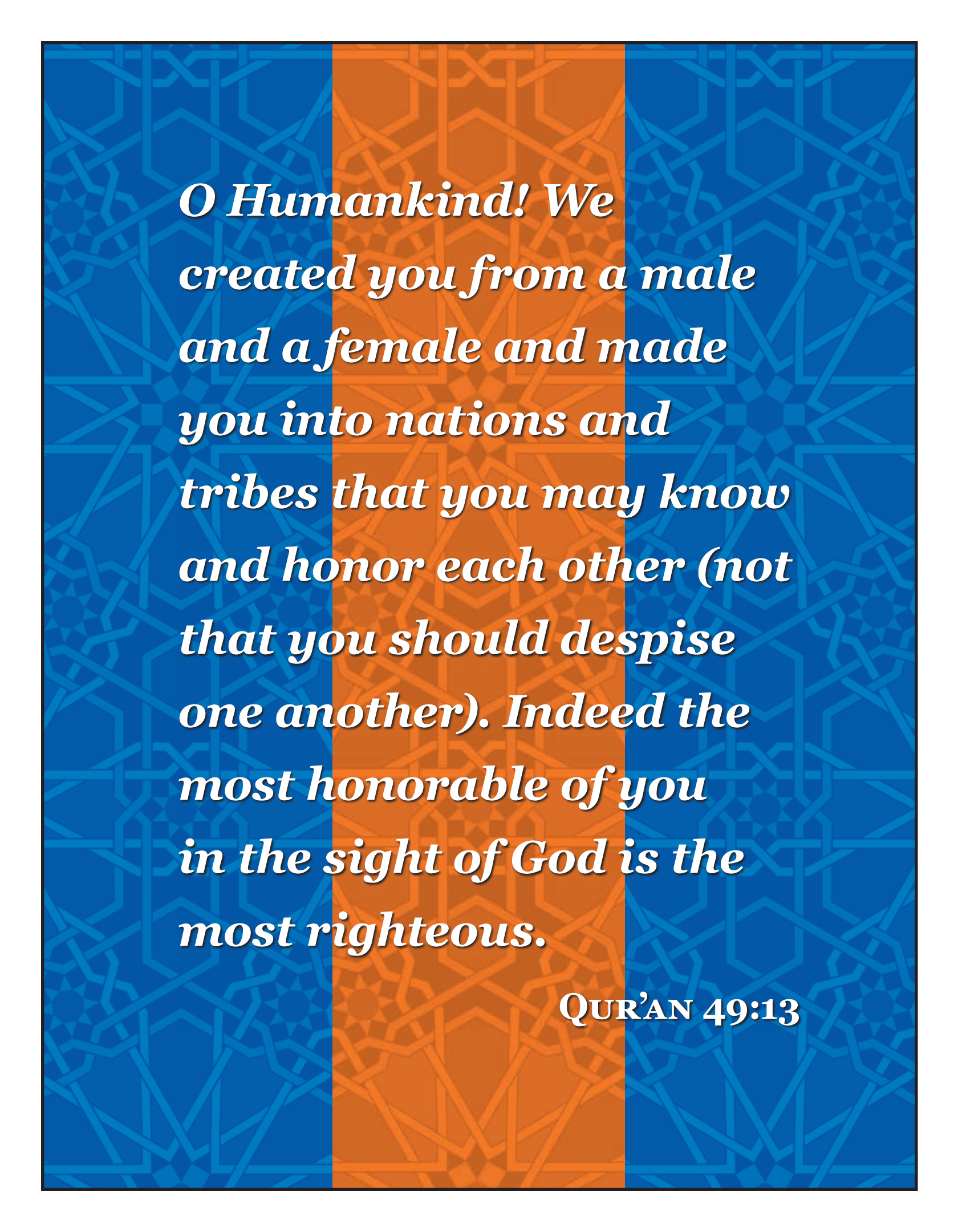


# **2013 Annual Report**



**CAIR**  
PENNSYLVANIA

**Council on American-Islamic Relations  
Pennsylvania Chapter**

The background of the image is composed of three vertical panels. The left and right panels are blue with a complex, interlocking geometric pattern. The middle panel is orange with a similar, though slightly different, geometric pattern. The text is centered across these panels.

*O Humankind! We  
created you from a male  
and a female and made  
you into nations and  
tribes that you may know  
and honor each other (not  
that you should despise  
one another). Indeed the  
most honorable of you  
in the sight of God is the  
most righteous.*

**QUR'AN 49:13**

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*O humankind!  
Indeed, God  
commands the  
execution of justice  
among you, and  
the doing of good  
to others, and the  
giving of charity to  
close relatives.*

**QUR'AN 16:90**



***Indeed, God does  
not change a  
people's condition  
until they change  
what is in their  
souls...***

**QUR'AN 13:11**

Dear CAIR-PA Friends and Supporters,

Assalamu Alaikum. The year 2013 was a time of transition for CAIR-Pennsylvania. In the Philadelphia Office, Executive Director Moein Khawaja left CAIR to go to law school at the University of Indiana. After an exhaustive search lasting many months, interfaith activist and filmmaker Jacob Bender was hired to replace Moein as CAIR-Philadelphia's Executive Director; Jacob assumed the position in October 2013. (Read Jacob's bio on Page 17.)

Amara Chaudhry-Kravitz, Legal Director, and Rugiatu Conteh, Chapter Outreach and Communications Director, also left their positions at CAIR-Philadelphia. Ryan Tack-Hooper, previously at the ACLU, was hired as our new Staff Attorney in December 2014.

CAIR-PA extends to Moein, Amara, and Rugiatu our deep gratitude for their service to our organization, and wishes them the best of luck in all their future endeavours.

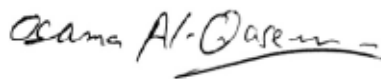
Meanwhile, in Pittsburgh, with generous support from the city's Muslim community, CAIR was finally able to hire a full-time staff person. Social justice activist Annie Durrani began work as CAIR-Pittsburgh's Program Director in August 2013. (Read Annie's bio on Page 22.)

