



# UNSHAKEN

DEFENDING RIGHTS. BUILDING POWER. GROWING COMMUNITY



2025 CAIR-PHILADELPHIA | ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT



**PROUD TO SUPPORT  
CAIR-PHILADELPHIA**

MEET THE  
**CEO LAWYER**  
PERSONAL INJURY LAW FIRM

CEO Lawyer is proud to stand with CAIR-Philadelphia in its work protecting civil rights across the Commonwealth. That work and ours begin in the same place: No one should have to face a system they don't understand alone.

From your first call to the resolution of your case, someone here can explain what's happening in your own language.

**Available 24/7 because accidents don't happen only during business hours.**

**ALI AWAD  
ESQ., MBA**

Founder of CEO LAWYER



**SCAN FOR YOUR  
FREE CONSULTATION**

**CONTACT US**

 470-777-8888

 [intake@ceolawyer.com](mailto:intake@ceolawyer.com)



## MISSION STATEMENT

CAIR-Philadelphia's mission is to enhance understanding of Islam, protect civil rights, promote justice, and empower American Muslims. We believe in America's potential to fulfill its founding ideals and that this struggle is maintained through active civic participation. We believe that advocacy through the American Muslim experience is advocacy for a better America. We believe that American Muslim life can and must be better, more equitable and more engaging.

## VISION STATEMENT

CAIR-Philadelphia's vision is to be a leading advocate for justice and mutual understanding. We work toward a future where both Muslim Americans and all communities live in peace and equity in full recognition of their inalienable rights and cultural diversity.

CAIR-Philadelphia is a Charities Review Council Meets Standards® organization!



**Council on American-Islamic Relations**

**Philadelphia Chapter**

1501 Cherry Street

Philadelphia, PA 19102

P: 267-515-6710

E: [info@philadelphia.cair.com](mailto:info@philadelphia.cair.com) | W: [pa.cair.com](http://pa.cair.com)

CAIR-PA is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt nonprofit organization. Your donations are tax-deductible and zakat-eligible. EIN/Tax ID: 54-2174614

To make a donation to CAIR-Philadelphia, please go to: [pa.cair.com/donate](http://pa.cair.com/donate)



/CAIRPhilly



@CAIRPhilly



@CAIRPhilly

# TABLE OF CONTENTS



**DEFEND**



**EMPOWER**



**ORGANIZE**



**BUILD**



**BELONG**



**AMPLIFY AND PARTNER**



**FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP**

# AN UNSHAKEN COMMITMENT

Dear CAIR-Philadelphia Family,

I am approaching a personal milestone: nearly ten years with CAIR-Philadelphia. During this time, my own family welcomed two children, we moved, and I have had the privilege of visiting and learning from countless communities across Pennsylvania and Delaware. Through all these changes, CAIR-Philadelphia has grown alongside the communities we serve.

Looking back at 2025, **I am reminded that this was a year of rising pressure on Muslim communities, immigrants, students, workers, and advocates for human rights—from Palestine to Sudan, and from California to Pennsylvania.** Yet I am equally grateful and proud to reflect on how your CAIR-Philadelphia team responded to a climate of growing repression and threats to civil liberties: through legal advocacy, Know Your Rights education, grassroots organizing, youth leadership, coalition-building, and community programming.

As Islamophobia continued to rise, CAIR-Philadelphia remained steadfast in ensuring that Muslim communities could exercise their civil rights without fear. This work is not always easy. But knowing that our team was there when our community needed us most fills my heart with gratitude.

When asked what draws him to public service, New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani spoke about the opportunity to directly impact people's lives. We share that perspective about our own work. For us, impact is not an abstract idea. It is something we see in the lives of the people we serve.

- **Because of our advocacy, a student can walk away from the juvenile justice system and return to building their future.**
- **Because of our work, hijabi Muslims can interact with law enforcement without being forced to compromise their faith.**
- **Because of our work, employees know they do not have to accept discrimination or workplace harassment in silence—and that we will stand with them to defend their rights.**

- **Because of our investment in young people, Muslim youth are learning how to organize, build power, and advocate for themselves and their communities.**

**And because of our collective work, we are helping advance an agenda rooted not only in the rights of American Muslims, but in a shared and more just future for all.**

## **YOUR SUPPORT MAKES ALL OF THIS POSSIBLE.**

As you read this report—whether at our Annual Banquet or later in the year—know that your support fuels a better today while investing in a better future.

In 2026, we are growing our team and deepening our commitment to defending your rights, developing the next generation of leaders, and building lasting community power.

Alhamdulillah for how far we have come—and for the work still ahead.

With gratitude and solidarity,



**AHMET SELIM TEKELIOĞLU, PHD**  
Executive Director-CAIR-PA



# 2025 **IMPACT** AT A GLANCE

## CAIR-PHILADELPHIA



### LEGAL ADVOCACY AND COMMUNITY PROTECTION



**222**

Legal Assistance requests



**\$1.5 MILLION**

Value of legal aid hours



**\$110,000**

Legal settlements won for  
community members



**81 CITIES 41 COUNTIES**

Served across Pennsylvania and Delaware



**\$350,000+**

Helped secure for mosque security projects



**15**

Clients connected with mental health  
professionals



**400+**

Community members trained in civil rights  
and liberties

### MEDIA IMPACT



**45**

Unique media stories lifting  
community voices and concerns

### CIVIC ENGAGEMENT



**92**

Muslim participants  
at Pennsylvania  
Muslim Capitol Day



**45**

Legislative office meet-  
ings at the state, city, and  
federal level in PA & DE

### YOUTH, CULTURE & INTERFAITH



**40+**

Students at the  
Muslim Youth  
Leadership Summit



**70+**

Young people at the  
City Hall Youth Iftar



**250+**

Community  
members at City Hall  
Taraweeh



**453**

Philadelphia Muslim  
Communities Arts  
and Culture Festival  
participants



**650**

Interfaith partners engaged across our programs

### POWERED BY COMMUNITY



**\$908,297**

Total for Assets



**\$341,218**

Total for Assets

**37% Grants**

**62.5% Community Support**

# DEFEND

## Protecting Rights. Standing With Our Community.

In 2025, CAIR-Philadelphia's legal advocacy program responded to a sustained flow of discrimination, civil-rights, free-speech, education, immigration, and religious-accommodation concerns. The organization recorded 222 legal intakes, a slight increase over 2024. These intakes came from across the Pennsylvania and Delaware landscapes, from both urban and rural areas of both states. Our legal team of 2 served two states with dedication and resolve.

### Case Study: Defending an Educator's Right to Advocate

CAIR-Philadelphia joined the May 2025 announcement of a federal lawsuit on behalf of Philadelphia educator and advocate Keziah Ridgeway, alleging discrimination and retaliation in violation of her civil rights and First Amendment protections. The case centered on constitutionally protected advocacy on behalf of students and marginalized communities. Our work in the Philadelphia School District also included legal consultation with a number of educators and parents, including through training and legal brainstorming sessions.



### Case Study: A Muslim Teenager's Right to Work and Practice Her Faith

A 16-year-old Muslim lifeguard was reportedly sent home from her job by the City of Philadelphia because of her modest religious swimwear. CAIR-Philadelphia called for an investigation, a formal apology, reinstatement, and citywide training on religious accommodations and anti-discrimination policies.

On July 9, the City apologized to the young woman and announced steps addressing religious accommodation. The case became a clear example of how legal advocacy can turn an individual complaint into institutional change. We are also proud of our partnership with the City's Office of Muslim Engagement through this process of seeking structural and long-term change.



# **GOOD NEWS ALERT: CAIR-Philadelphia Welcomes City's Apology to Muslim Lifeguard, Steps Taken for Religious Accommodation**



## Pennsylvania teacher accused of calling Muslim student a 'terrorist' resigns

The seventh grader asked the teacher to change seats and was told, “I do not negotiate with terrorists,” the civil rights group CAIR alleges.



### Case Study: Protecting Students in Central Pennsylvania

In January, CAIR-Philadelphia and the Harrisburg Palestine Coalition supported the family of a Palestinian-American seventh grader who reported being called a “terrorist” by a teacher at Central Dauphin School District. Following community advocacy and a school-board process, the teacher’s resignation was approved on January 28. We continued our engagement with the District together with the family and through our Muslim Youth Leadership Summit in Harrisburg.

## PRESS RELEASE

“Singling out this student and subjecting them to police surveillance reflects a broader, deeply troubling pattern of institutional hostility toward expressions of Palestinian solidarity. Schools should be safe spaces for all students—not environments where cultural identity and solidarity is policed and punished. The violation by LMSD of this student’s right to full participation in the ceremony after their agreement to the removal of the keffiyeh-patterned headscarf is deeply troubling. **LMSD must provide a full explanation and apology considering the double-standard and selective enforcement of policies across two high schools within LMSD.**”

**DR. AHMET SELIM TEKELIOGLU**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CAIR-PHILADELPHIA**

“We are appalled at the way this student was treated by the administration charged with overseeing this momentous occasion in their life. **While we recognize the district’s right to limit disruptive political statements during graduation ceremonies, the political bias and inherent racism in how this standard was applied to a student wearing a keffiyeh compared with students expressing support for Israel reflects a pervasive and disturbing trend within the district.** In light of the egregious disparity we question the intent of the new policy which was only introduced this year after a longstanding tradition of student political expression at LMSD graduation ceremonies. We commend students who have the courage to stand up for their values in the face of intimidation. We call on the district to examine the structural and personal factors which led to this shameful incident and demonstrate a commitment to building a school environment that is inclusive for all.”

