



annual legal report 2020



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About CAIR-California

The **Council on American-Islamic Relations, California (CAIR-CA)**, is a chapter of the nation's largest American Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization. CAIR-CA's mission is to enhance the understanding of Islam, protect civil rights, promote justice, and empower American Muslims. Through its offices in the Greater Los Angeles Area (CAIR-LA), Sacramento Valley/Central California (CAIR-SV/CC), San Diego (CAIR-SD), and the San Francisco Bay Area (CAIR-SFBA), CAIR-CA serves California's estimated one million American Muslims by providing direct legal services to immigrants and victims of discrimination, working with the media, facilitating community education as it relates to civil rights and civic participation, and engaging in policy advocacy.

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Executive Summary

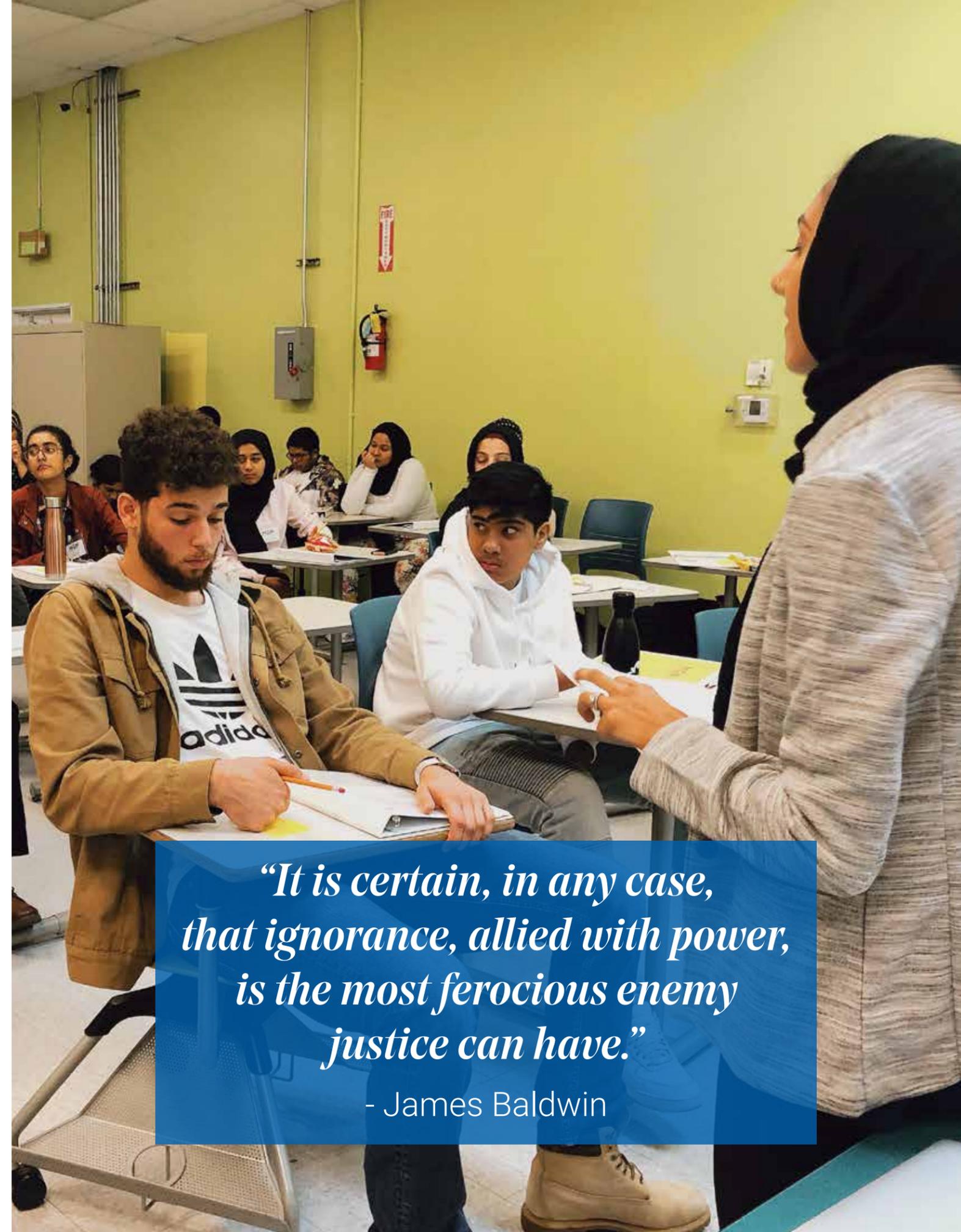
In a grim foretelling of our current political climate, the words of James Baldwin, one of the foremost voices in the Civil Rights movement, present both a challenge and a reminder of the colossal efforts needed to win constitutionally enshrined rights for all Americans. At this moment, American Muslims number amongst other vulnerable communities in the crosshairs of xenophobic, racist, and white supremacist movements that are propelled by a political establishment. The Trump administration, building on the follies and largely unchallenged biases of previous administrations, seeks to channel and weaponize anti-immigrant stereotypes coupled with anti-Muslim bigotry to maintain political hegemony by pitting groups of people against each other. Against this backdrop, CAIR California's (CAIR-CA) legal team has worked tirelessly on behalf of the American Muslim community to act as the first line of defense for empowering community members with the tools and knowledge to combat institutionalized bigotry.

In 2019, CAIR-CA's legal staff conducted 2,068 legal intakes with impacted individuals, families, and community members. Our legal staff also engaged in grassroots organizing, political advocacy, and direct legal services to redress civil rights violations. We filed and won lawsuits against employers, law enforcement, and government agencies for impinging on the civil rights of Muslim Americans because of their religious beliefs and ethnicity. CAIR-CA's robust immigration programs, in our Greater Los Angeles Area, San Francisco Bay Area, and Sacramento Valley/Central California offices, now allow for the provision of much

needed immigration services on matters including but not limited to removal defense, naturalization, adjustment of status, family reunification, and asylum. We worked systematically to address harmful policies aimed at disenfranchising American Muslims through direct legal services, impact litigation, advocacy, and community education.

While the number of civil rights related complaints received by our offices declined, owing to increased awareness of legal avenues and remedies, our immigration docket increased with a total of 1,305 intakes during 2019 as compared to 1,203 in 2018. The Trump administration's slate of anti-immigrant policies, including separating children from their parents at the border, needlessly forcing people fleeing violence and persecution into dangerous refugee camps in Mexico, expedited removal of families seeking asylum and the public charge rule aimed at marginalizing working class and poor immigrants, resulted in a nine percent uptick in immigration intakes received.

Owing to the support of our community and partner organizations, CAIR-CA redoubled its efforts on ensuring that in protecting the civil rights of the most vulnerable communities, we continue to advance the rights of all communities throughout California. By leveraging the Islamic values of justice and fairness, CAIR-CA will continue to advocate and represent individuals, families, and social institutions, to build a nation filled with religious harmony, inclusivity, and mutual understanding.



“It is certain, in any case, that ignorance, allied with power, is the most ferocious enemy justice can have.”

- James Baldwin



General Statistics

<i>Employment Discrimination</i>	127	16.7%
<i>FBI & Law Enforcement Harassment</i>	93	12.2%
<i>Hate Incidents or Crimes</i>	84	11.0%
<i>School & Higher Education</i>	89	11.7%
<i>Travel</i>	57	7.5%
<i>Inmate Advocacy</i>	45	5.9%
<i>Housing Discrimination</i>	19	2.5%
<i>Public Accommodation</i>	28	3.6%
<i>Other/Referrals</i>	221	28.9%
<i>Total Civil Rights Matters</i>	763	37%
<i>Immigrants' Rights Matters</i>	1.305	63%
<i>Total Matters</i>	2.068	100%

Incident Details



Immigrants' Rights Matters

Muslim Ban	23	1.7%
Naturalization or Citizenship Preparation	566	43.4%
Adjustment of Status	110	8.4%
Petition for Alien or Future Relatives	130	10.0%
Asylum	94	7.2%
Removal Defense	86	6.6%
Temporary Protected Status (TPS)	6	0.5%
T/U Visa/VAWA Petitions	13	1.0%
Immigration Benefits Delay	9	0.7%
Other Immigration Assistance	268	20.5%
Total	1.305	

Hate Incidents & Hate Crimes

Hate Crimes	19	22.6%
Hate Incidents	65	77.4%
Total	84	

Travel

Customs & Border Protection (CBP)	32	56.1%
Transportation Security Administration (TSA)	14	24.6%
Airlines/ Transportation Discrimination	11	19.3%
Total	57	

Employment Discrimination

Failure to Hire	12	9.5%
Hostile Work Environment/Harassment	74	58.2%
Religious Accommodation	11	8.7%
Retaliation/Wrongful Termination	30	23.6%
Total	127	

School & Higher Education

K-12 Accommodations	23	25.8%
K-12 Bullying	26	29.2%
K-12 Administration/Other	7	7.9%
Higher Education Accommodations & Discrimination	33	37.1%
Total	89	

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) & Law Enforcement

FBI Voluntary Questioning	42	45.2%
State & Local Law Enforcement	46	49.5%
General Concerns	5	5.3%
Total	93	

Inmate Advocacy

Total	45	100%
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Other

Housing Discrimination	19	7.1%
Public Accommodation	28	10.4%
Other/Referrals	221	82.5%
Total	268	



Remedios de Inmigración*

Si es indocumentado, hay pocos remedios para poder arreglar su estatus migratorio, aunque haya vivido en los EEUU por mucho tiempo.