As you will read in this Annual Report, in spite of these staff transitions, CAIR-PA was able to provide extensive service to the Muslim community in the Commonwealth, including legal representation, educational and cultural programming, and promoting greater interfaith understanding.

As we entered 2014, CAIR-Pennsylvania was filled with optimism that we could accomplish even more in the new year.

Once again, we are extraordinarily grateful for your generous donations to CAIR-PA, support that allows us to continue to serve, protect, and defend the growing Muslim community of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,



**Osama al-Qasem**  
President, CAIR-Philadelphia  
Secretary, CAIR-Pennsylvania



**Safdar Khwaja**  
President, CAIR-Pittsburgh  
Treasurer, CAIR-Pennsylvania

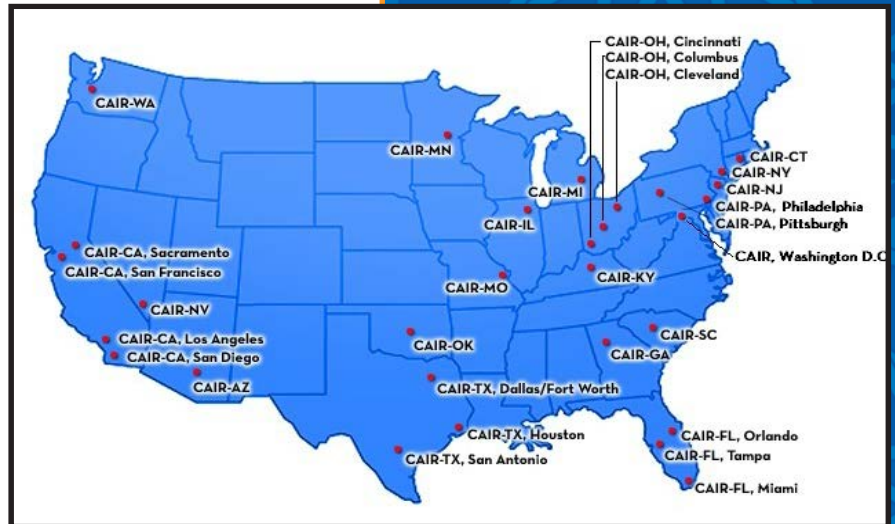
# Who We Are

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Founded in 1994, the Council on American-Islamic Relations is the largest and most effective civil liberties and advocacy organization serving the Muslim American community in the United States. Headquartered in Washington, DC, there are 30 chapters around the country.

## Core Principles

1. CAIR supports free enterprise, freedom of religion and freedom of expression.
2. CAIR is committed to protecting the civil rights of all Americans, regardless of faith.
3. CAIR supports domestic policies that promote civil rights, diversity and freedom of religion.
4. CAIR opposes domestic policies that limit civil rights, permit racial, ethnic or religious profiling, infringe on due process, or that prevent Muslims and others from participating fully in American civic life.
5. CAIR is a natural ally of groups, religious or secular, that advocate justice and human rights in America and around the world.
6. CAIR supports foreign policies that help create free and equitable trade, encourage human rights and promote representative government based on socio-economic justice.
7. CAIR believes the active practice of Islam strengthens the social and religious fabric of our nation.
8. CAIR condemns all acts of violence against civilians by any individual, group or state.
9. CAIR advocates dialogue between faith communities both in America and worldwide.
10. CAIR supports equal and complementary rights and responsibilities for men and women.



*No individual is lost  
and no nation is  
refused prosperity  
and success if  
the foundations  
of their thoughts  
and actions rest  
upon piety and  
godliness, and  
upon truth and  
justice.*

IMAM 'ALI



## Our Mission

CAIR-Pennsylvania was registered as a 501(3)(c) non-profit organization in 2004.

### Our Mission

- ◆ Protect civil rights.
- ◆ Challenge Islamophobia.
- ◆ Enhance the understanding of Islam.
- ◆ Empower American Muslims.
- ◆ Build interfaith coalitions that promote justice and mutual understanding.



*And do not let the hatred of a people prevent you from being just. Be just; that is nearer to righteousness.*

**QUR'AN 5:8**



# What We Do

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## We Protect Civil Rights

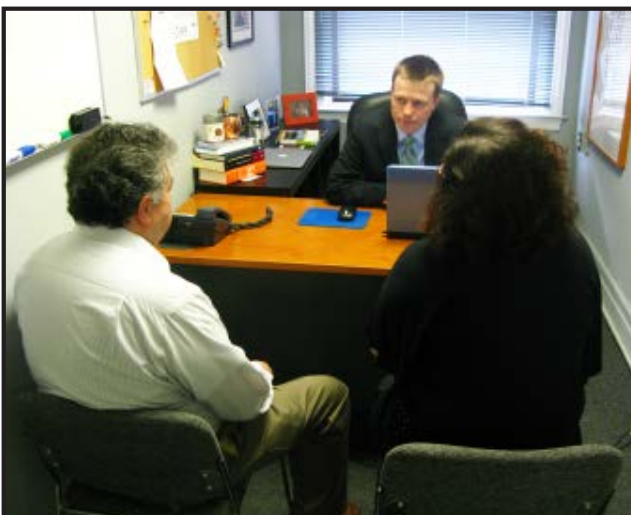
Muslim Americans deserve to be treated fairly and justly in employment, education, travel, with law enforcement, and in all facets of public life. CAIR-PA helps to bring America's promise of liberty and equality to Muslim Americans by responding to cases of religious and ethnic discrimination through advocacy, mediation, and litigation.

CAIR-PA advocates on behalf of the American Muslim community with elected representatives and government officials on the local, state, and federal levels to ensure that Muslim Americans are treated fairly before the law.

