



CAIR
PHILADELPHIA

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Dear Friends, As-salaam-Aleykum!

The 2018 midterm elections are over. Although the results leave much room for interpretation, for the Muslim community, at least two points are abundantly clear.

First, civic engagement works! If ever we needed any evidence of this, the election to Congress of the first two American Muslim women, Ilhan Omar of Minnesota and Rashida Tlaib of Michigan, offers ample proof. Additionally, social justice and progressive activists impacted dozens of races across the country. Here in Pennsylvania, CAIR-Philadelphia's Staff delivered many *khutbahs* (Friday afternoon sermons following communal prayers) on the importance of registering voters and participating in "Get Out the Vote" efforts in multiple locations.

Second, with the election (and re-election) of candidates openly hostile to the Muslim community, now is not the time to back off from our efforts to advance CAIR's mission.

The weeks before and after the election were difficult days for those of us committed to a pluralistic, peaceful, and just vision of America. It often felt that each time we went online, or opened a newspaper, or turned on the radio, a new outrage was there to greet us: the forced separation of families along our southern border; the Kavanaugh nomination and hearing; the brutal murder of Saudi dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi; pipe bombs mailed to anti-Trump activists around the nation; the massacres at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, and then in a music club in Thousand Oaks, California.

We know full well that it is easy to feel overwhelmed as a result of this deluge of horror inundating our lives. One antidote to this potentially immobilizing situation is to keep reminding ourselves that the Muslim community is not alone, and that millions of people, and hundreds of organizations throughout the nation, share our values of justice and peace. And when these activists need a partner in the Muslim community, time after time they turn to CAIR, the Council on American-Islamic Relations.

With 33 chapters nationwide, and over 20 years of programming experience, CAIR is the essential line of defense for the American Muslim community in these tumultuous times. And for those of you who are still not sure what CAIR exactly does, we offer the following list that details the accomplishments of the Staff, Executive Committee and Advisory Board of CAIR-Philadelphia during the first 11 months of 2018:

- We provided 126 legal intakes by phone, email, and in-office interviews to potential clients facing workplace discrimination and harassment, and government intimidation;
- We represented clients at 15 trials, hearings and other legal processes;
- We trained over 80 federal officials at Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and Federal Executive Board on Islam, Muslims, and anti-Muslim racism;
- We gave 81 *khutbahs* (sermons to the community during Friday afternoon communal prayers) at city and suburban mosques;

- We made 121 public speeches on a range of subjects, including combating Islamophobia, Muslim civic engagement, and interfaith relations.
- We facilitated 45 workshops, seminars and courses on “Islam 101,” “Know Your Rights,” “Anti-Bullying,” “American Muslim History,” and “Engaging with the Media.”
- We met with 40 elected officials in Pennsylvania, including Governor Wolf of Pennsylvania, Mayor Kenney of Philadelphia, Attorney General Josh Shapiro of Pennsylvania, and several state senators, state representatives, and US congressmen.
- We were interviewed 25 times on TV and radio;
- We were quoted 17 times in print publications.
- Finally, we presented programs and trainings at many of the region’s leading institutions, such as the Please Touch Museum and the Historical Society of Pennsylvania;

And so we turn again to you, dear friends, to ask you for the support that will enable CAIR to continue to serve the Muslim community of the Greater Delaware Valley Region.

Now is not the time for silence or lethargy, but for activism and civic engagement. Let CAIR be your voice, from your local courthouse to the State House, from the *masjid* to media.

So please help us help you by donating generously in the remaining weeks of 2018. Your donations are tax-deductible and *zakah*-eligible. You will be making an investment in the future of the American Muslim community.

Sincerely,



JACOB BENDER
Executive Director



OSAMA AL-QASEM
President