- Algunos remedios son:
- Petición Familiar
 - Visa U
 - VAWA
 - Visa T
 - Asilo
 - SJS
 - Visas basadas en el empleo

*Estas son LEYES las cuales el presidente no puede cambiar sin aprobación del congreso

*Here to Stay:
Keeping
Families Safe
and Together*

Immigrants' Rights Matters

Muslim Ban	23	1,7%
Naturalization or Citizenship Preparation	566	43,4%
Adjustment of Status	110	8,4%
Petition for Alien or Future Relatives	130	10,0%
Asylum	94	7,2%
Removal Defense	86	6,6%
Temporary Protected Status (TPS)	6	0,5%
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Immigration Benefits Delay	9	0,7%
Other Immigration Assistance	268	20,5%
Total	1.305	

In the aftermath of the 2016 election, CAIR-CA recognized the increasing demand for access to effective and affordable legal representation amid the slew of anti-immigrant policies rolled out by the Trump administration. In 2017, CAIR-CA's San Francisco Bay Area and Sacramento Valley offices opened immigrants' rights services to serve their respective communities, complementing the previously established Immigrants' Rights Center (IRC) at the Greater Los Angeles office, now in its sixth year of operation. Our immigration services include assisting individuals by providing representation in removal defense hearings; affirmative representation with immigration benefits including naturalization, adjustment of status, asylum, and family-based petitions; and additional humanitarian forms of immigration relief, such as visas for victims of human trafficking (T visa), victims of criminal activity (U visa), and Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) self-petitioners.

T Visa/U Visa/VAWA Petitions

Due to the global rise in socio-economic upheavals, political uncertainty, and environmental degradation, the past decade has seen the mass movement of entire communities and individuals seeking better lives in the U.S. Often seeking economic security and a fresh start with a renewed sense of hope, newer community members find themselves victims of physical, financial, and emotional violence.

In one such instance, CAIR-LA's IRC was contacted in 2016 by a Ugandan national seeking assistance with her immigration status. Though the client's husband was initially supportive of her faith as a Muslim, that soon changed during their five-year marriage. The client regularly endured horrific verbal, emotional, and physical abuse at the hands of her husband while he also threatened to withhold her green card applica-

tion. IRC attorneys worked diligently in assisting the client with filing a VAWA self-petition by constructing a signed declaration/affidavit, completing supplemental forms and responding to United States Citizenship and Immigration Services' (USCIS) additional requests for evidence. Nearly a year and a half later, the client received her approval notice for the VAWA self-petition, guaranteeing her ability to build a thriving life for herself and her children. USCIS doubted the validity of her VAWA application, despite the substantial evidence submitted initially to prove her eligibility and the debilitating circumstances of her marriage. An IRC attorney responded to USCIS' request for evidence, providing reinforcing evidence to support her application, and accompanied her to her green card interview after extensively preparing the client and walking her through the process to ensure that everything went smoothly. Finally, in July 2019, more than three years after she filed her initial VAWA self-petition, IRC attorneys received notice of the approval.

"I can't stop crying, I am so overjoyed. I am so thankful to the team at CAIR-LA who've worked so hard for me to finally become a permanent resident... My journey to getting a green card has been a long hard one. I want to share part of it because I believe it might be an inspiration to some people out there who might be going through what I have been through and don't know where or who to turn to...For the first time, I sleep without worrying about what my fate will be."
- CAIR-LA immigration client

In another case, CAIR-SFBA's Immigrants' Rights Program assisted a survivor of domestic violence obtain her permanent green card after facing abuse from her spouse. The client, a new mother, contacted the office for immigration assistance after she fled the home she shared with her abusive spouse with the help of her doctor, who noticed signs of trauma and violence



at one of her final prenatal exams during her pregnancy. As a new immigrant, the client held a conditional green card and therefore needed assistance obtaining a permanent green card. Generally, in order to remove the conditions on a marriage based green card a U.S. citizen spouse must petition USCIS along with the immigrant spouse to remove conditions. Given the client's estrangement from her spouse due to his abuse, CAIR-SFBA attorneys worked closely with her to remove conditions on her residency using immigration laws that assist victims of domestic violence thereby guaranteeing that she could remain in the U.S. As a permanent resident now, the client is well on her path to citizenship and to building a better life for herself and her young son.

CAIR-SFBA's immigration attorneys assisted another client, a student at San Jose State University on a student visa, who approached the Immigrants' Rights Program after he was brutally attacked

outside of a restaurant in San Jose. CAIR-SFBA's immigration attorneys assessed his situation, police incident reports, and reviewed options for immigration relief that would offer him rehabilitation and an opportunity to build a safe life. The immigration attorneys determined the client would be best suited for a U visa, a nonimmigrant status that is available to victims of certain crimes who suffer mental or physical abuse and are additionally helpful to law enforcement or government agencies in the investigation and prosecution of these crimes. CAIR-SFBA worked closely with the client in crafting a narrative about his experiences, gathering medical data and other evidence of the harm he had suffered, reaching out to the San Jose Police Department to obtain the necessary certification, and drafting a legal memorandum to accompany the application explaining how the client was eligible for and deserving of the visa. The case is currently pending before USCIS for adjudication.



Naturalization or Citizenship Preparation

Naturalization is a pivotal part of CAIR-CA's immigration work. Our focus on naturalization stems from our mission to empower American Muslims through civic engagement, and the key role naturalization provides in rapidly expanding the American Muslim electoral base. With the help of a team of legal professionals and consistent outreach efforts at mosques as well as other community centers, CAIR-CA assisted in the preparation of 364 naturalization applications statewide, as well as educating applicants about the process, requirements and hurdles of naturalization. In furtherance of this civic engagement goal, CAIR-CA's immigration departments held numerous naturalization and immigration assistance clinics statewide in 2019, providing one-on-one attorney assistance to green card holders eligible to apply for citizenship.

One success story in 2019 was that of an elderly client, a paraplegic man dealing with a stage four pressure ulcer which required him to remain bed-ridden and connected to a medical device in order to receive life-saving treatment. CAIR-LA's IRC assisted with the client's naturalization application by submitting an accommodation request requesting that USCIS conduct an in-house biometrics appointment, naturalization interview, and ultimately, oath ceremony. IRC legal staff reviewed hundreds of pages of the client's medical records and culled relevant documents in order to provide substantive evidence of his need for an accommodation. Parallel to the preparation of record, IRC legal staff coordinated with the client's doctor to secure a letter from his medical provider support-

ing the request. The documentary evidence and medical records were combined with a detailed cover letter explaining the client's eligibility for naturalization and then sent to USCIS. After repeated follow ups, USCIS approved the accommodation request and offered to come to the client's home to conduct the citizenship application process. Individuals such as this client continue to rely heavily on prompt legal representation, as provided by CAIR-CA, to request accommodations needed to access critical government benefits.



In a story close to CAIR-CA's heart, IRC also assisted a client, a former CAIR-LA law clerk, with his naturalization application. A few years ago, the client entered the U.S. on an immigrant visa through a family-based petition filed by his childhood sweetheart and wife, a U.S. citizen. The couple's parents were family friends and the client's spouse often visited Egypt. Two years after their marriage in Egypt, the U.S. citizen spouse petitioned for the client to join her in the U.S. The client was granted conditional permanent residency, which contained certain conditions and must be renewed after two years. After the client entered the U.S., he enrolled



at Chapman University’s Law School to obtain his L.L.M and clerked with CAIR-LA’s legal team during that time. After his clerkship, the client turned to CAIR-LA’s IRC to complete his petition to remove the conditions on his green card which would allow him to obtain a green card valid for 10 years. While his application for a permanent green card was pending, the client was eligible to apply for naturalization.

In alignment with IRC’s focus on keeping families safe and reuniting them, IRC worked with a client and her husband, U.S. citizens with two biological daughters. In 2013, the client’s sister and brother-in-law tragically passed away in a car accident in Syria, leaving behind their five children. In the wake of this tragedy, the client and her husband immediately decided to adopt the children and bring them to the U.S. to live together as a family. What followed was a lengthy nearly year-long process requiring approval and processing of the various

documents from the U.S. Department of State, relevant U.S. Embassies, and the Syrian courts, which led to legal adoption. Once their petition to adopt the children was granted, the couple traveled to Jordan where they waited for the issuance of a formal Syrian court order granting them legal guardianship and allowing the children to travel with their new adoptive parents. However, it was not until 2015 that a U.S. Superior Court granted the couple full and final adoption of the children. In April 2019, IRC received a call from the client requesting assistance with citizenship applications for her adopted children. After a month of preparing and reviewing documents, IRC submitted certificate of citizenship applications for the three youngest children. IRC was able to prove that the children derived citizenship from their adoptive parents. In August of 2019, all three children were approved and issued certificates of citizenship.

Removal Defense

The Trump administration pushed forward with its plans to abandon values of basic decency and compassion in immigration policy when it came to individuals and families detained at the nation’s borders while seeking refuge from violence and persecution in their home countries. In the past, a fast-track deportation process, known as expedited removal, has been used mostly by border patrol agents operating near the Canadian and Mexican border. Now, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents can unilaterally question, arrest, detain and deport undocumented immigrants who have been in the U.S. for less than two years that they encounter anywhere in the country.¹ Amidst the fear and chaos that the many cruel immigra-



tion policies enacted by the Trump administration elicit among immigrant communities in the U.S., CAIR-CA immigration attorneys are committed to providing effective, timely and competent legal counsel to those facing the deportation machine.

