



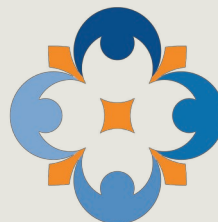
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**CAIR**  
PHILADELPHIA

Council on American-Islamic Relations, Philadelphia Chapter  
Newsletter  
Ramadan Edition | Issue 9

# Ramadan Mubarak

## CAIR-PHILADELPHIA WISHES YOU A PROSPEROUS RAMADAN

Dear Supporter and Friend, AsSalaamAlaikum (peace be unto you):

On behalf of the Executive Committee and Staff of CAIR-Philadelphia, I would like to wish you a blessed Ramadan. May Allah (SWT) bless you and your family and answer all of your supplications and prayers during this sacred time.

We are blessed to be both Muslim and American, but we all know that the Muslim American condition can and must improve. CAIR-Philadelphia is your community organization and we all have a collective responsibility in facing our challenges. With rampant Islamophobia in politics and other public discourse, bullying of Muslim students and other civil rights violations, the need for an organization like CAIR is greater than ever. **Allah asks and reminds us:**

*"Who is he that will loan to Allah a beautiful loan, which Allah will double unto his credit and multiply many times? It is Allah that giveth (you) want or plenty, and to Him shall be your return." (Qur'an2:245)*

**People like you, our supporters and donors, make this work possible.** Without you, CAIR-Philadelphia would not be able to have 3 full time staff, paid interns, an office in downtown Philadelphia and all the things necessary for a professional operation. But that's not enough. We are actively seeking an additional \$50,000 this Ramadan to create a legal department and are counting on you. Imagine, a full time attorney, free of charge, available to all Delaware Valley Muslims in need of civil rights legal representation. This is a milestone, not for CAIR-Philadelphia, but for us all, and we must get there together. Please take advantage of the blessings of Ramadan and donate today.

Your annual or monthly donation of any amount will help CAIR-Philadelphia continue its operations to serve the community through our civil rights, media engagement, youth, government, interfaith and education programs. You may also wish to contribute to the dollar-a-day program, which is explained on the back cover of this newsletter. Please see the enclosed remittance envelope for donation instructions. I invite you to take a look at this newsletter and see just how much we've done with what you've given us already.

May Allah (SWT) accept your charity and multiply your rewards.

Thank you,  
Moein Khawaja



## DONATIONS TO CAIR ARE ZAKAT-ELIGIBLE

Numerous Muslim scholars have confirmed that Zakat is payable to organizations that exist to serve the Muslim community by protecting their rights. This is because the work done by CAIR (and other such organizations) can be classified as *fi-sabilillah*, which is one of the eight categories of Zakat recipients detailed in the Quran (Chapter 9, Verse 60).

For More Information Visit: [www.cair.com/Zakat.aspx](http://www.cair.com/Zakat.aspx)



# CIVIL RIGHTS

Advocacy | Cases | Workshops

## Civil Rights Cases

As of July 2011, CAIR-Philadelphia has accepted **32 new cases** since January of this year. Combined with **65 ongoing cases** from previous years, CAIR-Philadelphia is directly handling and helping 97 Muslims who have faced severe employment harassment and/or discrimination (31), middle and high school students faced with pervasive bullying (4), and others who have been profiled by law enforcement (15).

These cases include that of a Muslim woman who was forced to remove her hijab

from a testing center, an employee fired for using vacation days to perform hajj, a student who was forced into home-schooling due to severe bullying, and unfortunately, many more stories of similar hardship.

Though this does not happen to the majority of us, it is our responsibility to do something when it does, and we thank our donors and supporters for providing CAIR-Philadelphia with the resources to do so.

## Advocacy

We recognize that it is not enough to simply react when someone needs help, but to be proactive and to prevent discrimination from occurring in the first place. A disturbing trend has occurred across America. Anti-Muslim bigots have been training law enforcement personnel with misleading information on Islam and

Muslims, such as a longer beard or religious clothing signifies extremism. CAIR-Philadelphia has worked to prevent such a thing from happening here by going to law enforcement agencies first, requesting that they receive information on Islam and Muslims from proper sources.

## Education and Workshops

It is imperative for all Americans to be aware of their rights. CAIR-Philadelphia conducts Know Your Rights workshops for mosques and community centers across the Delaware Valley. This important seminar discusses religious accommodation with employment and at school, how to handle yourself if you've been discriminated against, your rights at the airport and with law enforcement and much more.

**Call or email us today to schedule a workshop for your community.**

# MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS

Television | Radio | Print | Web

## Media Relations

Why monitor local and national media? According MediaTenor, fundamentalists and militant groups account for 66% of the media coverage on Islam. More than half of the news coverage of Muslims or Islam is focused on violence. That is the reason we are actively engaged with journalists and reporters: To educate and make sure that Islam and Muslims are portrayed fairly and accurately.

With your support, we have become the go-to organization for media outlets in the Delaware valley and have represented Muslims in a positive way in local and national print, television and radio news. As of July 2011 alone, CAIR-Philadelphia was directly interviewed or played a role in 18 news stories covering Muslims.