CAIR-PA makes your voices known by actively opposing all so-called "Anti-Shariah bills" as inherently anti-Muslim. We support legislation that will allow U.S. citizens to be able to petition the government to be removed from the "no-fly" list. And we advocate for a roll-back of the spying operations of the NSA to protect the privacy of Americans from overzealous government surveillance.

CAIR-PA represents Muslim Americans who have experienced discrimination on the basis of their religion, national origin, or immigration status, as well as those denied the reasonable religious accommodations to which they are entitled. Our clients have included women forced to remove their hijabs at work, teenagers bullied in their schools, and inmates denied halal food in Pennsylvania prisons.

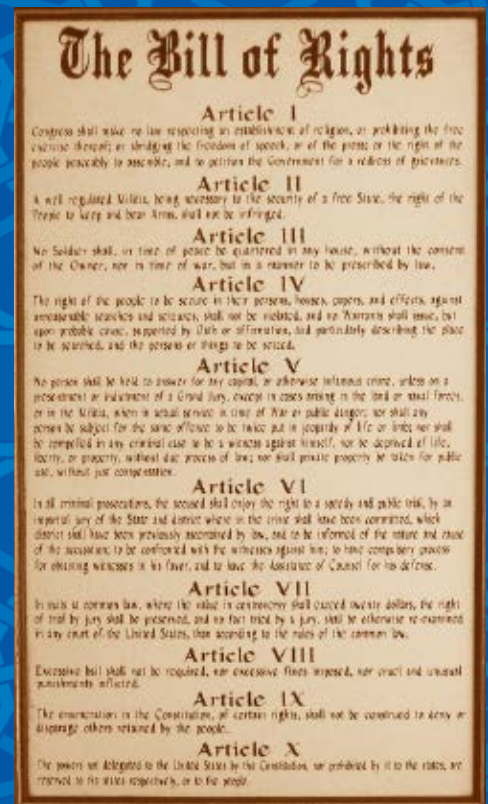
Finally, we also represent persons who have been the victims of improper surveillance, intimidation, and other abuses of official power resulting from the federal government's post-9/11 policies which have the intent, or effect, of discriminating against all American Muslims.



**Current CAIR-Philadelphia Staff Attorney Ryan Tack-Hooper meeting with prospective clients.**



**Former CAIR-Philadelphia Legal Director Amara Chaudhry-Kravitz.**



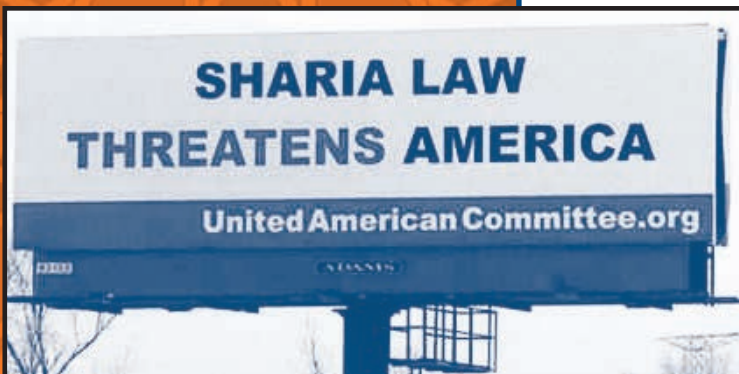


***In their hearts,  
there is a sickness.***

**QUR'AN 2:11**



***Vandalism at the Islamic Society of Delaware.***



## We Challenge Islamophobia

Anti-Muslim hate is now an organized, well-funded and pervasive phenomenon, supported and propagated by an interlinked network across the country. Islamophobic activists have a budget of tens of millions of dollars at their disposal.

The Islamophobic network's nefarious impact can be seen across the country in:

- ◆ Biased and distorted media coverage of Islam and Muslims.
- ◆ "Think tanks" and politicians demonizing Islam and Muslim Americans.
- ◆ Employers firing Muslim employees from their jobs or denying them employment for refusing to take off their hijabs or shave their beards.
- ◆ Bigots vandalizing and fire-bombing Mosques and Islamic centers in the middle of the night.
- ◆ Teachers and classmates across the nation bullying Muslim children because of their religion.
- ◆ Immigration authorities delaying the processing of applications from Muslims for Green Cards or U.S. citizenship.
- ◆ U.S. Government security agencies illegally profiling, intimidating, entrapping, and spying upon thousands of law-abiding Muslim Americans.

Given the above activity, 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 about the Muslim American community and their constitutionally protect right of religious freedom.





## We Enhance the Understanding of Islam

A public campaign against Islamophobia will only prove successful if it also includes an educational component. CAIR-PA educates the broader Philadelphia community about the history and contributions of Islam and Muslim thinkers to Western Civilization. We concentrate on explaining the centrality of the values of social justice, charity, and community consultation within Islam through relentless outreach, including film screenings, lectures, panel discussions, public programs and courses, and conversations with everyday Americans.

Mutual understanding between Americans of all faiths is essential for healthier public sentiments towards Islam and Muslims. CAIR-PA gives presentations at houses of worship, universities, libraries and other public venues on a consistent basis.



*“Out of Cordoba,” a documentary film by Jacob Bender, CAIR-Philadelphia Ex. Dir., is about interfaith relations in Muslim Spain.*



*CAIR-Philadelphia Executive Committee Member Iftekhar Hussain talks to middle school students about Islam.*



# What We Do

***O you who believe!  
Be upholders  
of justice, even  
against yourselves  
or your parents  
and relatives.***

**QUR'AN 4:135**



*Ryan Tack-Hooper, Staff Attorney.*



*Amara Chaudhry Kravitz, former CAIR-Philadelphia Legal Director (2nd from right) leads a Know Your Rights workshop.*

## We Empower American Muslims

A successful campaign by American Muslims to educate the public about Islam will lead to greater Muslim participation in, and contributions to, the civic life of America. These activities include joining local PTAs, township volunteer boards, Human Rights Commissions, and volunteering in local community service. CAIR will roll out training programs to facilitate such civic participation.