One such family helped by CAIR-LA’s IRC is that of a U.S. citizen who reached out to seek legal assistance in petitioning for his wife after unsuccessfully attempting to do so the first time. The client had attempted to submit a green card application for his wife through an attorney, who wrongfully assured the client that he had the legal expertise to assist in the matter. At the time of the prior petition, the client was a lawful permanent resident and thus his spouse did not immediately qualify to adjust through her husband. The wife, a Turkish national, visited the U.S. to spend time with the client and remained in the U.S. after her visitor visa expired, seeking to find legal avenues to remain with her husband. While working with their previous attorney, the client’s wife was apprehended by ICE officials and issued a Notice to Appear in immigration court. IRC stepped in and represented

the client’s spouse through her removal proceedings, which spanned more than two years. To add to the anxiety and uncertainty of these two years for the couple, the client’s spouse was also unable to return home to Turkey to visit her ailing parents. Ultimately, IRC attorneys were able to successfully represent the client’s wife in immigration court at her removal hearing, and the judge granted her lawful permanent residence in the U.S. The couple were overjoyed at the result and the prospect of their family being able to build a secure life which now includes their two-year old daughter.

Asylum

CAIR-CA attorneys have continued to advocate on behalf of vulnerable individuals and families using the availability of asylum as a form of immigration relief to protect those who have suffered past persecution, or have a well-founded fear of future persecution based on their “race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.”² Troublingly, the Trump administration has greatly limited recourse available through asylum law by implementing policies that prevent migrants from applying for asylum in the U.S. if they traveled through another country without seeking asylum first in that “third country,” and raising the evidentiary standard for preliminary screening interviews for asylum seekers.

CAIR-SFBA’s immigration attorneys were able to assist a Rohingya man who fled Myanmar after being attacked by extremist Buddhist monks, who targeted him because he was identified by his assailants as being Muslim. Muslims in Myanmar have long faced discrimination and persecution



because of their faith, including being denied citizenship and excluded from census counts.³ In 2017, the Burmese military began burning villages belonging to Rohingya families and approximately 6,700 Rohingya, including at least 70 children under the age of five, were killed in the state-sanctioned violence. CAIR-SFBA's client escaped the violence and the horrendous attempt on his life by entering the U.S. on a tourist visa. Once inside the country, the client contacted CAIR-SFBA seeking legal assistance with filing his asylum application. In asking for protection from frenzied mobs

and the Burmese military back home, the client worked closely with CAIR-SFBA immigration attorneys including presenting significant evidence of the threat of lynching and torture he would face in Myanmar, drafting a detailed declaration, and supporting him in preparation for his asylum interview at USCIS's Asylum Office. Although the client is currently waiting for a decision on his asylum application, CAIR-SFBA's immigration attorneys also assisted him with obtaining a work permit that would allow him to provide for himself while he awaits a decision on his case.

A client that CAIR-LA's IRC assisted fled Russia in 2018 for the U.S. along with his wife and son because they feared persecution on account of their religious beliefs as practicing Jehovah's Witnesses. In 2017, the Russian Supreme Court greenlit discrimination against the religious group by declaring that Jehovah's Witnesses Administration Center, the main office for the faith group, would be banned and all of its branches shut down due to allegations of extremism.⁴ Expressions of religious belief as commonplace as attending religious gatherings, possessing religious reading materials, and praying in congregation at religious meetings, could lead to imprisonment and sanctioning by the Russian government.⁵ Despite the risk, the family courageously continued to practice their religion secretly, all the while fearing detection and subsequent imprisonment. However, by the end of 2018, the family decided to flee Russia because the crackdown by the authorities made their fear unpalatable. They requested asylum upon arriving at the U.S. border, and their case was placed in immigration court. They were extremely concerned because they did not know how to



navigate the complex procedures of immigration court and they did not have the resources to pay for a private attorney. Finally, they reached out to CAIR-LA for assistance in March of 2019 and the IRC agreed to represent the family pro bono. Many hours were dedicated to preparing their applications, declarations, and supplemental evidence. IRC also prepared them for their merits hearing. After their case was presented to the Immigration Judge at their merits hearing in November 2019, the Immigration Judge granted them asylum. The family was relieved and thankful for being allowed to permanently stay in the U.S. lawfully and free from religious oppression in their home country.

Immigration Delays

Arab, Middle Eastern, Muslim and South Asian (AMEMSA) community members continue to face long delays when applying for immigration benefits that they would be ordinarily entitled to and CAIR-CA's attorneys work closely with individuals to figure out options best suited for their situations. CAIR-CA attorneys challenge USCIS' and DHS' unreasonable delays making decisions on immigration applications by filing writs of mandamus in the applicable federal U.S. District Court. A writ often operates as the last legal resort. It is a petition to the court to order the relevant government official such as the Director of USCIS to properly fulfill their official duties or correct an abuse of discretion. Regularly, clients anxiously await responses to their immigration applications with some waiting many years to even receive an interview where an adjudicator could review their case and, in the process, offer an opportunity to withdraw or correct their submissions.

As an example, CAIR-SFBA was able to unite a Syrian asylee, who fled the ongoing civil war in Syria, with the rest of his family. As the civil war in Syria rages on, there have been credible reports of increased bombings of hospitals and schools by Syrian and Russian forces leading to the deaths of hundreds of civilians in these attacks alone in 2019. After being granted asylum in 2016, the Syrian man petitioned the government to allow his wife and children, who were temporarily staying in a third country in limbo, to join him in the U.S. The government delayed his case for several years, and the client's family was in danger of being forced to return to Syria. CAIR-SFBA attorneys challenged DHS' extensive delay in determining the family's eligibility for visas by filing a writ of mandamus in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California. Within a few months of filing the lawsuit, the government agreed to process the family's visas. The family was reunited for the first time in several long years during the month of Ramadan and are now adjusting to life in the U.S.

Ordinarily, USCIS officers are required to adjudicate naturalization applications within four months of conducting an interview, yet large numbers of community members from AMEMSA communities often get swept in to the Controlled Application Review and Resolution Program (CARRP).⁶ Per a Freedom of Information Act request filed by CNN to investigate the program, the government data showed that between April of 2008 and January 2016, USCIS opened nearly 42,000 CARRP cases, with the top five countries of origin having significant Muslim majority populations namely: Pakistan, Iraq, India, Iran and Yemen.⁷ In 2008, USCIS first implemented CARRP to ensure that im-



migration benefits were not granted to individuals that supposedly posed a threat to national security. However, the program has been found to often rely on deeply problematic mechanisms such as watch-lists, no-fly lists, and other security checks that often profile individuals based on markers such as race, religious association, and national origin. Moreover, in violation of First Amendment and Due Process protections, CARRP often does not grant applicants blacklisted notice of their designation and does not allow these applicants an opportunity to refute such allegations.

Muslim Ban

CAIR-CA has opposed President Trump’s discriminatory Muslim Ban from day one through legal challenges, mass public actions, civil disobedience, and legislative efforts. CAIR-CA continues to combat discriminatory immigration laws and the separation of hundreds of families for no reason but for their religious beliefs and national origin.

While suspending issuance of visas for nationals of Chad, Iran, Libya, North Korea, Somalia, Syria, Venezuela, and Yemen, the Muslim Ban allows for a waiver of the Ban under certain conditions. Nevertheless, for thousands of individuals and families indefinitely separated by the Muslim Ban, the Ban’s waiver provision has, as a practical matter, amounted to nothing more than an empty promise. In conjunction with the National Immigration Law Center (NILC), Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Asian Law Caucus (AAAJ-ALC), the Iranian American Bar Association, Lane Powell PC, and Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer LLP, in July 2018, CAIR-SFBA filed a class action lawsuit that sought to hold the

Trump administration accountable for its failure to implement a good-faith, lawful, and constitutional waiver process that would allow individuals who qualify for waivers under the terms of the Muslim Ban to be issued visas.⁸ The lawsuit, PARS Equality Center, v. Pompeo, argues that the current waiver process is inconsistent and arbitrary in its application such that it renders the entire process a sham. Later, the lawsuit was consolidated with Emami v. Nielsen and is being heard in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California by Judge James Donato who ruled against the government’s motion to dismiss the claim that the U.S. consular agencies were in violation of their own promulgated regulations with regards to the waiver criteria. Currently, CAIR-SFBA attorneys are seeking to interview government officials with knowledge of the Muslim Ban’s waiver procedures.⁹

Moreover, in response to the Supreme Court’s rubber stamping of the Muslim Ban in June of 2018, CAIR-CA, working alongside partners including NILC, AAAJ-ALC, and MPower Change, advocated for the introduction of the National Origin-Based Antidiscrimination for Nonimmigrants (“No Ban Act”) introduced by Rep. Judy Chu (D-CA) and Sen. Chris Coons (D-DE) in the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate on April 10, 2019.¹⁰ If passed, the No Ban Act would rescind all iterations of the Muslim Ban including the targeting of refugees for extreme vetting and of asylum-seekers arriving at the nation’s borders. Keeping in mind America’s history of being a haven for those fleeing persecution, this Bill is armed with a nondiscrimination clause that prevents religious discrimination as criterion for determining immigrant and nonimmigrant



grant eligibility. Crucially, given the and overreach of the executive branch on matters including but not limited to immigration, the No Ban Act would change relevant portions of the Immigration Nationality Act (INA) to guarantee that the executive power is appropriately limited by Congressional oversight. More recently, on January 27, 2020, after a year of work by CAIR-CA and our partners, House Democrats including House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and Representative Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.) announced that they would push for the No Ban Act to be brought up in front of the House Judiciary Committee for consideration, exactly three years after the implementation of the first version of the Muslim Ban by the Trump administration.¹¹ After three years, the Trump administration also used this opportunity to expand the Ban by including an additional six countries to the list affecting individuals from Sudan, Nigeria, Tanzania, Myanmar, Eritrea, and Kyrgyzstan which went into full effect on February 21, 2020.^{12 13}

In the interim, CAIR-CA has supported families and individuals impacted by the Muslim Ban by providing legal representation as well as legislative and consular advocacy. Some of the families that CAIR-CA immigration attorneys have worked with since the ban first went into effect in 2017 were finally issued visas in 2019; thereby reuniting them with their families in the U.S. This included an Iranian American community member’s brother, who waited over 15 years for a visa before the ban went into effect and halted the visa process for another two years. Another person CAIR-CA assisted was a U.S. citizen who petitioned for his elderly parents from Yemen. His father was granted a visa one year after the ban went into effect and it took over two years for his mother to be granted a visa. Despite the limited grant of waivers and lack of transparency from the government on the approval process, CAIR-CA’s immigration attorneys zealously advocated on behalf of their clients and managed to win a handful of crucial victories for families in desperate need of reunification in the U.S.