**LOWER MERION ALLIANCE FOR FREE SPEECH ON PALESTINE**

### Case Study: **Free Expression and the Keffiyeh**

CAIR-Philadelphia and the Lower Merion Alliance for Free Speech on Palestine challenged the reported treatment of a student at a Lower Merion School District graduation. The student was reportedly required to remove a Palestinian keffiyeh-patterned headscarf, searched, subjected to police surveillance, and prevented from fully participating in the ceremony. CAIR called for an apology and review of the district’s policies on student expression and dress. Our engagement continues in Lower Merion, including through onboarding interns and young leaders from the area to lead our work and to train in new forms of engagement across various issues.

**Case Study: International Students Under Pressure**

In April, CAIR-Philadelphia responded to reports that more than 300 international students nationwide had their student visas revoked, including students at Temple University, the University of Pennsylvania, Penn State University, and the University of Delaware. CAIR worked with impacted students, campus groups, and partner legal organizations to investigate visa cancellations and provide advocacy and legal support. As a result we delivered presentations in State College, Newark, Delaware, Dickinson College, Drexel University, Lehigh University and in one-on-one consultations with international students.

“

“Thank you for facilitating my meeting with the immigration attorneys. I was able to learn more and chart a plan. It’s reassuring that you are there for us.”

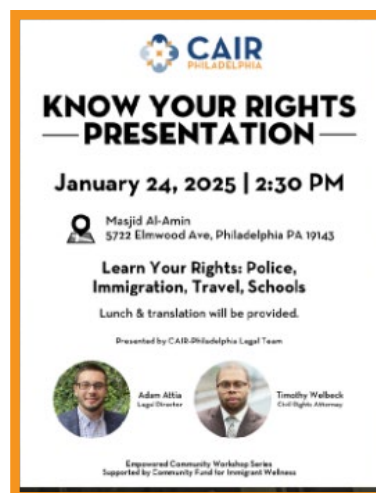
— *Local college international student, after CAIR-Philadelphia facilitated a consultation with an immigration attorney*





### Case Study: Immigration and Detention

By December, our legal team reported that some of its most urgent work involved immigrant safety and potential airport detentions. Our legal team received calls concerning U.S. citizens, green-card holders, and visa holders who were detained or questioned at airports. **CAIR's Know Your Rights** work helped community members understand their rights during travel and connected international students with immigration lawyers when needed. We organized a joint letter signed by 55 organizational partners and a public protest drawing hundreds in opposition to the arrest of Columbia University Student Mahmoud Khalil. Throughout the year, our office partnered with No ICE Philly, Pennsylvania Immigration Coalition, and many other partners in this work.



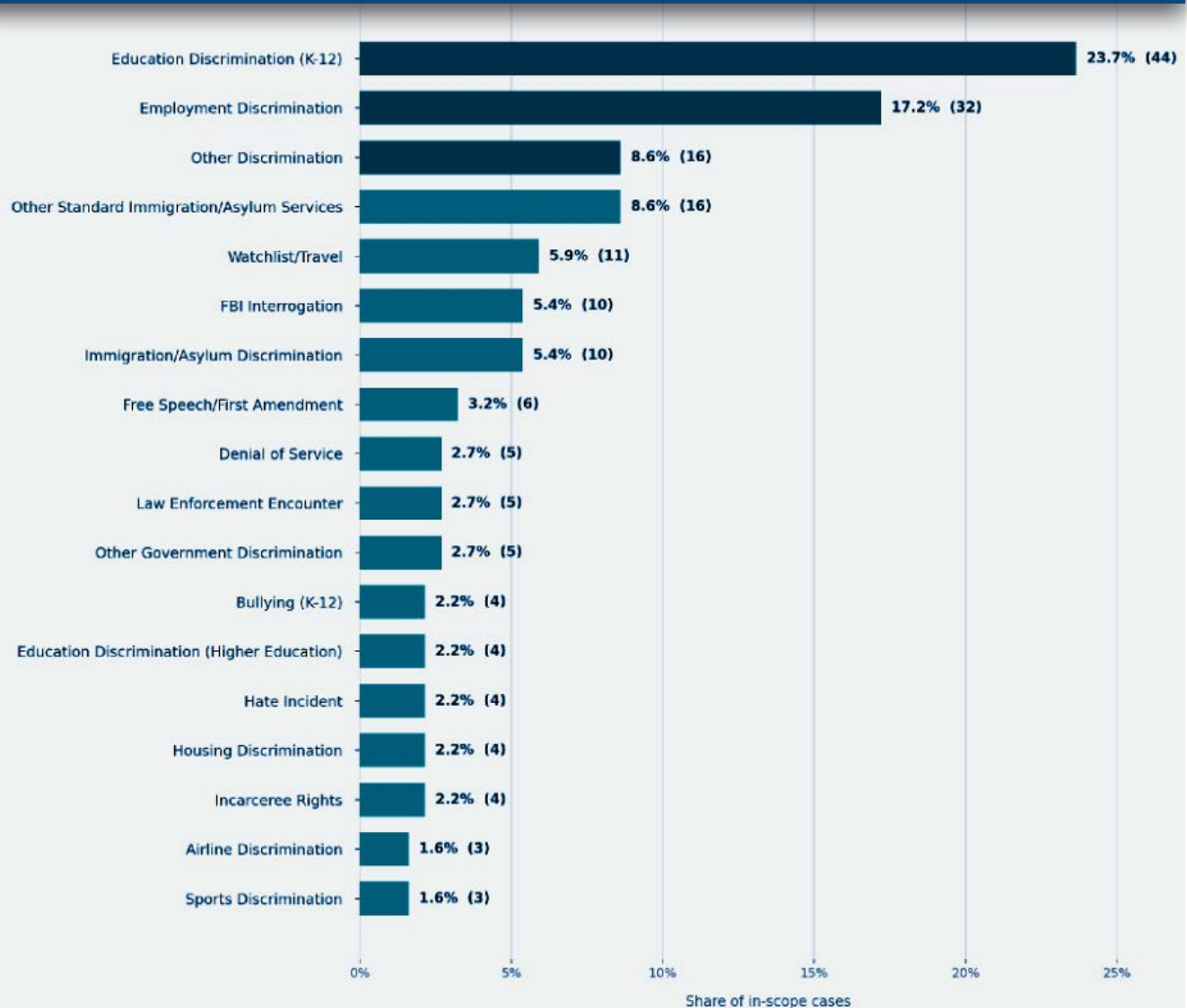
Early in 2025 CAIR-Philadelphia developed multi-lingual resources for Southwest Philadelphia's West African Muslim communities, delivered in multiple languages by our legal team.

# LEGAL ASSISTANCE AND EDUCATION



# CAIR-PHILADELPHIA 2025 CIVIL RIGHTS CASES

Distribution by case type • 186 in-scope cases





Pam Nelson holds a sign during a rally outside of City Hall in support of Mahmoud Khalil, a pro-Palestinian activist and former Columbia University graduate student on Monday, March 17, 2025.

Yong Kim / Staff Photographer

March 17, 2025 hundreds of protesters joined us and our allies at Philadelphia City Hall condemning Trump administration's targeting of Mahmoud Khalil and Palestinian activists across US campuses.



With Masjid Ar-Rahman community members after our Know Your Rights Workshop

# CAIR-PHILADELPHIA CIVIL RIGHTS CASES BY MONTH

Monthly distribution of 222 cases recorded during 2025



Highest monthly totals occurred in March and July, with 28 cases each.

## LOCATIONS OF OUR CIVIL RIGHTS AND LITIGATION LEGAL CASES

265 service records combined into 95 reported city names • Bubble size shows frequency



# EMPOWER

## Know Your Rights Training

CAIR-Philadelphia expanded its Know Your Rights and community-education work in response to an increasingly complex civil-rights environment. In 2025, we trained more than 325 community members in civil rights and liberties at colleges, mosques, and community centers across Pennsylvania.

Our training addressed practical concerns including travel and digital security, interactions with law enforcement and immigration authorities, workplace and student rights, and other situations in which community members may need to assert their constitutional protections.

We presented 15 unique Know Your Rights workshops; engaging over 450 community members





### Ramadan and Fasting 2025: Information for Educators & Employers

In 2025, Ramadan is expected to start on **Saturday, March 1**.

Diverse Muslim communities may follow alternate calculation methods to determine the beginning of the lunar month. Be mindful of this and show understanding.

You can wish a happy Ramadan by simply saying:  
**"Ramadan Mubarak!"**

Fasting begins at the first light of dawn and ends at sunset.  
Fasting time will get longer as Ramadan progresses.

**Approximate timings in 2025 in PA and DE are:**  
**Beginning of Ramadan: 5:19 AM until 5:53 PM**  
**End of Ramadan: 5:34 AM until 7:22 PM**

**Eid Mubarak!**

At the end of Ramadan, Eid al-Fitr is expected to fall on **Sunday, March 30**.  
This is a festive day spent at the mosque and with family and friends.  
Schools and employers should be prepared for individuals requesting a day off around this time.

