

- Participants gained confidence to file complaints about bullying.
- Students learned how to recognize bullying in its early stages.
- Parents walked away understanding the severity of bullying and cyber-bullying.
- Parents understood the value of the program and asked for another workshop at the same location.

Case Priority: School Bullying

In 2012, CAIR-Philadelphia’s Legal Director announced that its case priorities would include cases which affect vulnerable sub-populations within the American Muslim community. Within this framework, one of the “vulnerable sub-populations” specifically identified included children subjected to school bullying. Our focus on this issue is illustrated in the two sample intakes that follow:



Special Interest Advocacy

Sample Intake 1: Attempted Suicide Call

A Muslim high school student contacted CAIR-Philadelphia and told staff that he/she was contemplating suicide. He/she was bullied and physically harassed for almost a year by several people in school due to ethnicity and religion. We were able to connect the teenager with appropriate mental health services. The student later followed up and advised us that he/she was no longer feeling despondent and thanked staff for their assistance.

Sample Intake 2: Bullying Case Settled in Court

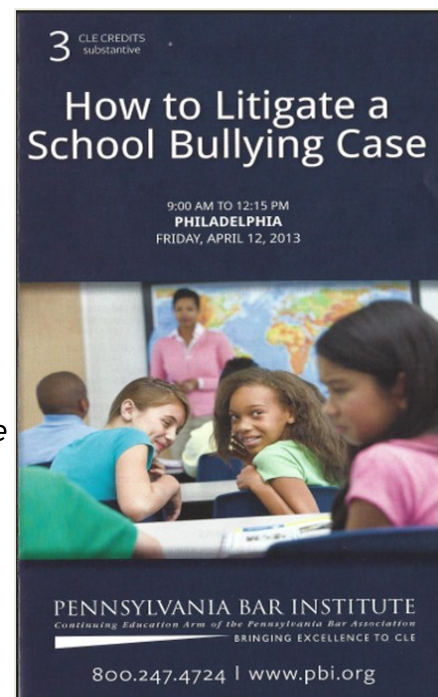
CAIR-Philadelphia represented a young Muslim who had been repeatedly bullied in school. Although both the youth and the youth's family had filed multiple complaints with the school, the school never responded. The issue was eventually brought to court by the families of the students involved, but the case was amicably resolved without the need for a full hearing. For the sake of all parties involved, we try to avoid court whenever possible. However, when schools fail to protect children, we are not afraid to use the legal system.

Teaching Others How to Advocate for Children Who Have Been Bullied

CAIR-Philadelphia staff has conducted anti-bullying trainings, both legal and non-legal, to lawyers, law firms and community activists.

CAIR-Philadelphia staff along with representatives from the Human Relations Commission and Morgan Lewis led a major panel discussion, *The Phenomenon of Bullying with America's Youth and the Related Social and Legal Issues*, at Philadelphia law firm Morgan Lewis, LLP in June. Furthermore, CAIR-Philadelphia's Legal Director created a continuing legal education course (CLE) titled *How to Litigate a School Bullying Case* which premiered in April 2013 at the Pennsylvania Bar Institute.

In August and September, staff conducted *How to Give an Effective Anti-Bullying Workshop* and *Legal Responses to School Bullying* webinar trainings to CAIR staff nationwide.



Media

Media Engagement A Go-To Resource for Media

CAIR-Philadelphia builds relationships and serves the media's needs so that journalists, columnists, producers and editors have a reliable source of information regarding Muslims.

We are the go-to organization for media requests concerning Muslims and civil rights in the Delaware Valley. Additionally, we connect media professionals to Muslim leaders or other interviewee subjects to assist with news reports and tight deadlines.

Staff media appearances and interaction with media professionals are essential in advocating for issues affecting American Muslim communities. In 2012, CAIR-Philadelphia staff discussed many topics in the media, including the death of the U.S. ambassador to Libya who was killed during protests against the *Innocence of Muslims* film, raised awareness of House Bill 2029, commented on the effects of workplace discrimination and assisted University of Pennsylvania's Muslim Student Association (MSA) with press relations when it was revealed that the association had been monitored by the New York Police Department (NYPD).





Media

Media Engagement:

Featured Interview: WURD 900AM, Anniversary of 9/11

CAIR-Philadelphia staff was featured on the live radio program, *The Nick Taliaferro Show*, on the 10th Anniversary of 9/11 discussing community relations and discriminatory legal and governmental policies.