CAIR-PA regularly conducts two different workshops for the Delaware Valley Muslim community.

### KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

CAIR's expert legal staff helps to prepare the Muslim community for the challenges they face in contemporary American society through our "Know Your Rights" workshops. These training seminars for college-age or adult participants were usually held in area mosques. Topics covered in the workshops included:

- ◆ How should you respond to anti-Muslim taunts and prejudice in the workplace?
- ◆ What are your rights if a private or government employer demands that you remove your hijab or shave your beard?
- ◆ Is there a way to have your name removed from the government "no-fly" list?
- ◆ What should you do if the FBI comes to your home or workplace and requests that you speak with them?

### MYLP WORKSHOPS

Being bullied by your school peers can often leave life-long scars in a child. CAIR's innovative Muslim Youth Leadership Programs (MYLP) provided Muslim American children, ages 6-18, with the skills necessary to respond to bullying and Islamophobic bigotry. At the same time, these workshops helped to develop within the students a positive Muslim American identity.



*Asheq Fazlullah, CAIR-Philadelphia Vice President, leads an MYLP.*



## We Build Interfaith Coalitions

CAIR-PA believes that community empowerment will lead to the co-sponsoring of events and projects with non-Muslim organizations and individuals, such as Interfaith Iftar and Eid dinners, the “Day of Dignity” helping the homeless, and the Annual Philadelphia Interfaith Walk for Peace and Reconciliation.

Without allies and partners, none of our work could be accomplished. CAIR-PA is part of an extensive network of interfaith, secular, government, legal and civil rights organizations and often serves as a nexus between the Muslim community and these entities.

We additionally co-sponsor conferences, public programs, and activist campaigns undertaken by our partners, in the process helping to build a more just, peaceful, and environmentally-friendly America.



*Philadelphia Interfaith Peace Walk.*



*Speaker at Interfaith Vigil at ISD.*



*Interfaith Vigil at Islamic Society of Delaware.*

*And had God so willed, He would have made all of you one faith community. But that He has not done, so that you may thus compete with one another in good works!*

**QUR'AN 5:48**



*Philadelphia Interfaith Peace Walk.*

## Chapter Highlights



***Rigiatsu Conteh, CAIR-Philadelphia  
Outreach & Communications  
Director.***



***Zuneera Masood, CAIR-Philadelphia  
Facilitator, leads an MYLP.***

- Jan. 5 Outreach & Communications Director Rigiatsu Conteh participates in a panel/roundtable conversation discussing “Heschel and King in the Context of Interfaith and Multi-Ethnic Collaborations” at Mishkan Shalom Synagogue.
- Jan. 10 “Brown Skin, Funny Names,” a documentary produced by CAIR-Philadelphia staff, airs on PhillyCAM (Philadelphia Community Access Media).
- Jan. 19 Community Meet & Greet at Muslim Association of Lehigh Valley.
- Jan. 24 Staff and an Executive Committee member participated in an event to launch the new phase of the “Muslim Voices Project of Philadelphia,” a community media project of Scribe Video Center that provides opportunities for interested Muslim community groups to document histories and contributions of Muslims in the Philadelphia area. Our Executive Committee member Carlin Saafir spoke about the importance of preserving history and supporting programs that facilitate a way for Muslims to tell their own stories.
- Feb. 15 Staff Attorney Amara Chaudhry is a panelist at a Washington and Lee University School of Law Symposium, “Discrimination Against Muslim Americans in a Post-9/11 World.”
- Feb. 23 Community Meet & Greet at Islamic Society of Delaware.
- Mar. 14 CAIR-Philadelphia files a federal lawsuit against the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) and the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).
- Mar. 16 7th Annual CAIR Banquet, at Springfield Country Club, with Zarqa Nawaz, Siraj Wahhaj, and Baba Ali.
- Mar. 30 Screening and discussion of “Brown Skin, Funny Names” at the New Africa Center in partnership with New Conversation on Race and Ethnicity (NewCORE).
- Apr. 12 Amara Chaudhry is the course planner for the Pennsylvania Bar Institutes’s continuing legal education (CLE) course, “How to Litigate a School Bullying Case.”
- May 10 Rigiatsu Conteh conducts an anti-bullying MYLP workshop at the Islamic Society of Greater Harrisburg.



## Chapter Highlights (cont.)

- Jun. 15 Executive Committee Member Tarik Selim conducts a MYLP at Zubaida Foundation
- Jul.-Aug. Sharing Ramadan and Iftar dinners at various locations, including one, on Jul. 28, at the Foundation for Islamic Education in Villanova, PA. Dr. Mustafa Ahmed, the director of the Foundation, hosted visitors from Saint Luke's United Methodist Church of Bryn Mawr and the Central Baptist Church of Wayne. Rev. David Tatgenhorst from United Methodist attended with several members of his congregation. Arriving shortly before sunset, they observed Maghrib prayer in the main hall and then walked down to the gym for dinner. During dinner, Rev. Tatgenhorst and the others had a wide-ranging and engaging conversation with Dr. Ahmed right up till Isha time.
- Aug. 14 MYLP at Zubaida Foundation.
- Oct. 1 Jacob Bender hired as new Executive Director of CAIR-Philadelphia.
- Oct. 28 CAIR-Philadelphia organizes a press conference in front of Islamic Society of Delaware (ISD) to protest vandalism at the mosque two nights before that resulted in thousands of dollars of damage. The vandals destroyed a wood fence ringing the mosque, and constructed a cross out of the debris.
- Oct. 28 CAIR-Philadelphia helps to organize an evening interfaith vigil at ISD about the vandalism at the mosque. Speakers at the vigil calling for an interfaith response to hate included Delaware Lt. Governor Matthew Denn, Jacob Bender, and as well as other representatives from the Christian, Jewish, Sikh and First Nation communities.
- Oct.-Nov. Extensive media response to Jacob Bender's appointment.
- Nov. 22 CAIR-Philadelphia participates in annual Philadelphia "Day of Dignity" event to provide food for the homeless.
- Dec. Our legal department represents an immigrant Muslim teenager who is being extensively bullied at a suburban Philadelphia middle-school.



