

CAIR
PHILADELPHIA

**Council on American-Islamic Relations
Philadelphia Chapter Newsletter
Special Edition | Issue 11**



Ramadan Kareem

What's Inside?
Anti-Sharia Bill Updates | Anti-Bullying Campaign
Discriminatory Govt. Policies | Interfaith Activism
New CAIR-Philadelphia Video and More!

Take CAIR to
a Higher Level this
Ramadan

رمضان كريم



\$80,000

\$0

OUR GOAL:
Empowerment

CAIR-Philadelphia is
Zakat Eligible

Donations are
Tax-Deductible



We have earned the Guide
Star Exchange Seal, demon-
strating our commitment to
non-profit transparency

Dear Supporter and Friend, AsSalamAlaikum (peace be unto you)

CAIR-Philadelphia Executive Committee and Staff would like to wish you and your family a blessed Ramadan. This Ramadan is yet another opportunity to renew faith, constant practice and devotion to a life of seeking and establishing truth, justice and mutual understanding. May Allah (SWT) accept our fasts and answer all of our supplications and prayers during this sacred month.

We have witnessed the tremendous growth of CAIR-Philadelphia within the last two years. With your help in 2012, we have a fully-functioning professional organization that protects your rights and represents your values in the public sphere. *Thanks to your generosity*, we hired our first staff attorney last year to provide free legal services to Delaware Valley Muslims. **While these are all impressive milestones, we can't stop here. CAIR-Philadelphia needs sustainability.**

CAIR's annual goal for 2012 is \$280,000. Alhumdiallah, we met our March goal by raising \$200,000. We now need \$80,000 to balance our budget.

Our Ramadan goal is to raise \$80,000 in order to continue building on our work in civil rights, interfaith and media activism, empowering and educating American Muslims, and challenging Islamophobia. We need you to invest in CAIR-Philadelphia by creating a long-term foothold in American civic life. **Take advantage of this blessed time and donate today.**

We highly encourage you to become a CAIR-Philadelphia dollar-a-day sponsor. Can you imagine receiving rewards every single day so effortlessly? This is your chance: instructions on dollar-a-day are on page 3. Remember, donations to CAIR-Philadelphia are zakat-eligible and tax-deductible. Please read on to see how much we've accomplished with what you've given to us already. May Allah (SWT) multiply your rewards.

Thank You,
CAIR-Philadelphia Executive Committee & Staff

ADVOCACY



Civil Rights Director Amara Chaudhry explains 70 page memo that was mailed to each member of the PA House Judiciary Committee in January.

Defeating Pennsylvania's Anti-Sharia Bill

If House Bill 2029 introduced by Rep. RoseMarie Swanger (R-Lebanon) becomes law, many aspects of Islamic practice could be affected; including inheritance, marriage, etc.

CAIR-Philadelphia has worked hard to ensure that HB 2029 never becomes law in Pennsylvania.

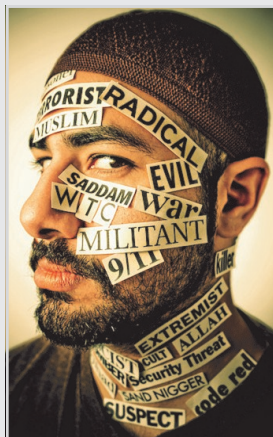
- We prepared a Memorandum in Opposition to House Bill 2029.
- As a result of our media work, the bill has garnered significant negative media attention.
- We also worked with the Arab-American Community Development Corporation to prepare a resolution that was presented to **Philadelphia City Council** and it passed **unanimously** in February.
- CAIR-Pittsburgh partnered with CAIR-Philadelphia on this issue and advocated for the **Pittsburgh City Council** to pass a resolution opposing the bill. It passed **unanimously** in March.
- In May, the **Philadelphia Bar Association** passed its **"Resolution Affirming Religious Freedom"** opposing House Bill 2029. The resolution was presented by Amara Chaudhry acting in her capacity as Vice Chair of the Bar Association's Public Interest Section.



CAIR-Philadelphia event at the Free Library of Philadelphia in February aimed to educate the public on Sharia and how it is understood in American Society.

A Closer Look at our Government's Policies

"Susceptible to Foreign Influence" & Anti-Muslim Profiling



Our community's biggest challenge comes from governmental policies which presume that American Muslims are threats to national security and the fear that these policies engender in ordinary Americans.

CAIR-Philadelphia will represent a Muslim federal employee in a hearing before the Defense Office of Hearings and Appeals in a case in which the employee's security clearance was negatively affected when the U.S. Department of Defense determined that the employee's contacts with persons and places in Muslim-majority countries rendered him "susceptible to foreign influence."

We are addressing the concerns of our community regarding anti-Muslim profiling by law enforcement. Once a month we contact local, state and federal law enforcement officers on behalf of Muslims who have been contacted by these authorities. We have also conducted presentations addressing the widespread anti-Muslim profiling of the NYPD to affected students at the University of Pennsylvania and to activists and attorneys throughout the mid-Atlantic region.

42 MILLION DOLLARS.

42.6 million dollars is the amount that individuals have donated over the last 10 years to fund Islamophobia and anti-Muslim organizations. *42.6 million dollars* have gone into creating school books for 10-year-olds that demonize Muslims, inciting hate in the media, introducing laws that treat Muslims as second class citizens and spreading the myth that all American mosques are radical.

THE RESULT.