Staff was scheduled to speak on the radio show for an hour. The host, however, continued the conversation to respond to the flux of callers tying up the studio phone line. It was a fruitful visit and the listeners and host were educated on the diversity of American Muslim experiences.

Nick Taliaferro's Tweet:



Nick Taliaferro @NickTShow

11 Sep

Our convo with the staff members of @CAIR_PA was extremely enlightening, engaging and educational. Looking forward to next time @NickTShow



Media

Media Creation

CAIR-Philadelphia Documentary, *Brown Skin, Funny Names*

CAIR-Philadelphia partnered with Philadelphia's public access television station, PhillyCAM, to create a documentary which discusses race, identity perception and effects of post-9/11 policies.

Brown Skin, Funny Names, a 24-minute documentary, brings attention to issues affecting marginalized communities and gives an insider's look into the lives of two Muslim American community activists. Featured experts and activists talk about Pennsylvania's House Bill with discriminatory intent, HB 2029, in the larger context of racially motivated laws and policies in America and share their own life experiences.

The documentary is available to community leaders and educators for community screenings. It is used to educate and initiate sincere discussions on the issues of race, ethnicity and effects of post-9/11 policies on American Muslims.

Brown Skin, Funny Names aired on PhillyCAM January and February 2013 and was available to over 600,000 cable subscribers. The documentary was also available on demand during the entire run.



*Legal Director Amara S. Chaudhry
preps for office shoot*



*Outreach and Communications Director
Rugiatu Conteh in the studio control room*

Outreach

Community Empowerment Muslim Youth Leadership Program (MYLP)

The Muslim Youth Leadership Program (MYLP) is in its fourth year of transforming young Muslims into effective community activists. The MYLP empowers youth to address critical civil rights related issues young Muslims face on a daily basis. **The program trains youth to become effective community activists by teaching the tools of social advocacy, organizing and standing up against civil and human rights injustices.**

Structure and Topics of the MYLP

CAIR-Philadelphia's youth program has evolved from 2-day conferences to topic-focused workshops and a leadership symposium for high school students. The interactive youth workshops are two hours long and cover a variety of topics, including:

- Dealing with peer-to-peer school bullying and teacher harassment
- Challenging Islamophobia
- Learning about basic civil rights
- Building positive American Muslim identities through civic engagement
- Media Engagement



*Outreach and Communications
Director Rugiatu Conteh
conducts an anti-bullying work-
shop at the Muslim Community
Center of Greater Pittsburgh*



Outreach

In 2012, two student anti-bullying workshops and one parent presentation were conducted at mosques and community centers.

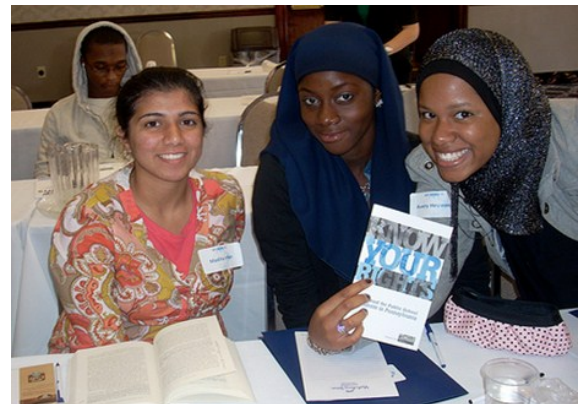
CAIR-Philadelphia developed new workshops for media and spiritual development in 2012 to introduce into the youth program in 2013.

Media Workshop

The media workshop helps high school students understand the historic role of media in portraying marginalized communities, instructs on how to engage with media professionals and how to create alternative media forms. **It empowers students to strive in becoming active media consumers by challenging negative and inaccurate images.**

Struggles of Muslim Youth

The Struggles of Muslim Youth workshop addresses self-identity and common struggles of young Muslims. The workshop includes the topics of abstaining from drugs and alcohol, kindness to parents, having good companionship and perfecting manners. The contents are based on the self-help book, *The War Within Our Hearts*, written by Habeeb and Sa'ad Quadri.