*Jacob Bender speaks at Interfaith Press Conference at Islamic Society of Delaware following vandalism at the mosque.*



*CAIR-Philadelphia Executive Committee members Carlin Safir (right) and Osama al-Qasem (left) at 2013 "Day of Dignity."*

## Media Highlights

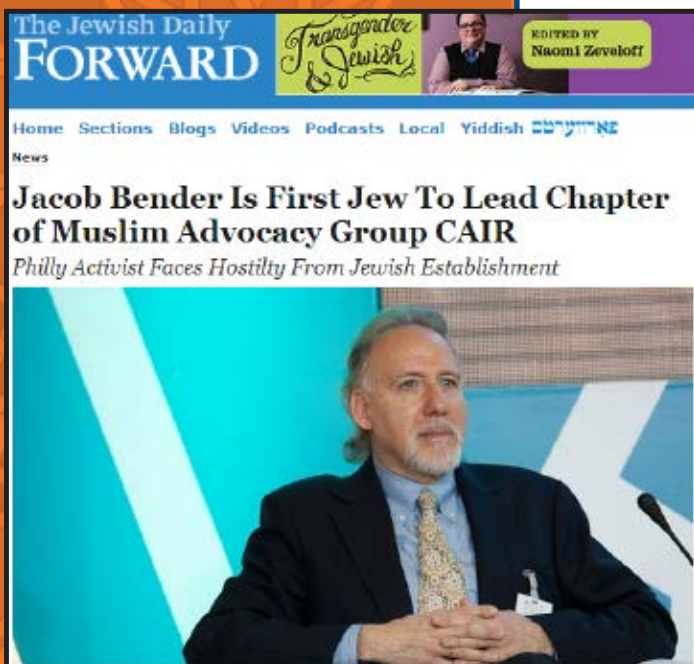
CAIR-Philadelphia was covered extensively in the print and broadcast media, guaranteeing that the concerns of the Philadelphia Muslim community were part of the public discourse. In this way, we challenge stereotypes, dispel myths and promote positive self-representation.

- May 28 Outreach and Communications Director Rugiatu Conteh was a panelist on WHYY's "Being (Blank) in Philly: Finding Words to Tell Your Story."
- May 31 Article by Staff Attorney Amara Chaudhry published in The Legal Intelligencer.



## Appearances in the Media in Response to the Boston Marathon Bombing:

- Apr. 19 NBCPhiladelphia.com
- Apr. 19 NBC10 News
- Apr. 21 Philadelphia Inquirer
- Apr. 23 Philly.com
- Apr. 24 Dom Giordano Show/1210 WPHT
- Apr. 24 Philadelphia Weekly
- Apr. 26 Delaware County Daily Times



## News Stories about Jacob Bender's Appointment:

- Oct. 17 The Jewish Daily Forward
- Oct. 17 Religions News Service
- Oct. 17 The Washington Post
- Oct. 18 Philly.com
- Oct. 18 Jewish Telegraphic Agency
- Oct. 19 The Jewish Press
- Oct. 19 Haaretz
- Oct. 21 Carbonatd.TV
- Oct. 21 Phillymag.com
- Oct. 21 AsAmNews
- Oct. 21 Jewish Exponent
- Oct. 22 The Washington Times



## Media Highlights (cont.)

- Oct. 23 CBS Philly
- Oct. 23 Marc Steiner Show
- Oct. 24 Jewish Council on Urban Affairs
- Nov. 4 The New Yorker Magazine
- Nov. 13 Radio Sawa
- Nov. 15 Aslan Media
- Nov. 15 Aljazeera Arabic News Channel

Ari Shavit's courageous article detailing the expulsion of the Palestinians deserves to be commended ("Lydda, 1948," October 21st). I am an American Jew working for a Muslim civil-rights and advocacy organization, and, in my three decades observing Jewish-Muslim dialogue and Israeli-Palestinian reconciliation efforts, I have concluded that national and religious self-criticism is at the heart of peace-making. Since 9/11, Muslim organizations, religious leaders, and scholars have condemned extremist violence committed in the name of Islam, although this has been largely unreported. Jews must face the bitter historical truth: as Shavit points out, Israel's birth was accompanied by the Jews' destruction of another people. As in post-apartheid South Africa, the acknowledgment of past crimes can open a door to a more peaceful future. The values of justice, mercy, and compassion in both Islam and Judaism can help smooth the difficult road to reconciliation. Although Shavit's tone is one of sadness, my daily interactions with Muslims leave me feeling ever hopeful.

*Jacob Bender*

*Executive Director, Philadelphia Chapter, Council on American Islamic Relations  
Philadelphia, Pa.*

***Jacob Bender's Letter-to-the-Editor in The New Yorker Magazine, Nov. 4, 2013.***



***Jabir (Radhiallahu ‘anhu) reported: The Messenger of Allah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) said: “May Allah show mercy to a man who adopts a kind attitude when he sells, when he buys, and when he receives repayment of loans.”***

## Budget and Projections

### 2013 Income

Donations .....	\$145,645.07
Banquet ticket sales and ads .....	\$52,122.80
Direct deposit .....	\$39,170.00
<b>Total Income .....</b>	<b>\$236,937.87</b>