42 million is being spent to misinform America of the true nature of Islam and the beliefs of American Muslims. As a result of this misinformation, how many more families will be affected by employment discrimination? How many of our youth will have to continue worrying about bullying? How many more members of our community will be detained at the airport because of their religious affiliation or ethnicity?

WHY CAIR-PHILADELPHIA?

Plain and simple: we exist to make your life easier. Islamophobia is not an abstract concept - it affects your daily life. Anti-Muslim hate-mongers try to use their tactics to create fear of Islam in the larger society, but we send a strong message to these individuals and organizations: You will not be successful.

IT TAKES HARD CASH TO PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS.

This Ramadan, think about how much money Islamophobes spend on telling America that your religion is inherently violent and that it should be banned. Now reach into your pocket and invest in defending your community from mosque oppositions and vandalism, anti-Sharia bills, hate-crimes, youth bullying, government intimidation and more.

HOW MUCH DO WE SPEND ON LESS IMPORTANT THINGS?

For less than the cost of coffee and tea, tolls and fares, parking, snacks and newspapers, you can help us reach our goal with at least \$1 per day.

If enough people sign up for the dollar-a-day program, CAIR-Philadelphia will have all the support and funding it needs to continue its programs and defend your rights.

SIGN UP NOW, DON'T DELAY

Visit our website at PA.CAIR.COM and sign-up in less than a minute.

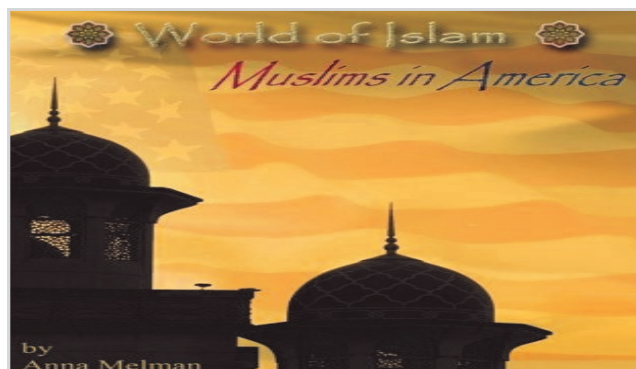
Mail: To donate monthly by check: Mail a VOIDED check to the address below. Please indicate Dollar-a-Day in the check memo.

DOLLAR-A-DAY PROGRAM

CAIR-Philadelphia
1218 Chestnut Street, Suite 510
Philadelphia, PA 19107



Notorious Islamophobe, Robert Spencer, speaks at so-called "Islamic Apartheid Conference" at Temple University in April. We counseled students and were involved in a panel discussion to educate on Islam, free speech and public pluralism.



Book series for middle schoolers telling young readers that Muslims are terrorists and seek to undermine U.S. society. The publisher is based in Philadelphia and distributes the 10-part series to schools and libraries all over the Delaware Valley. After we exposed the bias in this series, there has been a sharp decrease in sales.

YOUTH ACTIVISM : END BULLYING NOW!

CAIR-Philadelphia Muslim Youth Leadership Program and Civil Rights Department have teamed up to bring about public awareness of the dangers of bullying and equip youth with tools to cope with and prevent bullying and harassment.

Muslim Youth Leadership Program (MYLP) Anti-Bullying Workshops

Outreach and Communications Director, Rugiatu Conteh, conducts anti-bullying workshops at Delaware Valley mosques and community centers. These workshops teach youth about religious rights in schools and how to report and deal with bullying. Ten workshops have been conducted within the past year and CAIR-Philadelphia has provided legal services to over a dozen youth that have attended these workshop. *Designed for youth between the ages of 12 and 18, the MYLP focuses on building a positive American Muslim identity by addressing critical issues that young Muslims face in today's society.*

Bullying as a Legal Issue Presentations and Continuing Legal Education

Civil Rights Director and Staff Attorney, Amara Chaudhry, brings the issue of bullying into the forefront of the legal community by conducting in-depth presentations and workshops. Amara, along with representatives from the Philadelphia Human Relations Commission and Morgan Lewis, led a major panel discussion on the phenomenon of bullying within America's youth and the related social and legal issues at Morgan Lewis Law Firm in June.

MEDIA: SNEAK PEEK CAIR-PHILADELPHIA UPCOMING DOCUMENTARY



CAIR-Philadelphia has partnered with Philadelphia Community Access Media (PhillyCAM) to create a video documentary about Islamophobia and the anti-Sharia movement. We are currently in the editing stages. The video is expected to air on PhillyCAM later this summer.



INTERFAITH HIGHLIGHTS

2012 Philadelphia Interfaith Peace Walk April 29th



This year's Annual Philadelphia Interfaith Walk for Peace and Reconciliation was a major success!

Over 500 Walkers from all over the state began their journey at Al-Aqsa Islamic Center. Participants then walked to Temple Beth Zion-

Beth Israel, St. Luke and the Epiphany and had refreshments and food at the last stop, First Unitarian Church of Philadelphia.

This "walking dialogue" gives community members the opportunity to visit different houses of worship while experiencing and learning about many faith traditions.

Muslims in America: Building Bridges in a Climate of Fear, February 24th



CAIR-Philadelphia co-sponsored a viewing and discussion of *Hawo's Dinner Party*, a 30 minute video based on the longer documentary *Welcome to Shelbyville*, that tells the story of a small southern town grappling with new immigrants and refugees and issues relating to their integration.

Personal accounts of Muslims in our area were heard and participants discussed what truly constitutes welcoming communities.