Outcome of Workshops

Students who attended the anti-bullying workshop and had 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.**

Community Empowerment Know Your Rights Training

CAIR-Philadelphia staff conducts trainings at religious institutions and centers to ensure recent immigrants understand their rights and responsibilities. CAIR-Philadelphia Legal Director conducted a major *Know Your Rights and Responsibilities when Dealing with Law Enforcement* presentation in June at the Islamic Center of Pittsburgh.



Outreach

The presentation was well attended with about 75 Pittsburgh community members participating. Attendees learned the role of law enforcement, constitutional guarantees and rights and realities surrounding voluntary talks with law enforcement.



Legal Director Amara Chaudhry talks to audience at Know Your Rights presentation in Pittsburgh

Community Empowerment Social Issue Presentations

CAIR-Philadelphia staff conducts presentations and workshops at universities and inter-faith centers that provide a platform for members of the community to ask controversial questions relating to Muslim values and civil and human rights. CAIR-Philadelphia Outreach and Communications Director conducted Islam 101 and Muslim Women presentations at a Fielding University meeting and Gwynedd-Mercy College in 2012. People from all walks of life benefited from the information and received a greater understanding of Muslim faith values and how they are incorporated into civic life.

Outreach and Communications Director Rugiatu Conteh and students discuss issues relating to Muslim women at a Fielding University workshop in Virginia





Outreach

Sponsored Event **Sharia: Friend or Foe?** **Understanding Sharia and its place in American Society**

In February, CAIR-Philadelphia sponsored a free event, *Sharia: friend or Foe* that invited community members to discuss House Bill 2029 and its effects on religious minorities. Guest experts Eli Clifton, former researcher at the Center for American Progress, Rabbi Arthur Waskow, Director of the Shalom Center, Catherine Warrick, Assistant Professor at Villanova University and CAIR-Philadelphia staff presented subjects relating to anti-Muslim bigotry, laws with discriminatory intent and Islamophobia.



Co-Sponsored Event **Muslims in America** **Building Bridges in a Climate of Fear**

CAIR-Philadelphia partnered with Peace Day Philly 2012, American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), Nationalities Service Center (NSC) and the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting to lead an interfaith community discussion on Muslim immigrant communities and issues relating to their immigration in February. The program included a screening of Hawo's Dinner Party, a 30 minute video based on the longer documentary Welcome to Shelbyville, which tells the story of a small southern town grappling with new immigrants and refugees.



Outreach

Three local Muslim community leaders, Lisa Abdelsalam, author of “A Song for Me, A Muslim Holiday Story,” Madina Hasson, president and founder of the Somali Community of Central PA and Bahjat Abdulwahed, Iraqi refugee and former journalist, told personal accounts of their life and discussed what makes immigrants feel welcomed into a community.



Hawo speaks about her community in the documentary *Welcome to Shelbyville*

Interfaith Activism 2012 Philadelphia Interfaith Peace Walk





Outreach

The Philadelphia Interfaith Walk for Peace and Reconciliation is a grassroots movement focused on increasing understanding across traditional divisions of religion, culture and race and working on social justice issues. The annual peace walk is a demonstration of over 500 people that visit faith spaces with the aim of learning more about others and building bridges. CAIR-Philadelphia is an organizational partner 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.”



Youth from "Walking the Walk" program (Interfaith Center of Greater Philadelphia) talk about their interfaith experiences.

Youth members of the Philadelphia Sikh community shared a musical shabad (hymn)





2012 Events, Programs and Presentations

January 16, 2012

Presentation

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service

February 21, 2012

Presentation

NYPD Surveillance of Northeastern states

February 24, 2012

Event

Muslims in America, Building Bridges in a Climate of Fear

February 24, 2012

Presentation

Behind the scenes at CAIR, University of Delaware

February 25, 2012

Seminar

Understanding and Challenging Islamophobia

February 27, 2012

Event

Sharia: Friend or Foe?