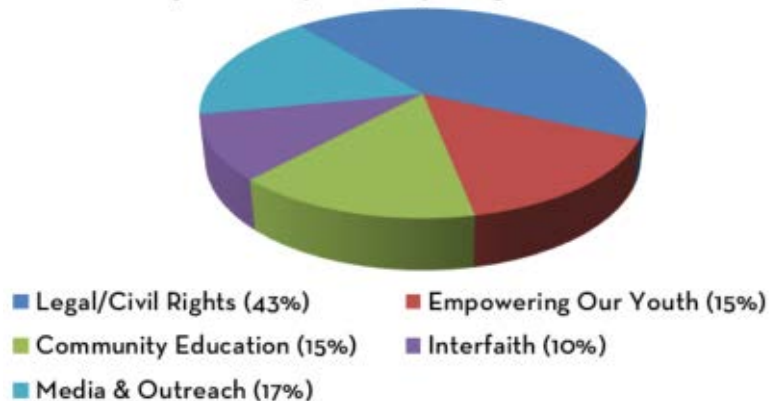
### 2013 Expenditures

Payroll.....	\$103,107.74
Benefits .....	\$15,127.83
Operations, Utilities, Office Supplies & Office Rent .....	\$19,504.06
Travel & Expense Reimbursement.....	\$7,954.69
Annual Banquet .....	\$52,330.14
Communications and Programs .....	\$26,470.67
<b>Total Expenditures ... ..</b>	<b>\$224,495.13</b>

### 2014 Projected Expenditures

Payroll & Benefits .....	\$216,000
Admin (Rent, Operations, Utilities) .....	\$31,000
Travel, Expense & Contingency.....	\$20,000
Annual Banquet.....	\$48,000
Communications and Programs.....	\$35,000
<b>Total Expenditures .....</b>	<b>\$350,000</b>

2014 Projected Expenses by Program: \$350,000





## Staff

### Jacob Bender, Executive Director

Jacob Bender brings to CAIR-PA decades of activism promoting mutual respect and understanding between Muslims, Christians, and Jews around the world, and on behalf of peace and justice movements in the U.S. He additionally has a long resume of professional accomplishments in the field of communications for both nonprofit and corporate clients.

Jacob has been extensively published about Muslim-West relations, as well as the Israel-Palestine Conflict, in *The New York Times*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The International Herald Tribune*, *The Jordan Times*, *The Gulf News*, *El Pais*, and *The Daily Star of Beirut*.

Following the attacks of September 11, 2001, Jacob was one of the initiators of dialogue with the American Muslim community. He has spoken dozens of times at mosques and at large gatherings of Muslims in the United States, particularly at the conventions of ISNA, the Islamic Society of North America.

From 2006-2009, Jacob was a featured speaker at the annual interfaith conferences of the Doha Interfaith Center for Interfaith Dialogue in Qatar. In 2007, he spoke at a conference of the World Muslim Call Society in Cordoba, Spain, and in 2008, Jacob was invited to participate in the historic interfaith conference in Madrid initiated by King Abdallah of Saudi Arabia. In January of 2009, Jacob spoke before an audience of international Muslim scholars at Al-Azhar University in Cairo, where his speech condemning the Israeli attack on Gaza was widely covered in the Egyptian media. Jacob also spoke at the 2011 UN Alliance of Civilizations Forum in Doha and, most recently, at the Opening Ceremony of the King Abdullah Interreligious Center in Vienna, Austria.

Because of his work in the promoting interfaith understanding, Jacob was selected as a Finalist for the prestigious 2012 Goldziher Prize for Jewish-Muslim Relations, presented by Merrimack University, a Catholic college in Massachusetts. He has also been a long-time voice in the American Jewish community supporting the rights of the Palestinian People, and a just resolution of the Israel-Palestine Conflict.

Jacob is also a documentary filmmaker, and his most recent production is the award-winning film "Out of Cordoba" ([www.outofcordoba.com](http://www.outofcordoba.com)). The film explores the lives and influence of Ibn Rushd (Averroes) the Muslim, and Musa Ibn Maymun (Maimonides) the Jew, the two greatest thinkers to emerge from Al-Andalus, and has been screened over 120 times around the world at film festivals, conferences, universities, MSA chapters, mosques, churches, and synagogues, including at United Nations Headquarters in New York, and at the German Foreign Ministry in Berlin. The film was funded by a unique combination of Muslim, Christian, and Jewish donors, included a major grant from the Alwaleed bin Talal Foundation of Saudi Arabia.

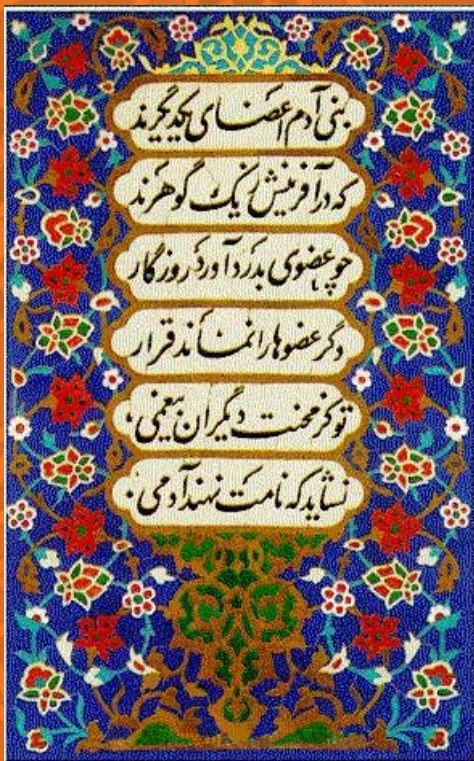
Jacob has a degree in Religious Studies from the University of California at Los Angeles, and studied film and television at New York University's Graduate School of Film.



*CAIR-Philadelphia Staff in December 2013. Left to Right: Leena Jaffer, Operations Manager; Amara Chaudhry-Kravitz, Of-Counsel; Ryan Tack-Hooper, Staff Attorney; Jacob Bender, Executive Director.*

**Abu Huraira  
(Radhi-Allahu  
'anhu) reported  
that the Messenger  
of Allah (sallallahu  
alayhi wa sallam)  
said:**

**“Richness does  
not lie in the  
abundance of  
(worldly) goods,  
but richness is the  
richness of the soul  
(heart, self).”**



***Human beings  
are members of a  
whole,  
In creation of one  
essence and soul.  
If one member is  
afflicted with pain,  
Other members  
uneasy will remain.  
If you've no  
sympathy for  
human pain,  
The name of human  
you cannot retain!***

**SA'ADI SHIRAZI**

## Staff

### Ryan Tack-Hooper, Staff Attorney

Ryan comes to CAIR from one of Philadelphia's top law firms, Hangley Aronchick Segal Pudlin & Schiller. He brings with him a strong background in complex civil litigation and experience with the legal issues facing the American Muslim community, including religious discrimination in the workplace and by government agencies, and improper law enforcement practices.