Traveling While Muslim: At the Nation's Borders

Travel

Customs & Border Protection (CBP)	32	56,1%
Transportation Security Administration (TSA)	14	24,6%
Airlines/ Transportation Discrimination	11	19,3%
Total	57	

In 2019, CAIR-CA attorneys advised and represented individuals traveling domestically and internationally facing surveillance, harassment and intrusive questioning at airports and other ports of entry at the hands of Department of Homeland Security (DHS) agents. In what has become a regular experience at airports and land crossings, random screenings often leave Muslim travelers feeling like second-class citizens especially when taken into back rooms for secondary screenings, interrogated about their religious beliefs, held against their will, and treated with suspicion. Most of these extended screenings can be triggered by the placement of individuals perceived to be Muslim on warrantless lists such as the "Secondary Security Screening Selection" (SSSS) list, often discovered by the placement of the stamp on boarding passes.

In an incident involving airline misconduct and invasive questioning, CAIR-SFBA was contacted by the

family of a 12-year old Bay Area native and promising U.S. National Squash team player, Ms. Fatima Abdelrahman, who was forced to remove her hijab in public by Air Canada employees at San Francisco International Airport (SFO).¹⁴ In August 2019, Ms. Fatima stood in line waiting to board her flight with her teammates, on her way to an international squash tournament in Toronto, Canada, when an airline employee approached Fatima and demanded that she remove her hijab allegedly as part of the airlines' pre-boarding identification procedures. Despite being scared and worried, Ms. Fatima calmly explained to the employee that she chose to wear a hijab as part of her religious beliefs. Ms. Fatima requested a private screening area so that should the employees continue to insist on the removal of her hijab for verification security screening purposes, she could remove her hijab in the exclusive presence of female Air Canada agents. The employees refused this request and eventually escorted Ms. Fatima to a jet bridge and forced her to remove her

hijab. This experience not only went against Ms. Fatima's reasonable request to be able to adhere to her religious beliefs but also left her feeling angry and humiliated. It was only after Fatima's older sister, Ms. Sabreen Abdelrahman, complained about this incident on Twitter that Air Canada responded, but their reply did not acknowledge the impact on Fatima, nor that the actions undertaken were arbitrary and discriminatory in nature.¹⁵

In response, CAIR-SFBA attorneys issued a demand letter to Air Canada detailing the harassment and discrimination against Ms. Fatima at SFO and the blatant violations of federal and state anti-discrimination laws. Citing violations of Ms. Fatima's right to privacy and ensuing distress, CAIR-SFBA demanded amongst others, immediate policy changes prohibiting the recurrence of similar behavior against Air Canada customers based





on their perceived race, national origin, and religion; relevant cultural competency training for all employees, and monetary damages for pain and suffering related to the harm suffered.¹⁶ Responding to the demand letter, Air Canada apologized for their treatment of Ms. Fatima and clarified that they had reinforced their existing policy with staff to ensure that security-related legal requirements were met with appropriate sensitivity to an individual's religious beliefs and that requests for accommodation were carried out in a discreet and respectful manner moving forward. Much like in this instance, CAIR-CA legal staff remain committed to ensuring that individuals traveling with airlines are not subject to differential treatment based on their religious beliefs and how they choose to observe their faith.

In a huge win, CAIR National attorneys were able to claim victory in a lawsuit filed in a federal court in Virginia in 2016, *El Hady v. Kable*, which challenged the constitutionality of the plaintiffs' inclusion on the Terrorist Screening Center's Terrorist Screening Database (TSDB). The 23 United States citizens, including primarily those of Muslim faith, alleged that their placement on the TSDB without notice and opportunity to challenge their placement was a violation of their constitutional right of free travel, as guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment. U.S. District Court Judge Anthony Trenga ruled that there was no evidence presented by the government to warrant labeling the named individuals as 'known or suspected' terrorists and that it is highly possible for innocent individuals to find themselves on the TSDB. Judge Trenga ordered both the plaintiffs and the government to submit arguments about how to fix the constitu-

tional problems with the database, which encompasses nearly 1.2 million people, including about 4,600 U.S. citizens or residents. Essentially, to satisfy the due process requirements of the Constitution, the government will need to institute strong, independent, and transparent mechanisms for assessing claims of wrongful inclusion on the TSDB and ensure that included individuals can be heard.

Additionally, CAIR-CA offices are actively joining nationwide litigation efforts, including a Maryland federal court case – *El Ali v. Barr*, to challenge secretive watchlists and surveillance programs that target members of AMEMSA communities disproportionately such as the TSDB and the Quiet Skies program.¹⁷ The program, unearthed by a Boston Globe investigative report specifically targets travelers who are not under investigation by any agency and in the TSDB essentially giving federal agencies such as the Federal Transportation Administration broad discretion to target innocent travelers.¹⁸ The lawsuit attempts to bring relief to a class of Muslim plaintiffs who have faced harassment and discrimination through various government programs that restrict their ability to travel by air, subject them to invasive and extensive searches, lengthy detentions at the border, seizure of their electronics and personal belongings, as well as financially deleterious consequences such as bank closures.¹⁹ The lawsuit argues that American Muslims like the plaintiffs have been denied their constitutional right to due process which requires that everyone targeted by the government have an opportunity to be made aware of the evidence against them and that the government provide avenues for individuals to clear their names.

See Something, Say Something: Harassment and Surveillance

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) & Law Enforcement

FBI Voluntary Questioning	42	45,2%
State & Local Law Enforcement	46	49,5%
General Concerns	5	5,3%
Total	93	



In 2019, CAIR-CA legal staff received a total of 93 complaints from community members involving law enforcement interactions that amounted to targeted harassment, discrimination, and profiling based on actual or perceived characteristics such as race, national origin, and religious practice. Discriminatory policing strategies have forced CAIR-CA attorneys to advise and represent hundreds of community members over the years, to ensure that the Fifth Amendment right to remain silent is always asserted and protected, free of cost and where the need arises.

CAIR-CA continued advocating against the implementation of the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) nonprofit pilot grant program, Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE), which distributed \$625,000 in grants to five selected nonprofits across the state to engage in surveillance and rehabilitation work.²⁰ PVE appears to be intended to be an indirect

attempt to push the notorious federal Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) framework, given that Cal OES and PVE receive funding directly from DHS's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).²¹

CVE started as a national security program under the Obama administration with the purpose of "preventing violent extremists from inspiring, radicalizing, financing or recruiting individuals or groups in the United States to commit acts of violence."²² The Brennan Center For Justice reviewed CVE programs operational between 2006-2015 and found that organizations such as the FBI and the National Counterterrorism Center relied on terrorism indicia as innocent as "travel to a Muslim country", "frequent attendance at a mosque or prayer group", "concerns about anti-Muslim discrimination", and "perceived economic stress".²³ These indicators often fall within the purview of First Amendment protected right to



free speech and freedom of political expression yet often form the basis for surveillance dragnet programs like CVE and PVE.

CAIR-CA in conjunction with Advancing Justice-LA promptly filed a Public Records Act (PRA) request seeking to uncover the intent and purpose behind a program that seemed designed to single out certain communities — predominantly Muslim, refugee, African-American, and Latinx — for being vulnerable and prone to being radicalized into committing acts of mass violence, be it gang-motivated or in advancement of ideological goals. The PRA identified that Cal OES issued a particularly egregious grant to a Muslim-led organization to conduct what was euphemistically named as the “BRAVE-Teacher Training” program. The program aims to train San Bernardino City Unified School District teachers in understanding and recognizing extremist ideologies in their community to identify youth risk factors and behaviors that may be associated with violent extremism. Like CVE programs, the grant does not specify what is considered an extremist ideology, risk factors, or behaviors, or what a schoolteacher would be instructed to do once those are identified. Indeed, such programs are thinly veiled Islamophobic attempts to surveil California’s small but sizeable Muslim community and to stoke anxieties over the 2015 San Bernardino attack.

In a case demonstrating the harms of law enforcement surveillance and harassment, CAIR-SV was on hand to support the family of Mr. Hamid Hayat, a 36-year-old Muslim man from Lodi, California, wrongly convicted of terrorism-related charges. In a July 2019 ruling, U.S. District Judge Garland



E. Burrell Jr. in Sacramento ordered that Mr. Hayat’s 2006 conviction and sentence, for traveling to Pakistan between 2003 to 2005 and supposed training at an alleged terrorist camp, be vacated.²⁴ In response to the long overdue ruling, CAIR-SV attorneys and staff held a press conference applauding Judge Burrell Jr.’s ruling and accompanied Mr. Hayat, who had spent 14 years in a federal prison in Arizona, to the waiting arms of his long-suffering family.²⁵ Six months later, the government announced final dismissal of charges, rather than seeking retrial.

