

LIVING
OUR FAITH:
DEFENDING
FREEDOM



ANNUAL REPORT
2016-2017



CAIR
CALIFORNIA



VISION



To be a leading advocate for justice and mutual understanding.



MISSION



To enhance the understanding of Islam, encourage dialogue, protect civil liberties, empower American Muslims, and build coalitions that promote justice and mutual understanding.

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A Message from THE CHAIR



IN THE NAME OF GOD, THE MOST GRACIOUS, THE MOST MERCIFUL

Dear Friends and Supporters,
Peace Be Upon You.

As the new administration has sought to curtail the rights of American Muslims including people of color, women, and immigrants, CAIR California (CAIR-CA) has fought relentlessly for our nation's core values of liberty and justice.

We have empowered and energized our community members with resources and "Know Your Rights" workshops, advocating for freedom and equal rights for all. We have rallied at airports and taken to courtrooms to push back against the President's attempts to marginalize our voices and shred the Constitution. We have, moreover, actively addressed a fresh wave of Islamophobia and hate incidents against our members since the election.

On behalf of CAIR-CA, thank you for your unwavering support of our efforts to defend freedom and promote justice and inclusiveness in our nation.

I would also like to extend a big thank you to our interns, staff, and volunteers, who have given their time and support to the advancement of CAIR's work. We are proud to serve you through our four offices in the Greater Los Angeles Area (LA), Sacramento Valley (SV), San Diego (SD), and the San Francisco Bay Area (SFBA).

Sincerely,

Omar Hassaine
Chair of the Board, CAIR California

Upholding OUR CIVIL LIBERTIES

2016
Civil Rights
Cases

Greater Los Angeles Area

389

Sacramento Valley

79

San Diego

134

San Francisco Bay Area

162

Total: **764**



CAIR-CA, over the past year, received four reports of mosque vandalisms. One of these was the Islamic Center of Davis, where a perpetrator smashed a glass door and left bacon strips on a door handle of the mosque. CAIR-SV promptly called on local police and the FBI to investigate the vandalism as a bias-motivated attack and offered \$1,000 in reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the perpetrator. Police subsequently arrested and filed hate crimes charges against the perpetrator.



CAIR-CA successfully settled Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH) complaints on behalf of several Muslim women and a Sikh man who alleged they were denied access to Go-Kart rides at Boomers! Parks because of their religious headwear. As part of the settlement, parent company Palace Entertainment, LLC, agreed to allow customers wearing securely wrapped headwear to ride the Go-Karts. The company also paid \$4,000 in compensation to each complainant, and will provide anti-discrimination training to employees.



After filing a federal lawsuit on behalf of Dr. Abdul Salem, a 77-year-old Egyptian American professor and playwright, who was assaulted by Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) officers at Los Angeles International Airport, CAIR-LA reached a \$45,000 settlement on the victim's behalf. Dr. Salem was set to fly to Egypt when he was stopped and restrained by his arms and neck by four CBP officers, who told him he would not be boarding his flight. The officers then slammed Dr. Salem's head onto a table, and one of the CBP officers pulled his arm back violently, breaking it.



Supporting IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

2016
Immigration
Cases

Greater Los Angeles Area

434

San Diego

41

Total: **475**



CAIR-CA hosted and co-hosted with other community organizations more than a dozen naturalization clinics for immigrant families. The clinics provided immigration advice, help with naturalization applications, and “Know Your Rights” presentations and other services to assist immigrants with a path to citizenship.



Abdullah Wafy and his family were stranded in Yemen for more than a year, with expired passports and no paperwork for their newborn baby. CAIR-SV helped file Abdullah’s paperwork and obtain his family’s passports, enabling his family to arrive in the U.S. in February.



CAIR-LA's Immigrants' Rights Center (IRC) partnered with the International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP) and student volunteers at UCLA Law School on a case involving an Iraqi man who faced numerous threats because of his work as a driver for a U.S. journalist covering the U.S. invasion of Iraq. The client, along with his wife and children, had moved to Jordan and

registered with the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The wife, however, couldn’t receive adequate treatment there for her medical condition. CAIR-LA oversaw the students’ work on client documents and prepared the family for their resettlement interview. The family was subsequently approved for travel to the U.S. as refugees.

Advancing CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

2016
Government Meetings

- Greater Los Angeles Area
- Sacramento Valley
- San Diego
- San Francisco Bay Area
- Muslim Day at the Capitol

44
55
24
56
98

Total: **255**



CAIR-CA hosted the

6th
ANNUAL
MUSLIM DAY

at the Capitol (MDAC) in Sacramento.

ALMOST

800

PARTICIPANTS

- a vast majority of them Muslim - held more than 100 advocacy meetings with elected officials. Participants advocated for civil rights legislation, including:



California Religious Freedom Act (SB 31): Co-sponsored by CAIR-CA, the bill would prohibit a state or local agency from participating in a federal program to create a database on a person's religious beliefs, national origin, or ethnicity for law enforcement or immigration purposes.