**Contact CAIR-Philadelphia**  
**267-515-6710 | [pa.cair.com/contact](https://pa.cair.com/contact)**

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar, during which most Muslims observe religious fasting. Fasting includes refraining from eating, drinking, smoking, and intimate contact from dawn to sunset.

Ramadan is a period when Muslims increase their focus on personal restraint, proper conduct, and empathy with the less fortunate through giving to charity and engagement in local projects. Although Muslims are not required to fast until the age of puberty, many choose to participate at a younger age.

**Dietary Requirements:**

Muslims refrain from consuming alcohol, pork, and any pork by-products or derivatives. Some Muslims choose to adhere to "Halal" standards for meat and poultry slaughter and preparation. Schools should indicate, with a clear, age-appropriate marker, if a food item contains any of the following objectionable products or ingredients:

- Pork, including: pepperoni, sausage, hot dogs, or bacon.
- Animal shortening with lard.
- Gelatin, including: Jello and gummy bears/worms.
- Ingredients containing alcohol, such as vanilla extract and Dijon mustard.

**Schools & employers should consider the demand for halal food and offer it alongside other options such as kosher and vegan.**

**Show sensitivity to fasting individuals by:**

- Excusing students from strenuous physical activity.
- Allowing students to spend lunchtime someplace where others are not eating.
- Avoiding scheduling lunch meetings during Ramadan.

**Pork and pork by-products in lunches:**

- Mark items with a red dot or a picture of a pig.
- Provide alternate lunch options, such as vegetarian meals and snacks.

## Resources for Educators and Employers

CAIR-Philadelphia published 2025 Ramadan and Fasting guidance for educators and employers and Eid accommodation request templates, giving community members practical tools for requesting religious accommodations.



# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS WORKSHOP

**Upper left: Know Your Rights Workshop at Masjid Al-Falah, Indonesian Mosque in Philadelphia.**

**Left: Masjid Al-Jamia on July 12, 2025.**

# ORGANIZE

## **Building Muslim Power: On and Beyond Election Day**

Throughout 2025, CAIR-Philadelphia continued its commitment to empowering Muslim communities through civic engagement and advocacy at the local, state, and national levels. Community members met directly with elected officials, advocated for issues affecting Muslim communities, and strengthened their role in the democratic process.

**We helped move lawmakers to support Block the Bombs Act through direct advocacy, community mobilization and lifting the public discourse to responsibly spend American taxpayer dollars.**

**We mobilized 36 volunteer phone canvassers who completed 214.5 hours and reached 23,267 voters by phone. We also mobilized 13 volunteer door canvassers, who completed 1,219.5 hours and knocked on 12,414 doors.**

Our work throughout the year meant that CAIR-Philadelphia continued to mobilize for voting-rights advocacy, immigrant-rights organizing, and coalition work around free speech and Palestinian human rights. We developed multilingual resources and identified legislative opportunities and risks for our community. Similar to our past work to counter legislation that would restrict freedom of speech across Pennsylvania universities, we made sure that impacted community members were the ones to meet with political leaders. This work was done in coordination with a multifaith coalition network, further bolstering the moral high ground and establishing new, principled relationships.

# 2025 CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

## TEAM IN NUMBERS

### PHONE CANVASSING

CONVERSATIONS CREATE CHANGE



**36**  
Volunteer  
phone canvassers



**214.5**  
Hours completed



**23,267**  
Voters reached  
by phone

*Real conversations.  
Stronger communities.*



### DOOR CANVASSING

NEIGHBORS BUILD A BRIGHTER TOMORROW



**13**  
Volunteer  
door canvassers



**1,219.5**  
Hours completed



**12,414**  
Doors knocked

*On the ground.  
In our communities.*





# CAIR

PHILADELPHIA

*Organizing for Good*  
*Living Our Faith*

**Protecting**  
**Civil Rights**

**Enhancing**  
**The Understanding of Islam**

**Promoting**  
**Civic Engagement**

**Challenging**  
**Islamophobia**

**Developing**  
**Future Muslim Leaders**

**Advocating**  
**Justice and Mutual Understanding**

air.com

MASJID  
L-BUKHARI



These efforts meant we conducted 45 unique legislative office meetings at the state, city, and federal level in Pennsylvania and Delaware; mobilized over 150 community members into these meetings, and helped pass the Welcoming City Ordinance in Allentown together with our allies. These ordinances paved the way for our continued work in 2026 across other locations, including in Philadelphia, where similar laws passed that entrenched clear guidelines against local city level collaboration with ICE's unlawful acts.

From our meetings in Washington, D.C. to meetings at lawmakers district offices, we ensured a principled engagement model. These efforts allowed us to gradually build pressure on, educate, and convey our communal perspective that our tax dollars should not fuel injustice at home or abroad- not in Philadelphia, not in Newark, not in Sudan, Palestine, Syria, or Kashmir.



# LANSDALE CANDIDATE FORUM 2025

FOR IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2025  
7:00 PM – 8:30 PM  
NORTH PENN MOSQUE COMMUNITY CENTER  
(229 W FIFTH ST, LANSDALE, PA)

**MEET THE CANDIDATES.  
SHAPE YOUR FUTURE.**

**SUBMIT QUESTIONS: [INFO@WOORICENTERPA.ORG](mailto:INFO@WOORICENTERPA.ORG)**







## Delaware Muslim Capitol Day

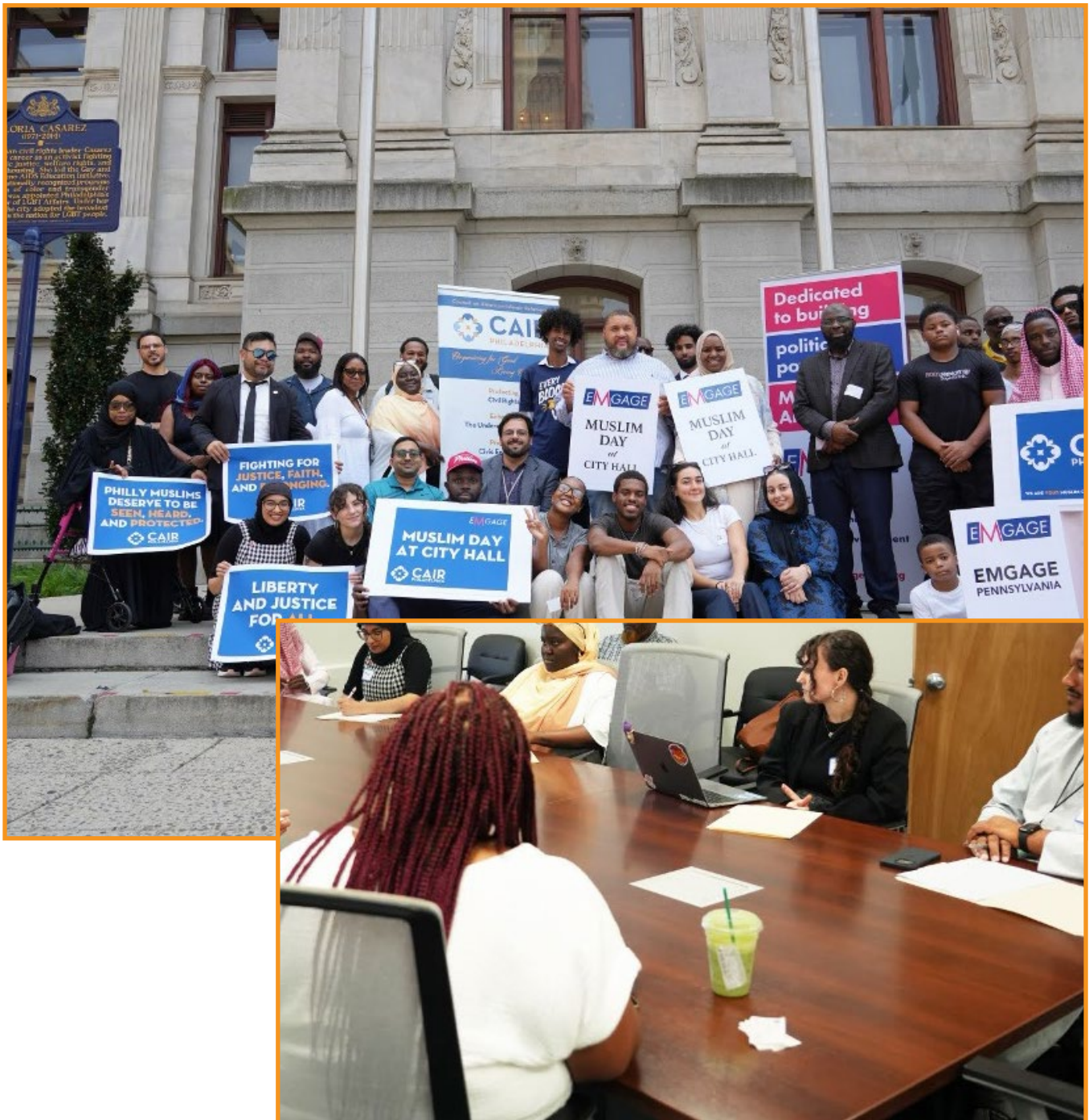
On May 22, 2025, we traveled to Dover for the second annual Delaware Muslim Capitol Day. Hosted by Delaware State Representative Madinah Wilson-Anton and supported by the Islamic Society of Central Delaware, community members advocated on issues including Islamophobia, freedom of speech, halal meals and food insecurity, religious accommodations, immigrant rights, and compassionate-release reform through Senate Bill 10.