“While we are grateful for the dismissal, the fourteen years Hamid spent behind bars on charges of which he was innocent remain a grave miscarriage of justice. They serve as a stark example of how, in the post 9/11 era, the government’s effort to protect the public from terrorism could and did in this case go terribly wrong. Hamid’s exoneration is a cause for celebration, but the story of his case is tragedy that must not be repeated.”
– Hamid’s legal team, Riordan & Horgan

To supplement our work representing individuals contacted by law enforcement, CAIR-SFBA and its partners, including AAAJ-ALC, continued advocating for compliance with local ordinances such as those passed in San Francisco, including the “Safe San Francisco Civil Rights Ordinance”²⁶ (Safe SF Ordinance) and the “Ordinance for Transparency for City Participation with Federal Surveillance Activities”²⁷ in Oakland. The ordinances created reporting mechanisms to ensure accountability and transparency such that members of the public could determine whether there was actual compliance and to prevent targeting of primarily AMEM-SA communities because of their protected First Amendment activity or other visible markers such as national origin and race. The requested review lead to the expiration of the San Francisco Police Department and FBI’s Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) collaboration in early 2017.

In 2019, CAIR-SFBA, AAAJ-ALC, and ACLU of Northern California attorneys worked hard to resist attempts by the FBI to convince the city of San Francisco and Mayor London Breed to allow the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) to rejoin the JTTF. The FBI argued facetiously that such a collaboration would not preclude SFPD officers from following local departmental rules protecting civil rights and First Amendment protections. Under the Safe SF Ordinance, SFPD officers deputized by the FBI are required to follow stricter local rules requiring a showing of reasonable suspicion and probable cause for investigations and searches; however, a recently revealed FBI white paper report showed otherwise. The white paper released partly due to a writ filed in the San Francisco Superior Court filed by CAIR-SFBA in conjunction



with AAAJ-ALC, American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California and PolicyLink, showed that the FBI considered these restrictions to be far too onerous and recommended weakening local protections.²⁸

Troublingly, the white paper laid bare the FBI's internal admissions that compliance with local rules was impossible under its JTTF partnership while the SFPD publicly claimed in their annual reports that their officers were in full compliance. The report further revealed the doubts festering within the FBI showing that they consider there to be significant conflicts between its need for secrecy and classified information on the one hand and the requirements imposed on SFPD officers by department rules and city policies.

In this backdrop, CAIR-CA's legal and advocacy teams remain hypervigilant in ensuring that local police departments and cities do not deepen ties or partner with the JTTF, which has taken the lead in monitoring Muslim spaces and in using local law enforcement officers in cities such as in Oakland, Fremont and Hayward to do its secretive work. As of publication, CAIR-CA in alliance with Assembly member Rob Bonta and partners such as AAAJ-ALC and Secure Justice introduced a statewide bill, AB 2598, the Safe California Civil Rights Act, which required California law enforcement agencies to follow state and local laws and policies at all times, and create transparency and oversight measures for state and local agencies participating in the JTTF.²⁹

CAIR-CA staff also increased their participation in police and sheriff sensitivity trainings with CAIR-

LA attorneys seizing the opportunity to speak with several cohorts of graduating officers from the Orange County Sheriff's Training Academy. These training presentations were an important opportunity to educate newly minted officers about the basics of Islam and to dispel stereotypes around Muslim beliefs and practices. CAIR-LA educated the officers about issues concerning the Muslim community such as: (1) reminding officers that they should not view praying in public as a suspicious activity and that such activity is protected by the First Amendment; (2) reminding them that large gatherings of Muslims at the numerous mosques around Southern California during Friday prayer and Ramadan should never be cause for suspicion; (3) and informing them of the importance of accurately reporting on hate crimes and hate incidents so that prosecutors can properly prosecute those crimes as such.



On the Clock: Workplace Discrimination & Harassment

Employment

Failure to Hire	12	9,5%
Hostile Work Environment/Harassment	74	58,2%
Religious Accommodation	11	8,7%
Retaliation/Wrongful Termination	30	23,6%
Total	127	

In 2019, our legal team dealt with employment discrimination complaints including, but not limited to the failure to hire and/or promote employees, unaddressed hostile work environments, retaliatory conduct leading to termination, and failure to provide appropriate and reasonable accommodations based on religious need. Amongst the most common issues that come across the desks of CAIR-CA attorneys are those involving the failure of workplaces to take immediate steps to address severe and perverse environments that have turned toxic due to the prevalence of Islamophobic and discriminatory treatment by co-workers and supervisors. Another troubling effect of such workplaces is the retaliation suffered by Muslim or concerned employees who choose to bravely speak up and report incidents of discrimination which can lead to a demotion in work responsibilities or even termination. The inability and refusal of employers to grant reasonable accommodations

and to seriously address hostile work environments violates the rights of Muslim employees under both federal and state laws.

Through prompt representation, CAIR-CA attorneys help employees receive legal redress by filing complaints with federal and state civil rights enforcement agencies tasked with remedying discrimination, i.e., the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and California's Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH). Attorneys and legal staff also actively look for ways to bring relief by filing lawsuits and negotiating satisfactory settlements against private, state, and federal actors for violations of civil rights statutes governing employment discrimination and harassment such as Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII)³⁰ and the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993, where applicable.



For example, CAIR-LA’s attorneys were contacted by a Muslim employee of a national retail chain complaining about a hostile work environment, pervasive harassment stemming from religious discrimination and subsequent retaliation. These difficulties at work stemmed from her unsuccessful attempts in obtaining a religious accommodation that allowed her to complete her job responsibilities satisfactorily and adhere to her faith simultaneously, as best as possible. While the client was initially treated well by her supervisor, the harassment began when the client began to wear her hijab to work about three months into her employment. The supervisor would deride the client’s religious beliefs with alarming regularity. This included derogatory remarks about Islam and specifically the client’s religious practices. After the client complained to human resources about her supervisor’s behavior, the supervisor retaliated against her by reducing her work schedule and ramped up his harassing and discriminatory conduct. The supervisor made derogatory comments to the client such as claiming she wore her hijab because “she does not comb her hair” and asking her what she was “hiding under there.” Additionally, the Muslim employee had previously informed her supervisor that she would be unable to handle or sell products that contained pork and alcohol, keeping in line with her sincerely held religious beliefs as a practicing Muslim. Despite the availability and willingness of her co-workers to potentially assist the employee in stocking these products as an alternative, her manager forced her to continue completing these tasks against her wishes. CAIR-LA attorneys got involved soon after by writing a demand letter to the store asking that they take definitive steps to prevent the Islamophobia and

racism being experienced by the employee at her workplace. Eventually, the employer and CAIR-LA negotiated a monetary settlement to redress for the discrimination faced by the Muslim employee.



In another similar case, CAIR-LA represented a client who faced harassment and termination at her workplace for being a practicing Muslim who observed hijab. The client donned her hijab to her interview and explained to the hiring committee that she wore her hijab for religious purposes. On the first week of the job, the client’s supervisor demanded that she wear her hijab a particular way as she did not want the client to appear “all covered up”. Furthermore, the client was berated by being told that she “should not bring religion into the workplace” and was forced to decide between not wearing her hijab or changing the way she wore it. When the client refused to choose between the two inappropriate options, the client’s

work assignment was cut short because of her commitment to her religious beliefs. At this point, CAIR-LA attorneys issued a demand letter to the employer threatening legal action in response to the wrongful termination being a product of the anti-Muslim animus expressed by her supervisor and the inability of the employer to step in to ensure that the harassment ceased. After a few rounds of negotiation, CAIR-LA was able to secure a favorable monetary settlement for the religious discrimination faced by the client while also ensuring that the employer would work towards creating a harassment-free environment for all employees irrespective of national origin, faith, race and sexual orientation amongst other perceived protected characteristics.

CAIR-CA’s civil rights attorneys were contacted by community members during the holy month of Ramadan last May, complaining of issues at their workplaces with regards to obtaining accommodations that allowed them carry out their religious obligations such as fasting and prayer during the month as well as to be able to perform their job duties competently. In one such case, CAIR-SFBA attorneys were contacted by a community member who worked as a merchandiser for a large soda bottling company in the San Francisco Bay Area. In previous years, the client had discussed and come to an agreement with his supervisors, which would allow him to perform alternative job responsibilities that would not necessitate abdication of his core job responsibilities. In 2019, his new supervisor and the Human Resources personnel at the company mentioned that they would no longer be able to accord him similar or comparative accommodations. Left facing the choice of taking a

forced leave of absence for the remainder of the month or leaving the job entirely, the community member reached out to CAIR-SFBA for legal assistance and representation. After assessing the situation, CAIR-SFBA attorneys reached out to the bottling company’s human resources team and their legal counsel via a demand letter reminding them that California’s Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA)³¹ and Title VII require employers to accommodate the religious practices of employees by exploring any and all reasonable alternative means including the possibility of excusing the person from certain duties that conflict with her/his observance or to permit those duties to be performed at another time or by another employee.³² By successfully arguing that the religious practice of fasting during the month of Ramadan did not ostensibly interfere with the full and effective performance of the client’s primary duties and that the accommodation requested included reasonable alternatives, CAIR-SFBA attorneys were able to receive a suitable accommodation structure, that was signed and ratified, on behalf of the client for as long as he worked with the employer.

In a satisfying end to a hiring discrimination complaint that spanned nearly two years, CAIR-SFBA’s legal team settled a DFEH complaint filed by a Muslim software engineer, who alleged he was not hired for a position after being asked about his religious beliefs during an interview. By working closely with impacted clients, the DFEH, and channeling effective media advocacy, CAIR-CA attorneys are able to negotiate satisfactory settlement in cases involving employment discrimination with the greater vision of dampening anti-Muslim bias in hiring decisions and processes.



Fanning the Flames: Hate and Loathing

Hate Incidents & Hate Crimes

Hate Crimes	19	22,6%
Hate Incidents	65	77,4%
Total	84	

2019 was a year in which the wide-ranging impact of hate-filled rhetoric from the highest pulpits of many nations, including the United States, found expression in acts of violence by private actors against individuals who identify as Muslim or come from immigrant backgrounds. CAIR-CA's offices were approached by individuals reporting hate speech in the form of vandalized mosques and community centers, threatening phone calls and letters, profiling in public spaces, and violence against community members.