Ryan is a graduate of New York University School of Law, where he was an Arthur Garfield Hays Civil Liberties Fellow and Executive Editor of the NYU Journal of International Law and Politics. Before joining Hangley, Ryan served as a law clerk for the Hon. Jerome B. Simandle, Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey.

He has worked on civil rights issues since law school, including discrimination and retaliation claims brought on behalf of a Muslim educator and a suit challenging the racially-motivated jailing of a U.S. citizen on an immigration detainer. He also worked with several non-profit organizations to monitor, analyze, and classify human rights violations committed by U.S. agents in the "war on terror."

With his litigation skills and experience working on a broad spectrum of civil liberties issues, Ryan stands ready to fight inside and outside the courtroom to ensure that Philadelphia-area Muslims are treated fairly and equally in employment, education, travel, interactions with law enforcement, and in all facets of public life.

### Amara Chaudhry-Kravitz, Of Counsel

Amara was born and raised in Covington, Virginia. She received her B.A. in English from the University of Virginia and her law degree from Washington and Lee University. Amara's interest in public interest law was first demonstrated at U.Va. where she had three internships with Virginia's Juvenile & Domestic Courts. At W&L Law, Amara was a staff writer for the Journal of Race and Ethnic Ancestry Law, won the John W. Davis Moot Court Competition, and worked in a law school clinic which served female federal inmates.

Amara has devoted her entire professional career to the representation of historically marginalized populations in both criminal and civil proceedings. Amara has represented the indigent accused, low income persons, persons of color, juveniles, the mentally ill, and members of the LGBT community. She has significant trial and appellate experience.

In addition to her legal career, Amara has served her community through a number of activities. She is a former member of the CAIR-Philadelphia Executive Committee and served on the Board of Directors of the ACLU of West Virginia's statewide affiliate where she also co-founded the local chapter in Charleston. She is an active member of the Philadelphia Bar Association where she serves as the Secretary of the Public Interest Section and VP of Attorney Outreach for the South Asian Bar Association of Philadelphia. Amara has also volunteered with the Women's Center of Montgomery County which serves survivors of relationship violence.



## Pennsylvania Board of Directors



**Iftkhar Hussain**  
Chair



**Asim Kokan**  
Vice Chair



**Osama al-Qasem**  
Secretary



**Safdar Khwaja**  
Treasurer

## Philadelphia Executive Committee



**Osama al-Qasem**  
President



**Asheq Fazlullah**  
Vice President



**Emad Elkhadrawy**  
Treasurer



**Kareem Ali**  
Accountant



**Iftkhar Hussain**  
Fundraising CoChair



**Nivine Rihawi**  
Organization  
Development Chair



**Carlin Saafir, Esq.**  
Outreach Chair



**Sally Selim**  
Banquet Chair

## Pittsburgh Executive Council



**Safdar Khwaja**  
President



**Omar Slater**  
Vice President



**Asim Kokan**  
Treasurer



**Ishfaq Ahmad**  
Exec. Secretary



**Azmat Qayyum**  
Board Member



**Maryam Martin**  
Board Member



**Saima Sitwat**  
Board Member



**Ezz-Eldin Moukamal, MD**  
Board Member

Noor Un Nahar, Board Member (no photo available)

*Your hand opens  
and closes, opens  
and closes. If it  
were always a fist  
or always stretched  
open, you would  
be paralyzed. Your  
deepest presence  
is in every small  
contracting and  
expanding, the  
two as beautifully  
balanced and  
coordinated as  
birds' wings.*

**Rumi**

## Chapter Highlights

### ADVOCACY

#### In-District Congressional Meetings, September 2013

CAIR Pittsburgh Board Members met with Congressman Doyle in his office in Pittsburgh. These meetings are an integral part of keeping the lines of communication open with our elected officials. This is a forum where CAIR brings the concerns of the Muslim community directly to the people elected to alleviate those concerns.

#### PIIN Public Action Meeting, November 7th, 2013

CAIR-Pittsburgh is an active member of PIIN (Pennsylvania Interfaith Impact Network). In 2013 CAIR stood shoulder to shoulder with dozens of other faith based organizations on November 7th at Temple Rodef Shalom. The theme was "Many Faiths, One Vision". It is a vision that we as a community share of a better tomorrow through activism and holding our city and county officials accountable.

### CIVIL RIGHTS

This was another busy year for CAIR-Pittsburgh. We look forward to a day when we are out of business and there are no violations of civil rights of Muslims. Unfortunately, that day is not here yet. We are working with a family that is being harassed by its neighbors for being Muslims. We were able to put them in touch with a lawyer who has taken on their case and is helping them navigate this very difficult situation.

This was in addition to other cases where religious accommodations for prayer time were requested. One community member was taken advantage of at a car dealership because he didn't understand the terms and conditions of a contract that he was signing. We were able to intercede on his behalf and the dealership renegotiated the terms that worked for him. We also worked with a community member regarding decision making rights for their elders, plus we offered some guidance at another job discrimination environment.

***Safdar Khwaja, CAIR-Pittsburgh Treasurer, speaks at the CAIR-Pittsburgh Banquet.***



Join 1200 PIIN members, supporters and partner organizations to secure commitments from public officials on critical local, regional and national issues.