Following meetings with legislators, participants held a press conference and were recognized during sessions of both the Delaware House and Senate. Students from Darul Amaanah Academy joined us once again, gaining firsthand experience in civic advocacy and strengthening their commitment to public service.



## Philadelphia Muslim City Hall Day

CAIR-Philadelphia partnered with community members and Emgage Pennsylvania for Philadelphia Muslim City Hall Day. Participants met with City Council members and were hosted by Councilmember Curtis Jones. New Madina Institute students once again joined us showcasing the best of our Muslim youth advocating on religious accommodations, citywide Eid holiday recognition, prayer spaces, halal food, protection of Muslim students and educators, free speech, gun violence, and immigrant communities.





### Pennsylvania Muslim Capitol Day

On October 29, 2025, 92 Muslim Pennsylvanians from Philadelphia, Harrisburg, Allentown, and surrounding communities gathered in Harrisburg. Participants conducted 29 legislative meetings and advocated for restoring critical social-service funding, civil rights and free speech, religious accommodations and halal meals, the Eid Holiday Bill, nonprofit security funding, voting access, criminal justice reform, and Drivers Licenses for All.

The day also included a press conference featuring Speaker Joanna McClinton, Senators Nikil Saval and Sharif Street, Representatives Chris Rabb and Joe Hohenstein, student advocates, Pennsylvania Secretary of State Akbar Hossain, and representatives of the Governor's administration.

## PRINCIPLED MUSLIM ENGAGEMENT



### National Muslim Advocacy

CAIR-Philadelphia promoted participation in the U.S. Council of Muslim Organizations' 2025 National Muslim Advocacy Day in Washington, D.C., giving Pennsylvania and Delaware community members an opportunity to engage congressional offices on issues affecting Muslim communities.





# BUILD

## Growing Leaders. Strengthening Community

### Muslim Youth Leadership Summit

In December 2025, more than 35 students from the Allentown area participated in the Muslim Youth Leadership Summit. Workshops focused on Faith, Identity and Purpose in Leadership; Advocacy 101: How Change Happens in Schools; Power Mapping and Strategy Building; and Communication and Messaging. Joined by communications experts, community organizers, and our own staff, we sought to ensure a key component of our programs always focus on imagining a better future through seeking change in our communities today.

Students developed advocacy campaigns they hoped to launch in their own schools. The summit connected faith with action and equipped young people to become advocates, organizers, and changemakers.



#### FAITH, IDENTITY AND PURPOSE IN LEADERSHIP

In this session, students will explore how advocacy is rooted in Islam and why Muslim youth have always been leaders in movements for justice. Through a short talk and reflective activities, participants will learn about examples from Islamic history, modern Muslim youth victories, and what it means to lead confidently while staying true to their identity. This session builds the spiritual and emotional foundation for the day, helping youth see themselves as powerful advocates grounded in faith and purpose.



Ahmet Tekelioglu  
Executive Director  
CAIR Philadelphia

#### ADVOCACY 101: HOW CHANGE HAPPENS IN SCHOOLS

In this hands-on session, students will learn the basics of advocacy and how real change happens in schools. We'll break down what advocacy actually is, identifying a problem, understanding who has the power to fix it, and pushing for a solution. Participants will then choose the school issue they care about most (like halal meals, prayer spaces, anti-bullying policies, and kid recognition) and form working groups that will carry through the rest of the day. By the end of the session, everyone will have a clear issue, goal, and reason why it matters, setting the foundation for building an effective campaign.



Asiyah Jones  
Advocacy Director  
CAIR Philadelphia

#### POWER MAPPING & STRATEGY BUILDING

In this strategy-building session led by Make the Road Pennsylvania, one of the state's leading grassroots organizations fighting for immigrant justice, racial equity, and working-class power, students will learn how real change is won through organized strategy. This session equips youth with the practical skills organizers use every day to create lasting, systemic change.



Raya Abdealal  
Community Organizer  
Lehigh Valley



Aya Mohamed  
Civic Engagement Director  
Make the Road PA

#### COMMUNICATION & MESSAGING LAB

In this workshop, students will explore how storytelling, film, and media can be powerful tools for advocacy and shaping public narratives. Through insights from the producer of *Stand Up for Madinah*, an Al Jazeera documentary about Delaware Rep. Masnun W. Bondatton, participants will learn how authentic storytelling can challenge stereotypes, build community power, and strengthen their own campaign messaging. This session will help youth understand how to tell compelling stories that inspire action and make their voices heard.



Zainab Sultan  
Film Director  
Stand Up for Madinah

#### CAMPAIGN PLAN SHOWCASE

In this final session, student teams will present the advocacy campaigns they've built throughout the day. Each group will share their issue, key decision makers, their specific "ask," a 30-day action plan, and the core message behind their campaign. A panel of judges may offer feedback, highlight strong strategies, and celebrate the creativity and leadership students bring to the table. This showcase is the culmination of the summit, where youth step into their power and walk away with ready-to-launch campaign plans for real change in their schools.

### MUSLIM YOUTH LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

Unapologetically Muslim, Unstoppable in Leadership

MUSLIM ASSOCIATION OF LEHIGH VALLEY SATURDAY, DEC 13  
1988 Schadt Ave, Whitehall Township, PA 18052 10 am - 4:30 pm

[pa.cair.com/myls](http://pa.cair.com/myls)



Muslim Youth Leadership Symposium (MYLS) 2025



## Young Professionals

CAIR-Philadelphia continued to build networks, facilitate gatherings, and a stronger connection to our civil rights work among young professionals. In 2025 we hosted Ramadan iftar, a field day, and a game night with young professionals. Participants competed in kickball, basketball, tennis, scavenger hunts, and team challenges, creating opportunities for young Muslims to build relationships and community outside traditional networking settings.



## City Hall Taraweeh

For the second consecutive year in 2025, Muslims from across Philadelphia gathered outside City Hall for a citywide Taraweeh prayer under the theme “Philly United: One Ummah Praying for Peace.” More than 250 community members participated in the gathering, which centered on collective worship, reflection, and du’a for peace, justice, and healing. Partnering with the City of Philadelphia Office of Muslim Engagement, Center City Mosque, Philly Halal Food Festival, Philly Muslim Initiatives, and many other partners; we showcased the best of our ummah- with care for our local and global ummah. The prayers and unity across races, ages, zip-codes, and languages as always presented a scene that gave us hope and a deep appreciation for our community.



# BELONG

## Seen, Heard, and Celebrated

Muslim life is more than responding to injustice. In 2025, CAIR-Philadelphia created opportunities for Muslim communities to gather, worship, celebrate, tell their stories, and see themselves reflected in Philadelphia's civic and cultural life.

### On My Deen: African American Muslim Stories on Stage

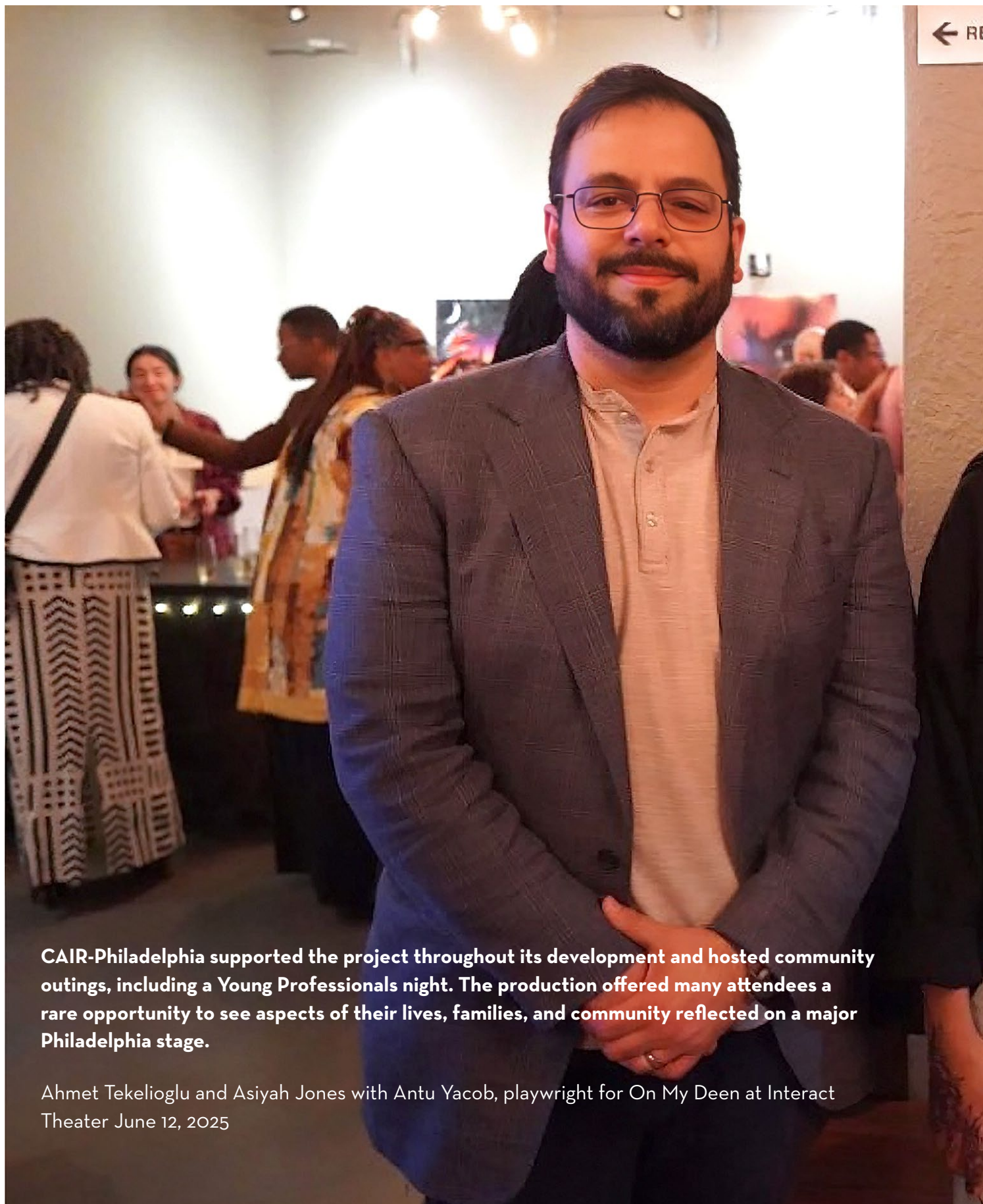
After nearly three years of collaboration with InterAct Theatre Company, the world-premiere production of On My Deen debuted in Philadelphia in June 2025. The project grew from listening sessions, interviews, script reviews, and consultation with Philadelphia's African American Muslim community.