This year, our four offices reported a combined total of 84 matters classified either as hate crimes or hate incidents. In response to the spate of hateful incidents, CAIR-CA's offices worked closely with targets of hate to ensure that all reported hate crimes are properly investigated by law enforcement and prosecuted. To achieve this, CAIR-CA utilizes media advocacy, reviews public documents and court records, and follows up with law enforcement to ensure investigations are being handled with appropriate severity and that a hate crime enhancement is included

where appropriate. In addition to these efforts, CAIR-CA works for rehabilitation for victims and advocates for restorative justice options such as holding 25 Bystander Intervention Training workshops across California, for example. The trainings use sample scenarios and de-escalation intervention methods to prepare participants to be active responders when witnessing incidents of harassment and hate.

In a testament to the global problem of Islamophobia and white supremacy, the world watched in horror as 51 worshippers were killed at a mosque in Christchurch, New Zealand, during Friday prayers, in an act of mass violence by a gunman who self-identified as a white supremacist and someone in alignment with the ideology of the alternative-right politically.³³ CAIR-CA and CAIR-National responded immediately by demanding that President Trump swiftly condemn this horrific act of violence and the white supremacist motivations of the shooter, who praised President Trump as a symbol of renewed white identity.^{34 35} CAIR-CA also continued demanding all leaders nationally and

worldwide speak out clearly and strongly against the growing anti-Muslim and anti-immigrant bias prevalent in present day politics and public discourse, which propels further attacks against vulnerable communities.



For example, in the aftermath of the Christchurch attacks, a mosque was set on fire in Escondido by an alleged arsonist in the early hours of the morning, who referenced the New Zealand shooting and thus raised fears of congregants and Muslim community members.³⁶ Luckily, no one was injured or killed in the arson attack. In a less fortunate situation, a man rammed a car into a sidewalk full of pedestrians in Sunnyvale with the alleged intent to injure them seriously because he perceived them to be Muslim or Indian.³⁷ CAIR-SFBA's legal team worked alongside the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office to ensure that the incident, which led to eight people being injured including a 13-year-old girl who was placed in a coma, was being investigated as a potential hate crime.³⁸ The alleged suspect, Mr. Isiah Joel Peoples, is rumored to have been motivated by anti-Muslim bias and has been charged with eight counts of attempted murder. While CAIR-CA does not advocate general-

ly for punitive remedies such as increased prison time as a response to Islamophobic acts of violence, the push for designating this act as a potential "hate crime" focuses on raising awareness of the serious consequences of normalized anti-Muslim bigotry and the need for a systemic approach to combatting discrimination based on racial, ethnic and religious stereotypes. Moreover, in the wake of these incidents, CAIR-CA worked with mosques and community associations across the state to take preventative measures outlined in our "Best Practices for Mosque and Community Safety" guide.³⁹

Additionally, CAIR-CA attorneys continue to represent individuals impacted by hateful incidents committed by state and non-state actors. In 2019, CAIR-SFBA represented a Muslim woman in Palo Alto who was harassed and targeted by the landlord at her place of work because of her religious identity. The client was accosted by the building's landlord and property owner, who told the woman that she could not wear her niqab, a religious garment worn by Muslim women that covers the entire body except for the eyes, in the building. The landlord interrupted a work meeting and confronted the client about her niqab, and essentially labeled her a security concern because of her religious garment. The client unsuccessfully attempted to reason with the landlord by informing him that she was entitled under the Constitution to exercise her right to practice her religion as she saw fit. CAIR-SFBA attorneys assisted the client in filing a complaint with the DFEH against the landlord alleging denial of equal access to services and accommodations. The DFEH is currently investigating the matter.



Picked On: Bullying and Supporting Learning in Schools

School & Higher Education

K-12 Accommodations	23	25,8%
K-12 Bullying	26	29,2%
K-12 Administration/Other	7	7,9%
Higher Education Accommodations & Discrimination	33	37,1%
Total	89	

This past year, CAIR-CA attorneys and youth advocates responded to multiple incidents of harassment, bullying, anti-Muslim discrimination and First Amendment concerns on school campuses, in both K-12 and institutions of higher learning. CAIR-CA staff dealt with casework involving peer-to-peer bullying, biased treatment by educators and administrators, Islamophobic content in teaching curricula, and censorship of college students speaking out on issues relating to political activism. In response, CAIR-CA ensured that public school districts were held accountable for combatting bullying and harassment that occurs in their jurisdictions based on actual or perceived characteristics such as religion, race, and national origin. CAIR-CA did so, by working directly with students, parents, and school officials through legal action and anti-bul-

lying workshops designed to ensure that state and federal laws prohibiting discrimination in schools are enforced.⁴⁰ Our staff advocated on behalf of impacted students to hold offenders accountable for engaging in harassment and discriminatory behavior, with the goal of ensuring that Muslim youth across the state feel safe and valued in their learning environments.

Bullying in Schools

In 2019, CAIR-CA released its fourth and latest biennial report on the prevalence of anti-Muslim bullying, harassment, and discrimination that Muslim students face in California’s education system. The report “Single

Out: Islamophobia in the Classroom and the Impact of Discrimination on Muslim Students” analyzed a statewide survey of 1,500 Muslim students between the ages of 11 and 18 enrolled in public and private schools in California.⁴¹ The report found that 40 percent of all respondents during 2018-2019 were bullied at school for being Muslim, which is double the national statistic for all students. Disturbingly, nearly one out of three Muslim students also reported not feeling welcome or respected in school by their peers or educators because of their religious beliefs.⁴² As a result of CAIR-CA’s advocacy and educational efforts, more students have become aware of the ways in which Islamophobia plays out around them with about 39 percent of survey respondents stating that they witnessed other students being bullied for being Muslim.⁴³ Encouragingly, there was evidence of a decline in offensive statements from teachers, administrators, and other officials from 38 percent in 2016 to 29 percent in 2018-19.⁴⁴ Worryingly, about 35 percent of the survey respondents mentioned that their peers made offensive comments and posts online about Islam and Muslims.⁴⁵

For example, CAIR-LA attorneys intervened after receiving reports of disturbing behavior that included stalking, bullying, harassment, and physical assault against a middle-school Muslim student and her family. The student endured numerous incidents of intense bullying and name-calling, including having racial epithets thrown at her and being blamed for the tragedy of the September 11 attacks simply because she was visibly Muslim. Disturbingly, the middle-schooler was mocked relentlessly by her classmates by being asked if she had brought a bomb to school and taunted with

ticking noises. Despite complaining to the school administration by requesting an intervention and assistance in dealing with these Islamophobic incidents, the pervasive bullying and harassment in the classroom continued and the school failed to take sufficiently ameliorative steps. At this point, CAIR-LA attorneys assisted the student and her family in filing an official complaint through the Uniform Complaint Process (UCP). The UCP requires local educational agencies such as schools and district offices of education to take immediate responsibility for investigating complaints and issuing findings.⁴⁶ The school district investigated as required and surprisingly issued a finding of no fault, asserting that no actionable incidents of bullying or harassment had occurred at the school that necessitated a finding of responsibility on behalf of the school.

Undeterred by this finding, CAIR-LA attorneys appealed the ruling to the California Department of Education (CDE), which granted CAIR-LA’s appeal and ordered the school district to conduct a new investigation. The school district, pursuant to the investigation, found that although there were serious patterns of harassment and bullying against the Muslim student, these incidents transpired in a “mutual back-and-forth,” mischaracterizing the student’s attempts to defend herself against multiple attackers. CAIR-LA continued its advocacy by appealing this decision to the CDE, citing the statistically high rates of bullying that Muslim students endure in school, as well as the ongoing Islamophobic environment at the school. The CDE rejected CAIR-LA’s second appeal and found that the school district’s subsequent investigation and



conclusion to be sufficient. This case was highlighted by CAIR-LA in its press conference and media interviews as anecdotal evidence of the findings of CAIR-CA's 2019 bullying report mentioned above.

In another instance, CAIR-LA attorneys assisted a first generation Egyptian-American Muslim high school student who was subjected to prejudicial bullying and destruction of his property by a fellow student in the Riverside Unified School District. Upon being contacted, CAIR-LA attorneys successfully demanded that the school district provide ac-

commodations including ensuring that the student engaged in the bullying would not have access to the impacted Muslim student either during school hours or while engaged in any school-related activity after hours. CAIR-LA further worked with the school district to clear any disciplinary punitive measures imposed on the Muslim student, which were related to his efforts to defend himself from the bullying. Finally, CAIR-LA helped the student's family file a report for the damaged property and guided the student in asserting his right to restitution for the value of the damaged property.

In another instance of disturbing Islamophobic content that finds itself in various school district curriculum, CAIR-SFBA attorneys were contacted by a parent whose children attend a school in the Dublin Unified School District (DUSD) complaining of the use of Islamophobic videos in the classroom. Speaking on behalf of a group of concerned parents, the client recounted the shock and surprise they felt as they found out that a video singling out Muslims had been used as teaching material during history class at a middle school in DUSD. The video purported to speak objectively about the horrific attacks of September 11 as a historical event, referenced "the distorted Islam of Al-Qaeda" as being responsible for the event and attempted poorly to assuage viewers that a vast majority of the 1.5 billion adherents of Islam do not subscribe to violent ideologies. A few times, this dehumanizing video was followed by a group discussion facilitated by well-intentioned teachers who asked students to identify classmates who were Muslim and are known to them as non-violent and harmless. CAIR-SFBA attorneys worked with the group of parents to relay their concern to DUSD's appropriate superintendents and counseled them to engage with the local Parent Teacher Association to remove the video from districtwide circulation. After multiple rounds of meetings, DUSD committed to ensuring that its learning materials are free from all forms of bias in an equitable fashion as well as to involving all interested parties including parents and educators in designing curricula.