**CHECK OUT** our Media Interviews on YouTube. Username: CAIRphila

## Website and Social Media - [PA.CAIR.COM](http://PA.CAIR.COM) - [FLICKR](#) - [YOUTUBE](#) - [TWITTER](#) - [FACEBOOK](#)

CAIR-Philadelphia's website has a fresh new look and it is easier to find information. Our Facebook, Twitter and other social media is integrated into our overall web presence.

## Electronic Newsletter: eNL

The eNL is a digest of our outreach and civil rights activities that is sent via email every week to our supporters and friends. The eNLs are divided into sections including Outreach and Civil Rights corners, Upcoming Events, Focus Article, World Commentary and CAIR News.

## SIGN UP NOW to Our Email List

Visit our website to join our email list. You will receive our weekly newsletters, American Muslim community news briefs and Action Alerts.  
**Don't Delay, Get Informed!**



**You Tube**



**Join Our**



**Mailing List**



# MUSLIM YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM (MYLP)

## Mobile Workshops | Symposium

The best way to secure our community's future is to empower the next generation with skills to cause change and make a difference. We've designed the MYLP to do just that: train future Muslim activists.

The MYLP encourages youth to be proud of being Muslim, to get involved in their community and to stand up against injustice.

The program consist of 2-hour workshops that are conducted at weekend schools and community centers, and a Symposium, a yearly 2-day leadership retreat for high school students.

So far this year 7 workshops have been conducted and nearly 200 students participated in the program. The workshops focused on teaching about religious rights in pubic schools, dealing with

bullying and cyberbullying and learning how to respond to questions based on negative stereotypes of Muslims and Islam.

They are very interactive, as the students take advantage of the opportunity to get their voices heard.

The Symposium, with the theme "Advancing with Confidence," is set to take place in October on a university campus. Applications will be

available mid August.

### PAST WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

- Islamic Society of Delaware (ISD)
- Islamic Society of Lehigh Valley
- Foundation for Islamic Education (FIE)
- Islamic Society of Chester County
- AICP - Girls Scouts, Troop 948
- Voorhees Islamic Society
- New Horizons School

*"SOME THINGS I THOUGHT WERE HELPFUL TO KNOW, LIKE KNOWING YOUR RIGHTS WHILE LIVING IN A SOCIETY WHERE PEOPLE GET DISCRIMINATED AGAINST EVERYDAY"*

- MYLP STUDENT



Top: workshop at Islamic Society of Lehigh Valley  
Bottom: workshop at Islamic Society of Delaware

## INTERFAITH & EDUCATION

### Interfaith Peace Walk | Phila. Children's Interfaith Festival | Courses and Presentations



Interfaith Peace Walk

### 8th Annual Philadelphia Interfaith Peace Walk, *Planting the Seeds of Peace*

CAIR-Philadelphia's Outreach and Communication Director was involved in the planning stages of this year's Interfaith Peace Walk on May 22nd. Over 400 participants visited the African Episcopal church of St. Thomas, Overbrook Presbyterian and

the Bawa Muhaiyaddeen Fellowship Mosque.

While walking from one house of worship to another, walkers interacted with each other; each person educating another on their faith. It was a major success, attracting many people from different faith traditions.

### 2nd Annual Phila. Children's Interfaith Festival, *Choosing Hope: September 24th & 25th*

Preparations are being made for this year's Children's Interfaith Festival in September. This festival is the first and only one of its kind in the nation. It is a 2-day event aimed at educating youth and their families about different faith traditions. The Youth Advisory Council, a group of teens from different religious traditions that are planning the festival, picked the theme "Choosing Hope". With the 10th anniversary of 9/11 approaching, the youth are hopeful that the public would choose healing over hatred, tolerance over bigotry, and eventually, hope over despair.

### Regularly Taught Courses & Presentations:

#### Challenging Islamophobia

Due to the increased prevalence of Islamophobia, CAIR-Philadelphia has developed a Challenging Islamophobia presentation. We have presented this at several area universities and mosques thus far. Participants learn about tactics used by anti-Muslim bigots and methods they can use to challenge this disturbing trend. In June 2011, CAIR National, along with the University of California at Berkeley, released a comprehensive report on Islamophobia called *Same Hate, New Target: Islamophobia and its Impact in the United States*.

#### Women in Islam

Following the controversial burqa ban in France, we received requests to conduct Women in Islam presentations at the Osher Institute of lifetime learning, University of Delaware and The Center for Retirement at the Delaware Valley College. Students walked away understanding women rights in the Qur'an and rights that were instituted by the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

# ***This is all we ask.***



We know that this Ramadan, many organizations will be asking for your generosity. For less than the cost of coffee and tea, tolls and fares, parking, snacks and newspapers, you can help us reach our goal with just \$1 per day.

That's right. 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. Take advantage of the blessings of Ramadan, the time to act is now, please don't delay.

Visit: [pa.cair.com/dollar-a-day/](http://pa.cair.com/dollar-a-day/) and sign up online for the dollar-a-day program in less than a minute.

To donate monthly by check: Mail a VOIDED check to the address below. Indicate whether the bank account is checking or savings and in the memo, write *Dollar-a-Day*. If you wish, you may indicate which date of each month you would like the \$30 withdrawal to take place (the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup>, etc.)

## **DOLLAR-A-DAY PROGRAM**

CAIR-Philadelphia  
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*CAIR-Philadelphia is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, non-profit organization.*

*Your donations are tax-deductible and zakat eligible.*

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