Dr. Quaiser Abdullah, Director of Philadelphia Office of Muslim Engagement speaking at the premiere of On My Deen on June 12, 2025.



Ahmet Tekelioglu and Asiyah Jones with Seth Rozin, producing artistic director of InterAct Theater for a post-show conversation on *On My Deen*.



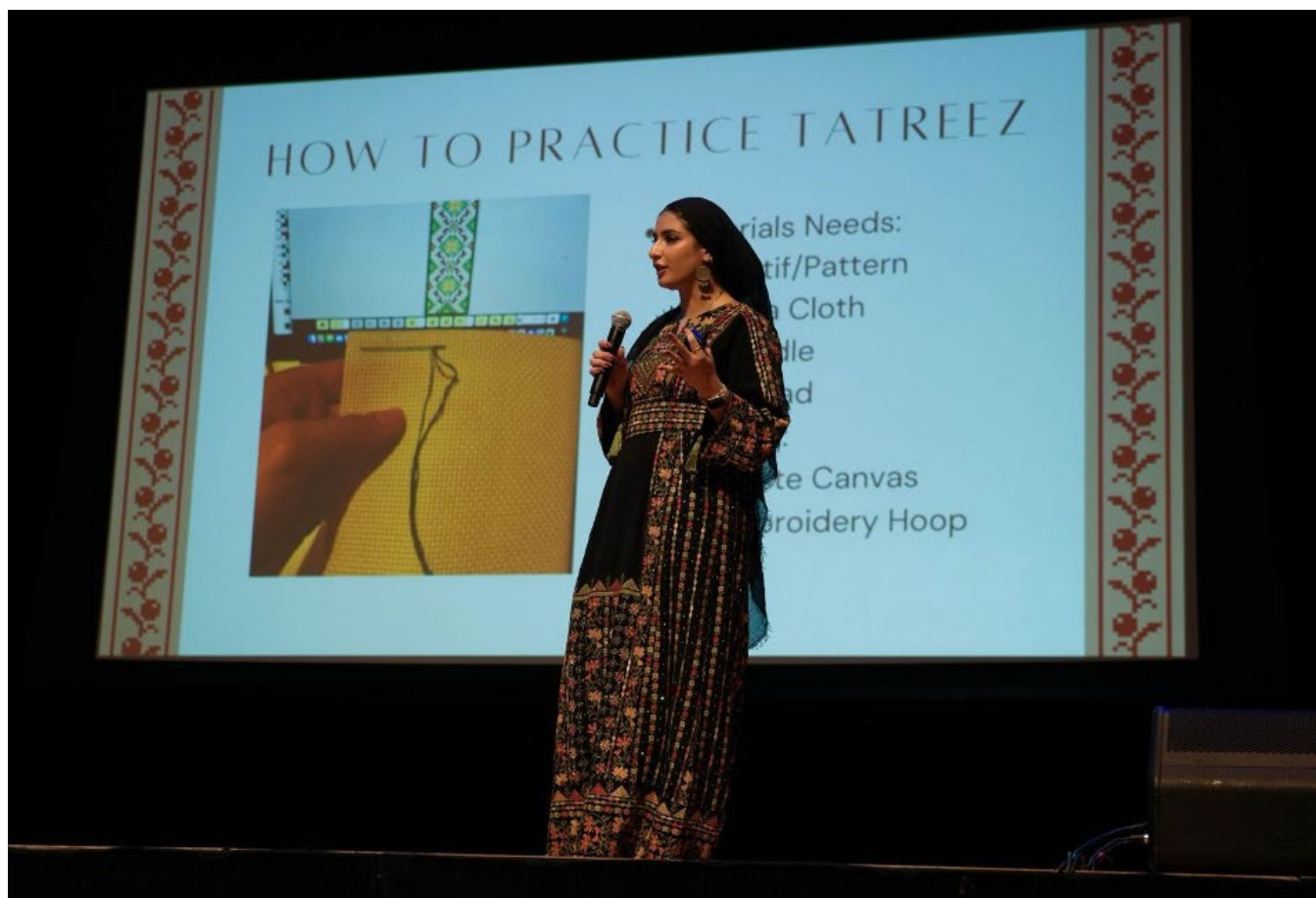
**CAIR-Philadelphia supported the project throughout its development and hosted community outings, including a Young Professionals night. The production offered many attendees a rare opportunity to see aspects of their lives, families, and community reflected on a major Philadelphia stage.**

Ahmet Tekelioglu and Asiyah Jones with Antu Yacob, playwright for *On My Deen* at Interact Theater June 12, 2025



## Philadelphia Muslim Communities Arts & Culture Festival

In November, CAIR-Philadelphia partnered with the Islamic Cultural Preservation & Information Council/New Africa Center and Muslim City Fest to present the Philadelphia Muslim Communities Arts & Culture Festival at Temple University. The festival celebrated the region's Indonesian, African, Arab, South Asian, Black American, Palestinian, and other Muslim communities through music, dance, storytelling, art, and conversation.





### Interfaith Iftar and Movie-Screening

CAIR-Philadelphia partnered with Masjidullah for the annual Interfaith Iftar on March 9, 2025, “Strength, Unity, Resilience: How Faith Can Unite in the face of Adversity Through Social Action.” People of diverse faith traditions gathered for reflection, fellowship, and dialogue about the challenges facing our country and the role of faith communities in addressing community needs. The Masjidullah, Children of Adam, Mishkan Shalom band once again offered insightful melodies during the event.



## Islam's Greatest Stories of Love: Movie-Screening

On November 1st we hosted the Philadelphia Premiere of UPF's new film, *Islam's Greatest Stories of Love* at Temple University Performing Arts Center. Joined by a panel formed by Dr. Quaiser Abdullah, Rabbi Lizzi Horne Moses, and Reverend Matthew Arlyck, our interfaith pillar also remembered our beloved late Rabbi Arthur Waskow of the Shalom Center.





# AMPLIFY AND PARTNER

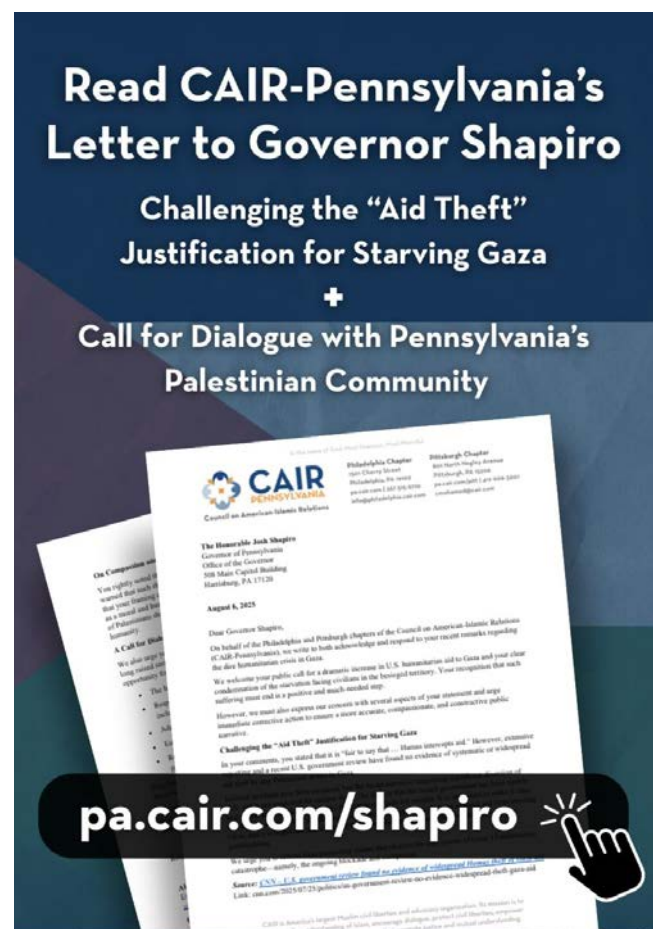
## Public Voice and Community Information

CAIR-Philadelphia used press releases, action alerts, newsletters, social media, Know Your Rights resources, and public events to ensure that Muslim community concerns were visible in public conversations.