College & University Campuses

Despite being institutions of higher learning where freedom of speech, debate, and political expres-

sion are paramount for success, college and university students find themselves challenged by an atmosphere of speech and viewpoint suppression. In addition, Muslim students have found it tricky navigating campus spaces in ensuring that their religious needs are factored in when college administrations make decisions regarding accommodations and campus life. A joint study of 503 Californian Muslim college students in 2019, conducted by the Institute of Social Policy and Understanding and Muslim Students Association West, found that 38 percent reported experiencing abuse from their peers on campus, 15 percent at the hands of their professors, and 11 percent from campus administrators, providing a snapshot of the worrying climate prevalent in California's colleges and universities.⁴⁷ Of note, more female Muslim students, especially those wearing the hijab or other identifiers of faith, have reported to CAIR-CA's offices and others that they deal with gender bias and discrimination in dealing with professors as well as peers on campus.⁴⁸

In one instance, CAIR-SFBA attorneys assisted a student at California State University Maritime (CSU Maritime) in Vallejo facing multiple incidents on campus including an uninvestigated assault and Islamophobia from a college administrator. The student, a hijab-wearing Muslim woman at a campus was attacked by an assailant on campus while she was walking to her classes. The male assailant menacingly approached her and abruptly yelled "I'm going to kill you." The student recognized the assailant as a fellow student on campus and reported the crime to campus police and security, hoping to receive a thorough investigation as well as potentially a safety escort.



Despite the student’s due diligence in reporting, she was not taken seriously and the suspect in question was not searched for or identified, leading to serious distress for the student. Additionally, during this time, a campus administrator responsible for assisting and supporting victims of potential gender-based violence and harassment further traumatized the student by stating that she believed that Islamic teachings encouraged and condoned violence against women.

At this point CAIR-SFBA stepped in to counsel the student and send a demand letter on her behalf to

campus administrators informing them that they were in violation of California State University policies and guidelines by failing to undertake necessary steps to conduct an investigation that allows for identification of the alleged perpetrator. Moreover, the letter demanded that CSU Maritime campus conduct an immediate internal review of their reporting mechanisms to ensure that they were transparent, easy to use, and effective in ameliorating incidents involving harassment and discrimination stemming from university employees. In response, CSU Maritime administrators worked with campus police to conduct a thorough inves-

tigation and to provide personal security to the student. In addition, CAIR-SFBA offered to conduct implicit bias and cultural competency trainings for educators and administrators to ensure that they are attentive to the needs and sensitivities of Muslim students.

CAIR-CA often works closely with college Muslim Student Associations and other student organizations to collaborate with universities to advocate for dedicated funding that helps create programs and initiatives inclusive for students of all faiths, national origin, sexual orientation and genders.

Our legal staff also advocate with university administrators to ensure that hate speech, hate incidents, and bias reporting mechanisms are easily accessible to college students and that there is transparency around the reporting and status of submitted reports. As a mechanism of self-accountability, college campuses should release annual reports that include religious, racial, and national origin-based discrimination, amongst other metrics, to highlight the seriousness of these issues and to measure improvements in university responses tackling these concerns.





Locked Up: Being Muslim in Prison

Inmate Advocacy

45 100%

A segment of our society, Muslim or otherwise, that often faces state-sanctioned and societally ignored civil rights deprivations are individuals incarcerated in California's vast jails, prisons, and California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) facilities. A recent study found that approximately nine percent of state prisoners nationwide identify as Muslim, meaning that increasingly more attention and resources need to be devoted to the needs and obstacles of community members in correctional institutions.⁴⁹ CAIR-CA attorneys and legal staff regularly receive letters from incarcerated individuals complaining of the denial of access to basic facilities and opportunities to exercise their religious beliefs, including but not limited to lack of halal dietary options, access to space for prayer and congregational services, and discrimination and mistreatment by correctional staff due to their faith background. CAIR-CA legal staff have expanded their focus on serving Muslim prisoners by conducting frequent jail and prison visitation, working with correctional administrators on ensuring religious accommodations, and filing litigation where appropriate in order to be responsive to the myriad challenges faced by those in the criminal justice system.

In one such situation specifically, CAIR-LA recently filed a lawsuit on behalf of a group of three Muslim inmates against the L.A. County Sheriff's Department (LASD) for its denial of all religious services and accommodations to Muslim inmates in their detention facilities.⁵⁰ The lawsuit, filed in the United States District Court for the Central District of California, brought to light LASD's multi-pronged and systematic efforts to prevent Muslim inmates from accessing crucial religious services that they rightfully deserve such as receiving Qurans, prayer mats, facilitating religious holiday feasts and kufis (religious skullcaps). In order to be added to a religious halal diet, for example, the plaintiffs, Muslim inmates, were subjected to a rigorous, intrusive, and unlawful inquiry that tested their knowledge of arcane details of Islam in order to prove to LASD officials that they were practicing Muslims. To this end, the plaintiffs were asked to provide the names of Prophet Muhammad's family members, the direction Muslims faced when they prayed before facing Mecca 1400 years ago, the six articles of faith, the name of Prophet Abraham's first-born child, and whether they converted to Islam, among other things. Despite the questioning, LASD officials continued to delay each plaintiff's receipt of a Halal meal by creat-

ing barriers, including by issuing a denial based on the claim that "Mexicans are not Muslim".⁵¹ In the rare instances that the plaintiffs and other Muslim inmates' request for religious services were approved, they were only permitted to use them during Jum'uah, which they are barred from conducting in the facilities. Adding salt to the wound, LASD policies required special custody inmates to strip to their underwear as condition of access to the law library, violating the Muslim inmates' religious beliefs around dressing modestly always. In protest and in an attempt to pressure LASD officials to approve their dietary requests, the plaintiffs underwent hunger strikes for multiple days. LASD officials are alleged to have unlawfully prevented Plaintiffs and similarly situated Muslim inmates from performing Jum'uah prayers in accordance with their sincerely held religious beliefs.

Meanwhile, LASD officials rightly, but discriminatorily, ensured that religious services were available to inmates of other faiths. For example, LASD officials regularly schedule religious services and/or meditation sessions at least once per week for Christian, Jehovah's Witness and Buddhist inmates to attend, which has the effect of targeting and excluding Muslim inmates.⁵² Moreover, Muslim inmates did not have Islamic study classes (known as "ta'leem") scheduled for them, in contrast with Bible study classes offered to Christian inmates.⁵³ The lawsuit demands monetary damages for the harm caused to these particular Muslim inmates and injunctive relief asking the LASD to immediately cease its discriminatory treatment of all Muslim inmates and the Islamic faith in its practices.

CAIR-CA is also committed to remaining vigilant and protecting the interests of individuals who find themselves interacting with law enforcement, namely when facing questioning and detention. In March 2019, CAIR-LA attorneys filed a lawsuit against the County of Riverside and Riverside County Sheriff's office in response to a Muslim woman being denied appropriate religious accommodation while in the County's custody after being arrested. The lawsuit alleged that the County's actions violated the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act (RLUIPA) and the client's First Amendment rights to freedom of religious practice. During her incarceration, the client's hijab was forcibly removed, and her hair was seen uncovered by a male deputy, contrary to her religious beliefs and the county's existing policy. In addition, the client's arms were exposed during the entirety of her imprisonment without any offer of alternative covering or clothing by the Sheriff's office. The County additionally failed to provide meal accommodations for the client to accommodate her observance of Ramadan, making it impossible for her to fast. CAIR-LA successfully obtained a monetary settlement on behalf of the client, and negotiated for an official policy change, mandating new accommodation guidelines that formalize the process by which religious arm coverings will be provided to detainees upon request. This is one of the more progressive county religious accommodation policies obtained nationwide relating to head coverings and represents a significant victory for CAIR-LA and the Muslim community.

Recommendations

In order to advance the civil rights of all communities, and in light of the complaints received in 2019, CAIR-CA's legal staff recommend that:

- 1.** If you or a loved one have been a witness to or targeted by a **hate crime or incident, please report it to your local CAIR-CA office** and police department for assessment and recording purposes. CAIR-CA utilizes this information to advocate for impacted community members through media outreach and statewide legislation to raise awareness around anti-Muslim and anti-immigrant bigotry.
- 2.** **Students should immediately report bullying and harassment** to teachers and school administrators. **Parents should contact their local CAIR-CA offices for consultation and representation**, where needed. Schools should implement robust anti-bullying and harassment policies including transparent complaint procedures. Schools should also institute regular training modules for teachers and administrators around how to provide culturally competent education and respond to bullying competently.
- 3.** **Report instances of harassment and violations of First Amendment rights** on college campuses to your local CAIR office. Campuses should ensure that the needs of Muslim college students are accounted for in their training and resources budgeting. Colleges and universities should take serious steps to ensure that vulnerable students from targeted communities feel safe by not burdening their right to political expression and by offering security for students dealing with harassment and physical assault.
- 4.** If you require legal assistance and representation with immigration issues such as naturalization, adjustment of status, relative petitions, asylum and surrounding the Muslim Ban, **reach out CAIR-CA's immigration attorneys for consultation and potential representation.**
- 5.** Employees facing harassment and discrimination based on perceived characteristics such as religion and ethnicity should immediately **contact their Human Resources department and report such behavior**, preferably via e-mail to maintain written records. Additionally, employees should reach out CAIR-CA for consultation and legal representation when dealing with discriminatory hiring, promotion and termination actions as well to apply for accommodations at work.



- 6.** When confronted by FBI/law enforcement agents, assert your **right to remain silent and right to legal counsel.** Contact CAIR-CA attorneys for legal representation and stay informed about your rights when interacting with law enforcement, by browsing through CAIR-CA's Know Your Rights publications available online.