March 24, 2012

Presentation

Big Brother is Watching You Conference

April 17, 2012

Presentation

Understanding Islamophobia, St. Joseph's University

April 25, 2012

Presentation

Arguing about Islam: Between free speech and public pluralism
Temple University

May 2, 2012

Presentation

The Muslim Community and Employment Discrimination

May 10, 2012

Presentation

Cheltenham Area Multifaith Council Meeting

June 8, 2012

Anti-bullying workshop

Muslim American Society

July 19, 2012

Presentation

Muslim Women, Spirituality & Contemporary Issues

October 5, 2012

Anti-bullying presentation

Islamic Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh

October 10, 2012

Islam 101 presentation

Gwynedd-Mercy College



CAIR-Pittsburgh Workshops & Education



Pittsburgh City Council Passes Resolution 163 Denouncing PA Anti-Sharia Bill HB-2029

- On February 29, 2012, the Pittsburgh City Council discussed HB 2029, the Pennsylvania House Bill aimed at discriminating against Muslims. Safdar Khwaja, CAIR-Pittsburgh board member, attended and spoke out against the bill. On March 6, 2012 the Pittsburgh City Council unanimously

passed Resolution 163, which was initiated by CAIR-PA, sponsored by Councilman Bill Peduto, and co-sponsored by seven Council members, to renounce the “anti-Muslim” bill PA HB 2029.

2012 Election - CAIR-Pittsburgh actively encouraged citizens to exercise their voting rights for the November election season. We opened registration desks at public events to help young and new citizens to register to vote and to answer questions regarding the PA election. Additionally, CAIR-Pittsburgh collaborated with the Islamic Center of Pittsburgh to hold a community meeting discussing election rules. For the first time in the region, CAIR-Pittsburgh staffed a formal GOTV phone bank. Twelve volunteers worked over three weeks using a voter registration list from Aristotle database, contacting more than 3000 Muslim registered voters.

Annual Tennis Tournament - Carrying on its mission to promote healthy living, CAIR-Pittsburgh organized its 1st Annual Tennis Tournament in October 2012 at Club Monroeville.

Annual Ramadan Banquet - In July 2012, CAIR hosted the Annual Ramadan banquet at the Muslim Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh (MCCGP) in Monroeville. Among the guests were 6-term US Congressman Mike Doyle, Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald and Barbara Danko, the PA State Representative for District 11. The County Executive Fitzgerald congratulated CAIR for its outreach activities and presented CAIR with a Proclamation plaque. Community leaders shared their experiences and stressed the importance of Muslim participation in civic/social activities.





CAIR-Pittsburgh Advocacy

Youth Meet US Congressman Doyle - CAIR-Pittsburgh, working with the USPak foundation, organized a meeting with US Congressman Mike Doyle of Pennsylvania's 14th District and youth of the community, on March 23, 2012. Our students presented a mock debate, on topics ranging from K-12 education, public vs. private school & homeschooling and gun ownership and control. Congressman Doyle expanded on the topics discussed, provided a brief of pending legislation, and provided advice on ways to improve dialogue with legislators. Shown in the picture are Manal Piracha (Grade-11), Ali Piracha (G-10), Mike Doyle (D-PA), Safaan Rahim (G-8), Fatima Aslam (G-10), Safdar Khwaja (CAIR-PA).



Sister's Panel for Sociology Class at Pitt - This extraordinarily engaging discussion on Muslim Women and the Veil with Professor Melanie Hughes' sociology class at the University of Pittsburgh by sisters Shazia, Melek, Meena, and Sabhina received a warm welcome from the students. The panel answered tough questions from the students regarding the scarf and its impact on Muslim women's lives, etc.

PIIN Public Action Meeting - CAIR-Pittsburgh participated in the PA Interfaith Impact Network Public Action Meeting on October 18 at Temple Rodef Shalom, where people from various religious faiths met with politicians and community leaders to discuss critical issues facing Pittsburgh such as the city transit system, education, jobs, clean rivers, and voter ID for the upcoming election.



Civil Rights - CAIR-Pittsburgh handled several cases in 2012 including:

- The bullying of a junior high school student by his sports coach
- The refusal of a store clerk to serve a Muslim sister due to her hijab
- Muslim inmates seeking their religious rights
- An offensive message in front of Domenico's restaurant of Cranberry, PA

Despite the lack of a staff attorney, CAIR-Pittsburgh has worked to address such cases with other CAIR chapters, the ACLU, or through dialogue and formal written notices.



CAIR-Pittsburgh Board



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Donate Generously

- 1) Empower American Muslims and invest in CAIR-Pittsburgh 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-Pittsburgh and tell them why you do

We are confident that you understand the importance of CAIR-Pittsburgh 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. All of our funding comes from Southwestern Pennsylvania, it is 100% local, and we need your support.

Please consider making a tax-deductible, zakat-eligible donation today.