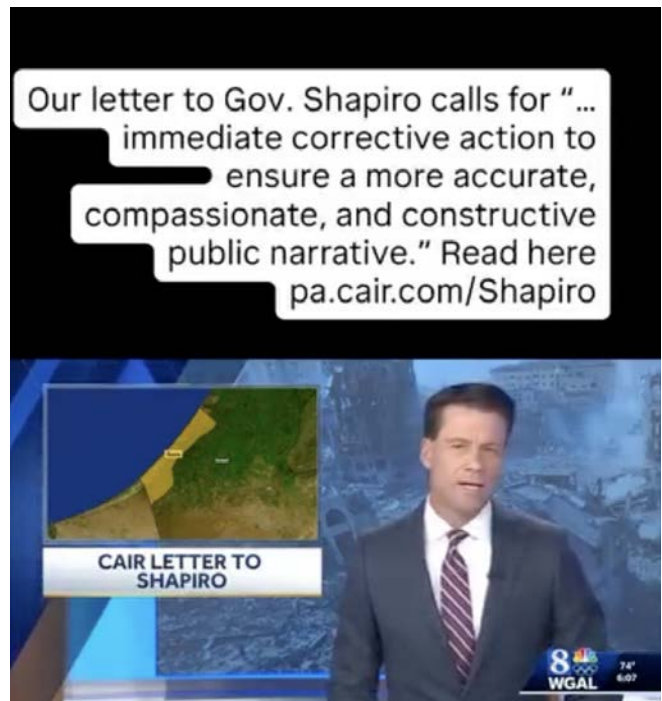
Our 2025 press archive documents sustained public advocacy on education, immigration, religious accommodation, free expression, hate crimes, student rights, Gaza and Palestinian human rights, and civic participation. We were successful to also ensure our reach was picked up by the press, not remaining only in the social media realm.

## Community Collaborations

CAIR-Philadelphia also supported or collaborated on initiatives including the Muslim Interscholastic Tournament (MIST) Philadelphia; National Muslim Voter Registration Day; immigrant-rights rallies and advocacy; the Muslim Girl Empowerment Event with the Philadelphia Office of Muslim Engagement and KYW Girls; and the ICE Out Campaign.



Our advocacy efforts led to 45 unique, earned-media placements in 2025, showcasing our communal voice and elevating the public discourse on American Muslim communities across Pennsylvania and Delaware. In 2025 we also added over 2000 new unique followers on our social media accounts, reaching collectively to an audience of over 700,000 individuals with a financial screen time/audience reach worth of over \$2 million dollars.



# CITIZEN

GUEST COMMENTARY

## REMOVE PHILLY'S VOTING LANGUAGE BARRIERS

A Muslim-American advocate urges Philadelphia to steal an idea from Chicago and L.A.: Make it easier for non-English speaking citizens to vote

BY AHMET SELIM TEKELIOGLU, PHD. OCT. 20, 2025

✉️ 🖨️ 📧 Post 📧 Share

**B**y Pennsylvania law, voters are **only required** to show identification if it is their first time voting at a specific precinct or polling location. Yet in the 2025 primary election this May, an Arabic-speaking community member in Philadelphia was asked to provide identification at the polling place because a poll worker thought his name "was too difficult to understand" — even though he had been casting his ballot at the same precinct and location for years.

Fortunately, this voter knew his rights and exercised his right to vote. But this case highlights how voter disenfranchisement can and does happen, even here in Pennsylvania. In fact, we **rank 29th** in ease of voting, based on the 2024 Cost of Voting Index, which measures and compares how accessible it is to vote in each state.

Our Executive Director published an essay with the Philadelphia Citizen to underline the need for language access at polling sites in Philadelphia and beyond.

A part of this work to elevate public discourse and civic activism was our participation in Philadelphia People's Tribunal on Genocide and War Crimes in Gaza, organized by Fridays at Fetterman's. CAIR-Philadelphia served as the fiscal sponsor for the program, facilitating back-end operations. Our

Executive Director Ahmet Tekelioglu also joined the Tribunal as one of the jurors. On Saturday, May 31, 2025, a team of human rights attorneys and international law experts representing the people of Philadelphia, PA presented the case at the Philadelphia People's Tribunal that U.S. government officials, including Senator John Fetterman (PA) and other designated members of the Pennsylvania U.S. Congressional delegation, are guilty of complicity with Israel's U.S-funded war crimes and genocide in Gaza.



# FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

CAIR-Philadelphia is committed to responsible stewardship of the resources entrusted to us by community members, donors, foundations, and partners. Despite challenges, in 2025 we grew our staff numbers, services, and reach. Upholding the trust of our community is paramount at every step we take.



# 2025 FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

## TOTAL INCOME

**\$983,754**

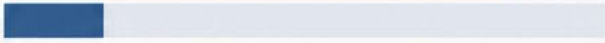
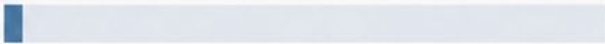
## TOTAL EXPENSES

**\$910,982**

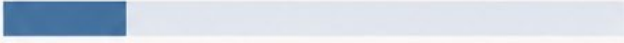
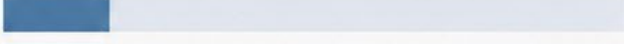
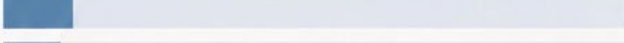
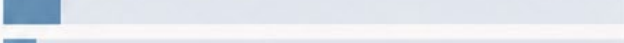
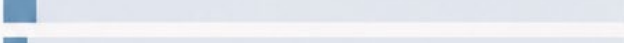
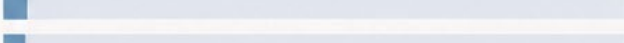
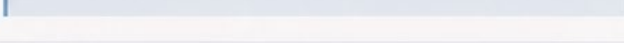
## TOTAL INCOME

**\$71,772**

## SOURCES OF INCOME

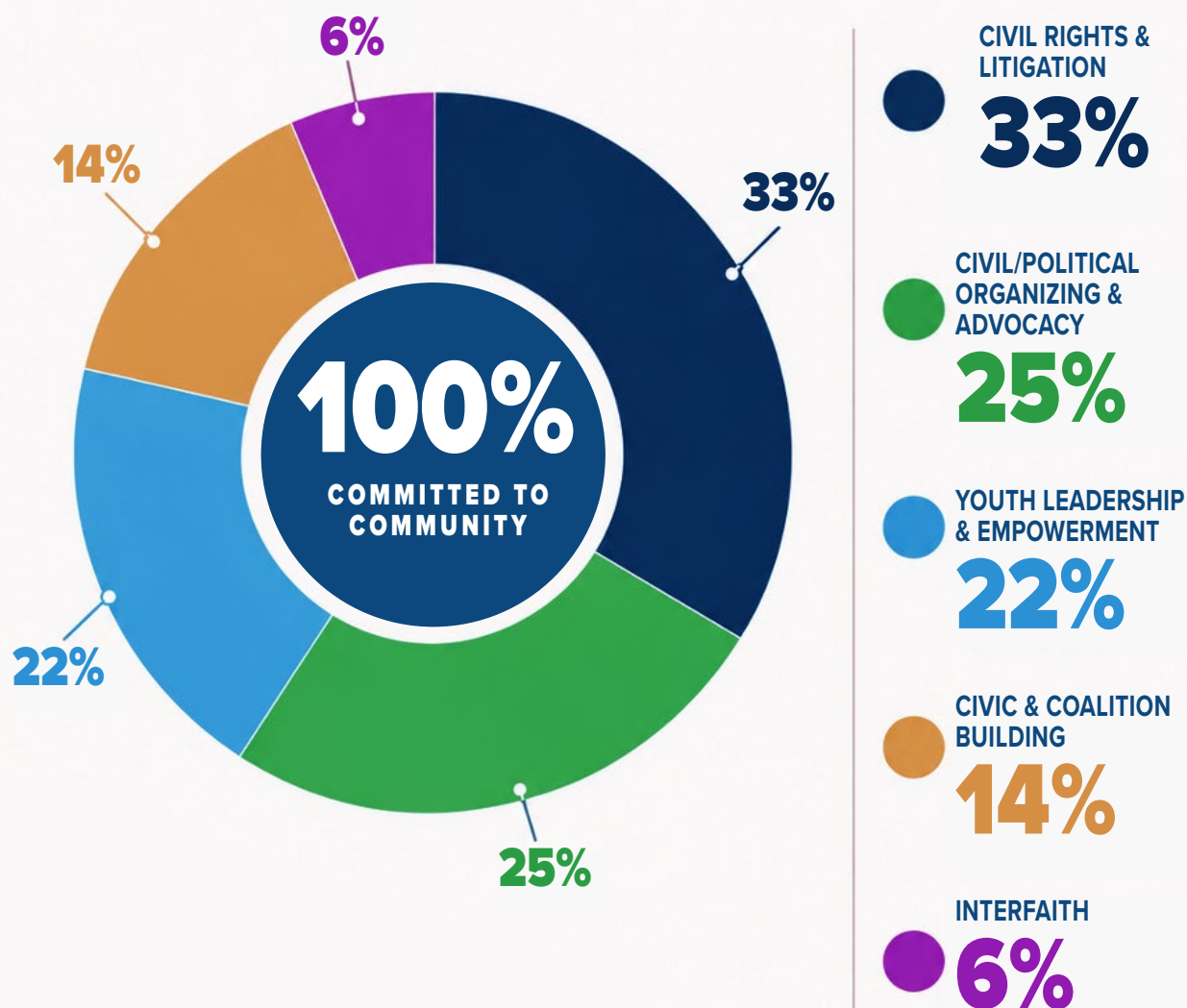
|                                  |                                                                                      |           |       |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------|
| Donations                        |    | \$784,783 | 79.8% |
| Permanently Restricted Donations |    | \$123,515 | 12.6% |
| Banquet Revenue                  |   | \$55,820  | 5.7%  |
| Sponsorships                     |  | \$19,600  | 2.0%  |