**RODEF SHALOM**  
4805 Fifth Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213  
(Fifth and Morewood)

**TIME**  
7 - 8:30pm  
Doors open at 6:15pm

**PARKING**  
- CMU surface lot on Forbes and Morewood  
- CMU Garage at Forbes and Beeler

PIIN PUBLIC ACTION 2013 | YEAR 10  
**NOV.7, 2013**  
**7pm**

**MORE INFORMATION**  
Contact PIIN at:  
412.621.9230  
office@piin.org  
www.piin.org  
www.facebook.com/piinpgh  
www.twitter.com/pgfaithimpact

Pennsylvania Interfaith Impact Network (PIIN)  
Congregations acting powerfully together for justice





## EVENTS

### Banquet 2013 April 6th, 2013

Last year we held our 6th Annual Banquet at the Holiday Inn on McKnight Road. Mr. Hussam Ayloush, the Executive Director of the CAIR Chapter of Greater Los Angeles, was the keynote speaker. He expounded on the theme of the night “Excelling in the American Cultural Mosaic”; suggesting how Muslims can establish a unique cultural identity, which can be perceived as a gemstone in this multicultural society. The evening’s entertainment was provided by the charismatic Mohammed Amer. The fundraiser was a success with the generous support of the community.

### Annual Interfaith Iftar July 18th, 2013

CAIR Pittsburgh continued the tradition of hosting an interfaith Iftar. The panelists were Rabbi Doris Dyen, Reverend Donald Green and Imam Hamza Perez. They discussed the topic “Nurturing Spiritual Growth to Ensure a Better America for All” and gave practical advice on how to nurture spiritual growth in our youth. The event was well attended by people of different faiths, who learnt a few new things about other Abrahamic faiths, and got to observe how Muslims break fast at the end of the day in Ramadan. Candidate for Mayor Bill Peduto was also able to join us for this event.

### SAT v ACT November 12th, 2013

The CAIR-Pittsburgh Chapter and The Princeton Review came together for an informational session on the merits of choosing one or the other of the two standardized tests. Students and parents were invited to attend this session and have their questions answered about this very relevant topic for High School students. Amanda Nowotny was the instructor who shared her insights with our group. This event was held at the Cranberry Public Library and was open to the public thereby serving communities of all faiths.

## WORKSHOPS AND PANEL DISCUSSIONS

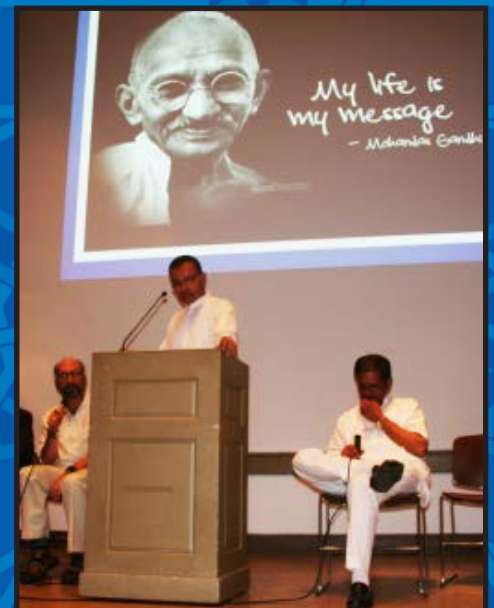
### Gandhi Day October 6th, 2013

Dr. Azmat Qayyum represented the Muslim community at the Gandhi Day celebration held at Frick Fine Arts Auditorium. The event included an interfaith panel discussion as well as a cultural show.



*Guests at Interfaith Iftar Dinner.*

*CAIR-Pittsburgh participates in Gandhi Day celebration.*



## Staff

### Qurat-ul-Ain Durrani, Program Director



Annie Durrani's interest in advancing social justice causes led her to join CAIR-PA Pittsburgh chapter in August 2013 as a full time staff member. She is actively involved with the ACLU, anti-racism groups and interfaith activities and was recently invited as a panelist at the Pittsburgh World Affairs Council discussion on religion. She has a master's degree in mathematics and has successfully completed courses in actuarial sciences. In the past she has taught math at various institutions including the Princeton Review and the Art Institute. She is originally from Pakistan and lives in Pittsburgh with her husband and three children. She is an avid fan of warm weather and chocolate cake.

*CAIR-Pittsburgh Interfaith Iftar Dinner. Panelists are, left to right, Safdar Khwaja (at podium), Rabbi Doris Dyen, Rev. Donald Green, and Imam Hamza Perez.*





## Budget and Projections

### 2013 Income

Banquet donations .....	\$40,935.00
Banquet ticket sales .....	\$5,585.00
Annual Iftar donations .....	\$860.00
Memberships.....	\$3,000.00
<b>Total Income .....</b>	<b>\$50,380.00</b>

### 2013 Expenditures

Payroll & Benefits .....	\$10,969.00
Operations, Utilities, Office Supplies & Office Rent .....	\$8,686.30
Annual Iftar.....	\$3,108.65
Annual Banquet.....	\$12,588.91
<b>Total Expenditures .....</b>	<b>\$35,352.86</b>

### 2014 Projected Expenditures

Payroll & Benefits .....	\$30,000.00
Admin (Rent, Operations, Utilities) .....	\$7,240.00
Annual Banquet & Iftar .....	\$17,000.00
Communications and Programs .....	\$5,000.00
<b>Total Projected Expenditures .....</b>	<b>\$59,240.00</b>

*They ask you (O Muhammad) what they should spend in charity.*  
*“Say: ‘Whatever you spend with a good heart, give it to parents, relatives, orphans, the helpless, and travellers in need. Whatever good you do, Allah is aware of it.’”*

**QUR’AN 2:215**

CAIR-Pittsburgh 2013 Banquet.





**CAIR**  
PENNSYLVANIA

**CAIR-PA is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, non-profit organization. Your donations are tax-deductible and zakat eligible. CAIR's ability to sustain its operation and be effective on your and society's behalf depends on your financial generosity.**

**HOW TO DONATE:**

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