- 7.** **Reach out to your elected officials** in Congress and the Senate to oppose President Trump's signature anti-immigrant policies—the expanded Muslim Ban, the asylum ban, and the public charge rule—and demand that the House and the Senate work together to pass the No Ban Act immediately.
- 8.** Individuals who are currently incarcerated should **report denials of religious services and accommodations** in California's correctional facilities. Request access to halal diets and prayer services through prison chaplains. Prisons should ensure that inmates of all faiths receive personal

items and access to facilities necessary for individuals currently incarcerated to live dignified lives, as provided by various state and local laws.

- 9.** **Fight back against racial profiling during travel by asserting your rights.** If approached by the FBI, CBP, or TSA for voluntary questioning, and/or when subject to enhanced questioning and screening procedures while traveling, contact CAIR-CA for consultation regarding your rights and representation to prevent future instances of harassment.

- 10.** Reach out to local and state officials to **demand an end to surveillance programs like CVE/PVE.**⁵⁴ Community organizations, municipalities, and local law enforcement agencies should cease all partnerships with federal law enforcement agencies that require resources to be dedicated to surveilling, identifying and reporting community members based on their racial and/or religious identity and that assist in mass gathering of information on a person's constitutionally protected activities.

- 11.** If you are an employer, reach out to CAIR-CA to assist in **providing comprehensive diversity and employee rights trainings to your employees**, including training on American Muslims, Title VII, and FEHA. Employers should also take swift and stern action against employees who engage in discriminatory or harassing behavior against their co-workers.



Partners

CAIR-California would like to thank the following individuals and organizations who have been instrumental to the success of our civil and immigrants' rights work and who continue to contribute to the advancement of civil rights for all Americans.

Abrahamic Faiths Peacemaking Initiative
 ACCESS California Services and ACCESS Sacramento
 Alliance San Diego
 American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC)
 American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)
 American Muslim Voice (AMV)
 Arab Culture and Community Center (ACCC)
 Arab Film Festival (AFF)
 Arab Resource and Organizing Center (AROC)
 Arnold & Porter Kaye Schooler LLP
 Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Asian Law Caucus (ALC)
 Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Los Angeles (AAAJ-LA)
 Asian American Bar Association (AABA)
 Bay Area Muslim Bar Association (BAMBA)
 Brennan Center for Justice
 Buchalter Nemer
 California Council of Churches/California Church IMPACT
 California Immigration Policy Center (CIPC)
 California Sikh Council
 Carpenter & Mayfield
 Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC)
 Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR)
 Center for Human Rights and Constitutional Law
 Church State Council

Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice (CLUE)
 Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights Los Angeles (CHIRLA)
 Courage Campaign
 Defending Rights & Dissent (DRAD)
 Immigrant Youth Coalition (IYC)
 Indivisible
 Interfaith Communities United for Justice and Peace (ICUJP)
 Interfaith Worker Justice (IWJ)
 Iranian American Bar Association (IABA)
 Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA)
 Islamic Networks Group (ING)
 Islamic Shura Council of Southern California (ISCOSC)
 Jakarta Movement
 Japanese American Citizens League (JACL)
 Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP)
 Karama
 Kizuna
 LA Jews for Peace
 Lane Powell PC
 Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights (LCCR)
 League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)
 Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles (LAFLA)
 Legal Aid At Work
 Los Amigos of Orange County

MPower Change
 Muslim American Society (MAS)
 Muslim Anti-Racism Collaborative (MARC)
 Muslim Leadership Council of San Diego (MLC-SD)
 Muslim Legal Fund of America (MLFA)
 Muslim Student Association (MSA) West
 National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
 National Immigration Law Center (NILC)
 National Lawyers Guild (NLG)
 National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT)
 Nikkei for Civil Rights and Redress (NCRR)
 North American Islamic Shelter for the Abused (NISA)
 Northern California Islamic Council
 NorCal Resist
 Orange County API Community Alliance (OCAPICA)
 Orange County Bar Association Charitable Fund (OCBACF)
 Orange County Communities Organized for Responsible Development (OCCORD)
 Orange County Congregation Community Organization (OCCCO)
 Palestine Legal
 Pangea Legal Services
 Pars Equality Center (PARS)

PolicyLink
 Program for Torture Victims (PTV)
 Progressive Christians Uniting
 Project Islamic Hope
 San Francisco Human Rights Commission (SF HRC)
 Sacramento Area Congregations Together (SAC ACT)
 Sacramento Immigration Coalition
 Sacramento FUEL Network (Family Unity, Education, and Legal Network)
 Services, Immigrant Rights, & Education Network (SIREN)
 SEIU Local 1000
 Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund (SALDEF)
 South Asian Bar Association of North America (SABA)
 South Asian Bar Association of Northern California (SABA-NC)
 South Asian Network (SAN)
 The Sikh Coalition
 United Sikhs
 Walkup, Melodia, Kelly & Schoenberger LLP
 Western Justice Center Foundation
 Women For: Orange County



Appendix

Glossary of Muslim Terms

Hijab	Arabic for “barrier” or “partition”, often used to refer to the headscarf worn by some Muslim women.
Eid	Two major religious celebrations, Eid al Fitr and Eid al Adha, commemorating important events in the Islamic year.
Islam	The word is commonly translated as “peace through God’s guidance”, the proper name for Muslims’ religion.
Jum’uah	Friday prayer, required for those who are physically able to attend.
Muslim	Follower of Islam.
Islamophobia	Fear or hatred of Islam and Muslims; a phenomenon which promotes and perpetuates anti-Muslim stereotyping, discrimination, harassment, and even violence, and negatively impacts the participation of American Muslims in public life.

Glossary of Common Laws & Legal Entities

Relevant Local, State & Federal Laws

1st Amendment	Part of the United States Constitution’s Bill of Rights, the First Amendment provides that the government cannot interfere with a person’s freedom of speech, freedom of expression, or freedom to peacefully practice his or her religious beliefs.
4th Amendment	Part of the United States Constitution’s Bill of Rights, the Fourth Amendment provides that government officials cannot unreasonably detain persons or search them, their belongings, automobiles, or homes without a warrant.

5th Amendment	Part of the United States Constitution’s Bill of Rights, the Fifth Amendment provides that no person shall have to give information to the government if it would possibly incriminate them. The Supreme Court of the United States in <i>Miranda v. Arizona</i> provided that this includes the right to remain silent in the face of law enforcement questioning, and the right to have an attorney present if compelled by law enforcement to provide information.
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APA	Administrative Procedure Act. The APA is a federal law governing the way in which United States administrative agencies may establish and carry out federal regulations.
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FEHA	California Fair Employment and Housing Act. FEHA is a state law outlawing employment and housing discrimination based on, among other factors, gender, national origin, race, or religion.
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INA	Immigration and Nationality Act. The INA is a federal law governing immigration to and citizenship in the United States.
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Ralph Act	Ralph Civil Rights Act. The Ralph Act is a California law providing civil and administrative remedies for those targeted for violence based on, among other factors, their gender, national origin, race, or religion.
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RFRA	Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993. RFRA is federal law protecting against federal laws that substantially burden a person’s free exercise of religion. It provides increased protections on top of the First Amendment.
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RLUIPA	Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act. RLUIPA is federal law protecting against state laws that substantially burden a prisoner’s right to worship and gives religious institutions a way to avoid burdensome zoning law restrictions on their property use.
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Seth’s Law	“Seth’s Law” is a piece of California legislation bolstering and strengthening the SSVPA by implementing increased requirements on schools in regard to bullying policies and investigations.
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SSVPA School Safety Violence Protection Act. The SSVPA is a California law requiring schools to develop and implement policies that protect students from bullying.

Title VII Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Title VII is part of a landmark federal law outlawing employment and housing discrimination based on, among other factors, gender, national origin, race, or religion.

Unruh Unruh Civil Rights Act. Unruh is a California law outlawing public accommodation discrimination based on, among other factors, gender, national origin, race, or religion.

Relevant State & Federal Entities

CBP United States Customs and Border Protection. A component of DHS, CBP is responsible for regulating and facilitating international trade, collecting import duties, and enforcing United States regulations, including trade, customs, and immigration.

District Attorney The District Attorney’s office is a county agency responsible for prosecuting violations of the California Penal Code on behalf of the people of California.

DFEH The Department of Fair Employment and Housing. The DFEH is a state agency responsible for investigating and on occasion prosecuting violations of California’s FEHA and Unruh Civil Rights Act. Before a person can bring a private lawsuit under FEHA, they must first file an official complaint with the DFEH.

DHS The Department of Homeland Security. The DHS is a federal executive department of the United States government and is responsible for protecting the United States from and responding to terrorist attacks, man-made accidents, and natural disasters.

DOJ The United States Department of Justice. The DOJ is a federal executive department of the United States government and is responsible for enforcing federal laws.

EEOC The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. The EEOC is the federal agency responsible for investigating and on occasion prosecuting violations of Title VII. Before a person can bring a private lawsuit under Title VII, they must first file an official claim with the EEOC.

ICE United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement. A component of the DHS, ICE is responsible for identifying, investigating, and dismantling vulnerabilities regarding the nation’s border, economic, transportation, and infrastructure security.

FBI The Federal Bureau of Investigation. A government agency within the DOJ, the FBI is responsible for investigating federal criminal activity and intelligence gathering.

TSA The Transportation Security Administration. A component of DHS, the TSA is responsible for the security of the traveling public in the United States.

USCIS United States Citizenship and Immigration Services. A component of the DHS, USCIS is responsible for processing immigrant visa petitions, naturalization petitions, and asylum and refugee applications, as well as adjudicating certain immigration matters.



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Our Vision

To be a leading advocate for justice and mutual understanding.

Our Mission

To enhance understanding of Islam, encourage dialogue, protect civil rights, and empower American Muslims.

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