## HOW FUNDS ARE USED

|                          |                                                                                      |           |       |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------|
| Payroll                  |  | \$353,127 | 38.8% |
| Program Expenses         |  | \$274,765 | 30.1% |
| Banquet                  |  | \$79,451  | 8.7%  |
| Marketing & Outreach     |  | \$69,475  | 7.6%  |
| Insurance                |  | \$43,824  | 4.8%  |
| Legal Case Expenses      |  | \$38,183  | 4.2%  |
| Office Expenses          |  | \$20,947  | 2.3%  |
| Merchant Fees            |  | \$15,196  | 1.7%  |
| Travel                   |  | \$14,410  | 1.6%  |
| Other Operating Expenses |  | \$1,604   | 0.2%  |

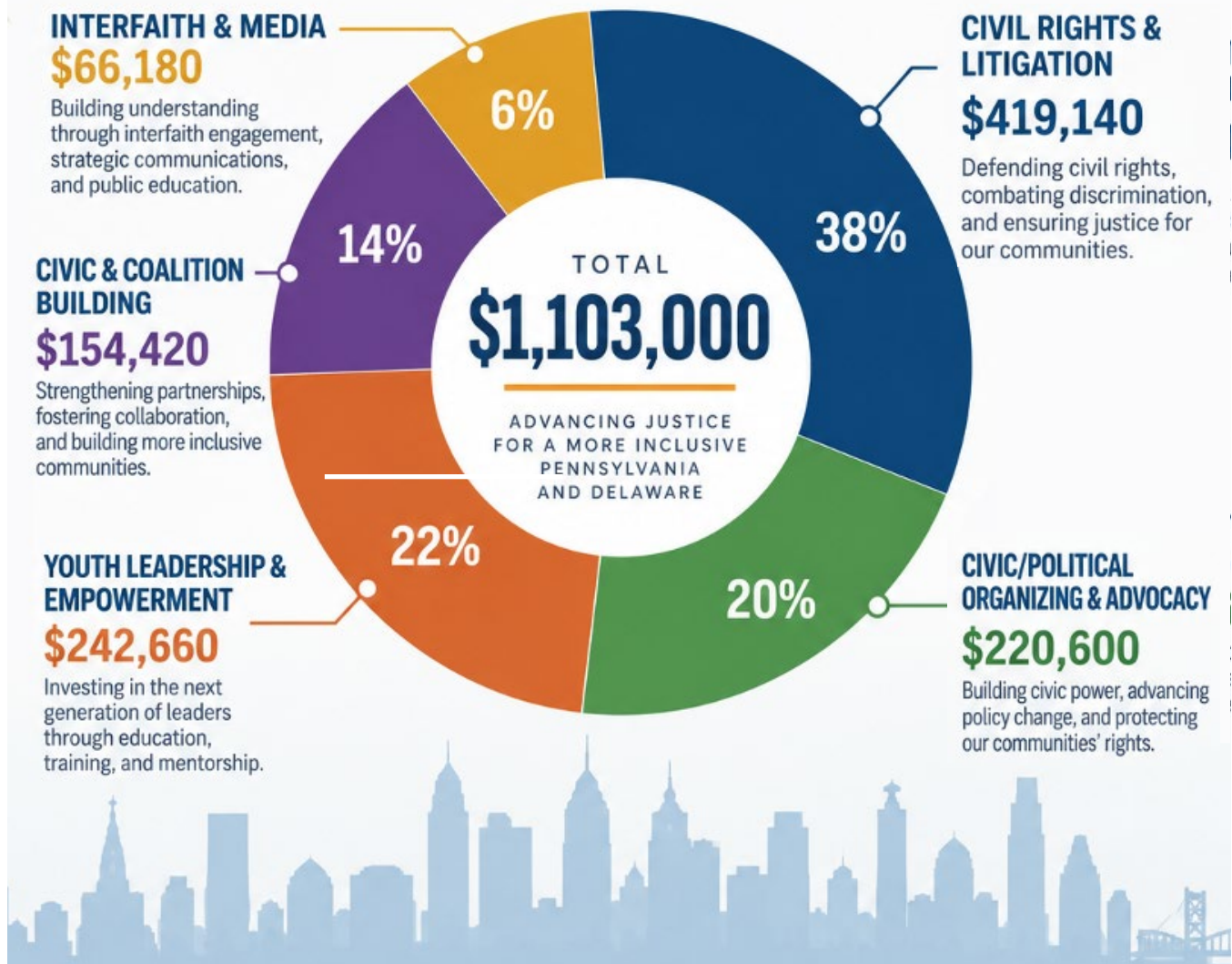
# PROGRAM ALLOCATION

## WHERE OUR WORK MADE AN IMPACT



### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF JUNE 30, 2026

# NEXT 12 MONTHS PROJECTED EXPENSES



|                                |           |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| TOTAL FOR ASSETS               | \$695,987 |
| TOTAL FOR CURRENT LIABILITIES  | \$8,526   |
| TOTAL FOR EQUITY               | \$687,461 |
| TOTAL FOR LIABILITIES & EQUITY | \$695,987 |



*Thank  
You*



# LOOKING AHEAD

## 2026-2027

We will strengthen our organization in three key areas:

1

### DEEPEN PROFESSIONAL CAPACITY

Build stronger systems, skills, and staff capacity for effective organizing and advocacy.



2

### EXPAND OUR FOOTPRINT

Grow our presence and partnerships across Pennsylvania and Delaware.



3

### INVEST IN YOUNG LEADERS

Provide practical training, mentorship, and direct opportunities to engage decision-makers.



Equipping a new generation to shape public policy, strengthen their communities, and advance positive change.



# Faith. Education. Community

[www.zubaidafoundation.org](http://www.zubaidafoundation.org)



## Worship

We foster a welcoming environment where individuals can connect deeply with their Creator through congregational prayers, engaging Khutbahs, and spiritually uplifting programs. Our goal is to enrich your worship experience and strengthen your relationship with Allah.



## Outreach

Dedicated to building bridges and fostering understanding, we lead initiatives that showcase the beauty of Islam, promote interfaith harmony, and support those in need within our wider community.



## Education

Empowering minds and hearts with knowledge, our programs offer a comprehensive Islamic education for all ages, ensuring everyone has the tools to grow spiritually, intellectually, and morally in today's world.



## Charity

Guided by compassion, we strive to alleviate hardships and uplift lives through community-driven charity projects, supporting those in need while embodying the prophetic tradition of service.

# Thank you, CAIR-Philadelphia for your dedication to our community.

**Zubaida Foundation**

855 Big Oak Road

Yardley, PA 19067



In the name of Allah the Beneficent, the Merciful

# SABIR LAW GROUP



*A General Practice Law Firm*

## **Real Estate:**

(Residential, Commercial, Foreclosure, Title, & Landlord-Tenant)

---

## **Immigration:**

(Family Petitions, Citizenship, Deportation Defense)

---

## **Business Law:**

(Incorporations, Partnership Agreements & Closings)

---

## **Civil Litigation:**

(Personal & Business)

---

## **Criminal Law**

**We speak your language: Arabic-Urdu-Punjabi-Bengali-Hindi-English**

**For FREE Consultation please contact us at**

**610-713-9000 – [contact@sabirlaw.com](mailto:contact@sabirlaw.com)**

**Visit us: [www. Sabirlaw.com](http://www.Sabirlaw.com)**

# ORPHAN CARE

Bright futures start with care.  
Be a hero in an orphan's life.



Be their hero



ZAKAT  
FOUNDATION  
of AMERICA

ZAKAT.ORG >>



# A lifetime of investing for families and institutions.

From Education to Retirement — Halal Investing for Every Stage.



Please consider an investment's objectives, risks, charges, and expenses carefully before investing. To obtain this and other important information about Amana Mutual Funds in a current prospectus or summary prospectus, please visit [www.amanafunds.com](http://www.amanafunds.com) or call toll free 1-800-728-8762. Please read the prospectus or summary prospectus carefully before investing. Investing involves risk, including possible loss of principal. The Amana Funds limit the securities they purchase to those consistent with Islamic principles. This limits opportunities and may affect performance. Distributed by Saturna Brokerage Services, Inc., member FINRA / SIPC and a wholly-owned subsidiary of Saturna Capital, investment adviser to the Amana Funds.