CAIR-Pittsburgh Budget & Projections

2012 Income

Donations	\$66,400
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2012 Expenditures

Payroll (Two Part-Time)	\$24,000
Admin (Rent, Office supplies)	\$6,200
Banquet & Iftar	\$15,700
Workshop Expenses	\$5,400
Memberships [PIIN, CERIS, etc.]	\$2,300

2013 Projected Expenditures

Full-Time Executive Director	\$60,000
Office Organizer	\$12,000
Rent & Office Supplies	\$7,500
Workshops, Memberships, Expenses	\$8,000
Banquet & Iftar	\$16,000
Total Projected Expenditures	\$103,500



■ Full-Time Executive Director (\$60,000)	■ Office Organizer (\$12,000)
■ Rent & Office Supplies (\$7,500)	■ Workshops, Memberships, Expenses (\$8,000)
■ Banquet & Iftar (\$16,000)	



CAIR-Philadelphia Executive Committee



Sally Selim
President



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Vice President



Fatu Badiane
Secretary



Fatima Abbas, Esq.
Outreach



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Outreach

CAIR-Philadelphia Staff



**Amara Chaudhry,
Esq.**
Legal Director



Rugiatu Conteh
Outreach &
Communications
Director



Leena Jaffer
Operations
Coordinator



CAIR-Philadelphia Budget and Projections

2012 Income

Donations	\$166,000
Banquet ticket sales and ads	\$45,000
Direct deposits	\$60,000
Total Income	\$271,000

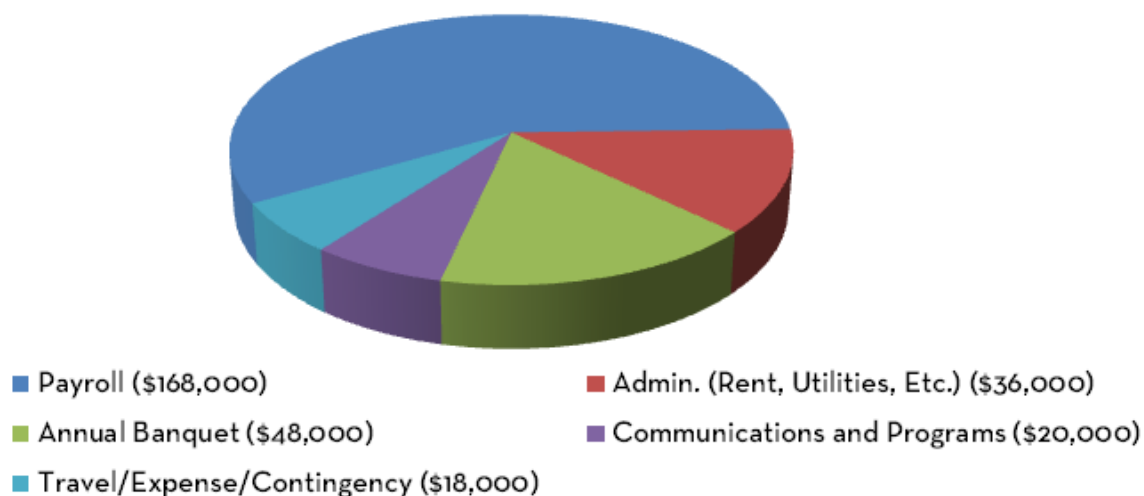
2012 Expenditures

Payroll	\$143,000
Benefits	\$25,000
Office rent	\$10,000
Operations, Utilities and Office Supplies	\$26,000
Travel & Expense Reimbursement	\$12,000
Annual Banquet	\$48,000
Communications and Programs	\$20,000
Total Expenditures	\$284,000

2013 Projected Expenditures

Payroll & Benefits*	\$168,000
Admin (Rent, Operations, Utilities)	\$36,000
Travel, Expense & Contingency	\$18,000
Annual Banquet	\$48,000
Communications and Programs	\$20,000
Total Expenditures	\$290,000

*Planned hiring of Executive Director





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.

Stay in Touch

- 1) Sign up for our mailing list at 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 Twitter or Facebook – [@CAIR_PA](https://twitter.com/CAIR_PA) and facebook.com/CAIRphilly

Donate Generously

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



A National Institution

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 Nationwide



CAIR
PENNSYLVANIA

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