*The Practice of Drs. Chaudhry, Chaudhry, and Chaudhry and Associates*

*Eye Physicians and Surgeons*

*One of the Philadelphia area's Premier LASIK surgery providers*

*Recognized as Philadelphia's "Top Docs"*

*Specialists in Retina, Cataract, Glaucoma, Cornea, and Pediatrics*

*Now offering facial rejuvenation and cosmetic facial surgery*



### **Locations**

3046 Knights Rd, Bensalem PA 19020 (215) 639-4500

821 Huntingdon Pike, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006 (215) 379-2500

1725 Klockner Rd, Hamilton NJ (609) 586-6700

2301 E Allegheny Ave, Philadelphia PA (215) 291-2194

[www.iclaser.com](http://www.iclaser.com)



**Aisha Chaudhry, DPM, FACFAOM**  
**Bruce L. Bruskoff, DPM, FACFAS**  
**Jack Rubinlicht, DPM, FACFAS**  
**David Loewinger, DPM**  
**Rowan Mahmoud, DPM**

**1304 Rhawn St**  
**Philadelphia, PA 19111**  
**p 215-742-1225 f 215-742-3902**

**301 Oxford Valley Rd Suite 204**  
**Yardley, PA 19067**  
**215-493-8300**

**13 Market Place Suite 60**  
**New Hope, PA 18938**  
**215-862-2084**

**Website: [pafootandankle.com](http://pafootandankle.com)**

**You can now pay your bill on our website.**



"The discovery of a child's true potential."



- Infant • Toddler
- Preschool • Kindergarten

- Before and After School Programs
- Full-day Summer Camp



**Campuses:** **Great Valley** | **Malvern** | **Paoli**  
**Royersford** | **West Chester** | **Wilmington**

Now enrolling for 23-24 school year!

## ADMISSIONS:



484-661-0584



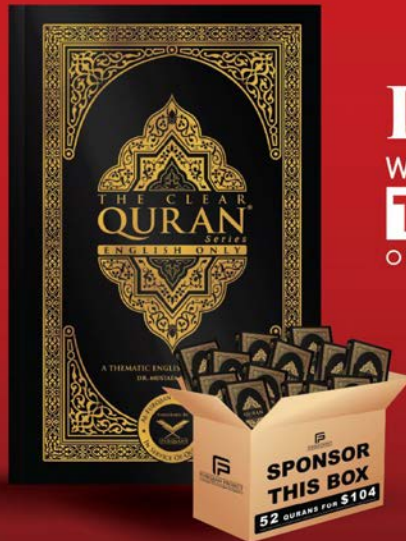
[admissions@imschools.net](mailto:admissions@imschools.net)



[imschools.net](http://imschools.net)



## THIS IS YOUR SIGN TO SUPPORT FURQAAN PROJECT



**104**  
**PEOPLE**  
will receive  
**The Quran**  
on your behalf for  
**JUST \$208**

Scan to Donate



 [FurqaanProject.org](http://FurqaanProject.org)

# RABABALMA

T H E R A P I S T

MBA, MA, LMFT,  
CCTP, CCATP

Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist in PA, NJ, FL, and DE



APPROVED EMDR CONSULTANT

IMMIGRATION EVALUATIONS

GLOBAL LIFE COACH

INDIVIDUAL, COUPLES, AND FAMILY THERAPY



[WWW.RABABALMA.COM](http://WWW.RABABALMA.COM)

484.681.5207

THIS IS YOUR  
SIGN TO  
SUPPORT



New Life Without Bars

**2** MUSLIMS  
will be able to  
**PRACTICE  
ISLAM**  
from your donation

of just | **\$500**

 [IslamInPrison.org](http://IslamInPrison.org)

Scan to Donate



"لِلْفُقَرَاءِ الْمُهَاجِرِينَ الَّذِينَ أُخْرِجُوا مِنْ دِيَارِهِمْ وَأَمْوَالِهِمْ يَبْتَغُونَ فَضْلًا مِّنَ اللَّهِ  
وَرِضْوَانًا وَيَنْصَرُّونَ إِلَى اللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ أُولَئِكَ هُمُ الصَّادِقُونَ (٨) وَالَّذِينَ تَبَوَّءُوا الدَّارَ وَالْإِيمَانَ مِن قَبْلِهِمْ  
يُحِبُّونَ مَن هَاجَرَ إِلَيْهِمْ وَلَا يَجِدُونَ فِي صُورِهِمْ حَاجَةً مِّمَّا  
أَوْثُوا وَيُؤْتُونَ عَلَى أَنْفُسِهِمْ وَلَوْ كَانَ بِهِمْ خَصَاصَةٌ وَمَن يُوقِ شُحَّ نَفْسِهِ فَأُولَئِكَ  
هُمُ الْمُفْلِحُونَ (٩)" سورة الحشر

"For the poor emigrants who were expelled from their homes and their properties, seeking bounty from Allah and His approval and supporting Allah and His Messenger, [there is also a share].

Those are the truthful. And also for those who were settled in al-Madinah and adopted the faith before them. They love those who emigrated to them and find not any want in their hearts of what the emigrants were given but give them preference over themselves, even though they are in privation. And whoever is protected from the stinginess of his soul - it is those who will be

the successful." Surat Al-Hashr

*Congratulations CAIR  
for another year of achievements!*



HOGAN &  
VANDENBERG  
IMMIGRATION ATTORNEYS

610.664.6271 | 302.225.2734 | 717.685.2774  
[hvlawgroup.com](http://hvlawgroup.com) | [@hvlawgroup](https://twitter.com/hvlawgroup)



**The Islamic Heritage Foundation**

**Congratulates**

**CAIR**

**For many years of outstanding service  
to the community**

**Masha-Allah!**

**Join Us!**

**Islamic Heritage Foundation**

**33rd Annual Awards Banquet**

**Sunday, November 8, 2026**

**1 to 5 pm**

**IATSE Banquet Hall**

**2401 Swanson St. Philadelphia, PA**

**Youth Awards**

**Community Honorees: Hajjah Rahima Z. Abdullah and Kashief Smith**

**For Tickets and more information:**

**[ihf.communication@gmail.com](mailto:ihf.communication@gmail.com) / Sister Sabriya 215-329-2033**

### CAIR-PHILADELPHIA STAFF

Ahmet Selim Tekelioglu, PhD., Executive Director  
Adam Alaa Attia, Esq., Legal Director  
Nashwa Gewaily, Esq., Deputy Legal Director (joining Oct. 2026)  
Leena Shoup, Operations and Marketing Manager  
Asiyah Jones, MPH., Advocacy and Youth Projects Director  
Naila Haider, Development & Strategic Communications Director  
Iman Ahmad, Paralegal  
Amani Aly, Accounting and Finance Director  
Fareba Amani, Central PA Organizer  
Ragad Ahmad, Legal Intern and Palestine Organizing Fellow  
Rymaz Ahmed, Advocacy and Community Engagement Intern

### CAIR-PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Osama Al-Qasem, President  
Faizal Chaudhury, Vice President, Social Media Chair, Representative for Delaware  
Zehra Wamiq, Secretary  
Iftekhhar Hussain, Treasurer  
Sally Selim, Pillar Lead, Banquet  
Carlin Saafir, Esq., Outreach Co-Chair  
Mateen Afzal, Member  
Amirah Rashid, Member

### CAIR-PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER ADVISORY BOARD

- Salma Abdel-Azim, Communications Pillar Lead
- Muhammad Saad Afzal
- Khaled Ashraf
- Saad Aslam
- Jaala Al Haffar
- Sarah Baig
- Noor Bowman
- Ahmed Chaudhry
- Hamna Chaudhry
- Nevan Hamid
- Mariem Harraz
- Adab Ibrahim, Interfaith Pillar Lead
- Mostafa Ismaeel, Young Professionals Lead
- Nihad Kaiseruddin
- Abeer Karzoun
- Humna Rub, Civil Rights Pillar Lead
- Raheemah Shamsid-Deen Hampton

No Board member, Executive Committee member, or Advisory Board member is compensated for their volunteer time for CAIR-Pennsylvania. All Board members and Executive Committee members are donors to CAIR-Pennsylvania. Only staff members and consultants are compensated.



# CONGRATS CAIR

## ON ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL ANNUAL BANQUET

We celebrate your unwavering dedication to protecting civil rights, fostering justice, and empowering communities. Your steadfast commitment to serving others and standing for equity is an inspiration to us all.

As people of faith, we're proud to stand with you as you build a more just and inclusive world, where dignity and respect for all prevail.

Together in Justice,

POWER Interfaith

Rev. Dr. Gregory Edwards, Executive Director

POWER Interfaith is Pennsylvania's largest faith-based organizing network with over 200 congregations advocating for a more inclusive democracy and equitable systems for all.

**[www.powerinterfaith.org](http://www.powerinterfaith.org)**

# Thanks FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP CAIR PHILADELPHIA



## CAIR PHILADELPHIA

The **NAML** INC Family of Companies



**MECCA CHILD CARE ACADEMY**  
YOUR BEST PARTNER IN YOUR  
CHILD'S MORAL AND ACADEMIC  
SUCCESS!



**THE MILL APARTMENTS**  
QUALITY LIVING,  
STRONGER COMMUNITIES.



**My Choice  
For Living**  
**MY CHOICE FOR LIVING**  
SUPPORTING INDEPENDENCE,  
EMPOWERING LIVES.

Thank you for your continued leadership, vision, and dedication to creating lasting impact in our communities.



## Medina A. Rashid

NAML CHAIR

**"Neighbors Allied to Maintain  
Community Life"**