The California Values Act (SB 54): The bill would ensure that state and local resources are not used to fuel mass deportations and that public schools, state health facilities, and courthouses remain safe and accessible to all California residents, regardless of their immigration status.

AFTER SEVEN

years of joint work by CAIR-SFBA, Advancing Justice-Asian Law Caucus, the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California, the Arab Resource & Organizing Center, the National Lawyers Guild-SF Bay Area Chapter, and others, the San Francisco Police Department announced its withdrawal from the FBI's Joint Terrorism Taskforce (JTTF). The taskforce has had a chilling effect on American Muslims' constitutional rights - questioning and interrogating them with little oversight - and sparked the passage of an ordinance in 2012, limiting the department's interactions with the JTTF.

CAIR-CA

participated in several congressional townhalls, in which members of Congress, community leaders, and representatives of interfaith organizations gathered to demonstrate their support for the American Muslim community and urge action against the President's divisive policies. Among these, CAIR-LA participated in an interfaith solidarity townhall with Congresswoman Judy Chu (D-Monterey Park) at Masjid Gibrael, and CAIR-SFBA participated in an immigrants' rights townhall with Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D-Oakland) and Oakland Mayor Libby Schaff at International High School.



CAIR-SD,

along with Alliance San Diego, prominent clergy, and the Interfaith Coalition for Worker Justice led an awareness campaign about Hector Gastelum, an Otoy Water District Board Member who called Muslims "subhuman monsters." The water district and City of Chula Vista subsequently passed a resolution condemning Gastelum's language and removed him from the water board committees.



Challenging THE 'MUSLIM BAN'



When the President signed executive orders banning immigrants and refugees from several Muslim-majority countries, creating unjust detention of travelers and splitting family members, Americans joined together in a fierce quest for equality and justice. CAIR-CA took a series of actions on several fronts.



LEGAL



GRASSROOTS



MEDIA



WORK WITH ALLIES

CAIR-CA OFFICES joined a federal lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the "Muslim Ban."

→ The staff also took up shifts at Los Angeles and San Francisco International Airports, providing urgent legal services to families with their international travel and helping individuals who were detained by Customs and Border Patrol (CBP).

CAIR-CA OFFICES HELD MORE THAN 100 "KNOW YOUR RIGHTS" workshops, educating and providing materials and videos on the "Muslim Ban" to more than 50,000 community members.

→ Staff and volunteers spoke at legal clinics and townhalls, assisted immigrants, and mobilized our community to action. Also, CAIR-LA held a day-long leadership conference for activists and members, and CAIR-SD established a forum on religious freedom with other community organizations.

CAIR-CA OFFICES held several news conferences with interfaith and civil rights leaders,

→ conveying a strong reaction to the ban and disseminating heartwrenching stories of detained travelers. Staff also pointed out the unconstitutionality of the ban and reiterated that the President must be held accountable for his bias-motivated policies.

→ **CAIR-CA is grateful for its partners** - Advancing Justice-Asian Law Caucus, Advancing Justice-Los Angeles, One Justice, American Civil Liberties Union, and others - for providing urgent help to our community members stranded at airports and impacted by the "Muslim Ban" as well as helping address the unfortunate spike in hate incidents following the presidential election. CAIR-SFBA with Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Asian Law Caucus and the National Immigration Law Center, began work on the #NoMuslimBanEver campaign to challenge the ban.

Amplifying OUR VOICES

2016
Media
Interview

Greater Los Angeles Area

124

Sacramento Valley

52

San Diego

122

San Francisco Bay Area

168

Total: **465**



CAIR-LA Executive Director Hussam Ayloush

participated in a grassroots initiative “Harness,” founded by America Ferrera and other concerned Hollywood celebrities. He spoke on the pervasive Islamophobia in society to hundreds of entertainment personalities, who had gathered to collaborate on ways to strengthen grassroots activism.

CAIR-SD and San Diego Unified School District

received media coverage for an anti-bullying plan to address bullying and discrimination based on religious affiliation in schools. The plan aligns with the Safe Place to Learn Act (AB 2845), authored by former State Assemblyman Das Williams.



CAIR-CA OFFICES

conducted hundreds of media interviews on the President’s executive orders banning immigrants from several Muslim-majority countries. By shedding light on the ban’s adverse impact on refugees and immigrants, CAIR-CA representatives ensured our collective stories remained in the media spotlight.



Empowering OUR YOUTH



CAIR-LA OFFICES



HOSTED THE ANNUAL MUSLIM GAMECHANGERS NETWORK (MGN) PROGRAM program at the West Coast Islamic Center of Anaheim and Muslim Community Center of East Bay in Pleasanton. Together, they graduated over

80

high school students, who participated in the three-month program

focused on identity, social responsibility, and community organizing and learned about tools to challenge injustices and build legacies of positive change.

CAIR-CA OFFICES OFFER

quarterly internships to college students, who gain hands-on experience in civil rights, media relations, youth development and community organizing. Additionally, the offices are routinely seeking volunteers to help with an array of office tasks, tabling, and other responsibilities.

Last year, CAIR-CA offices were fortunate to work with

34

INTERNS

and over

300

VOLUNTEERS.

Promoting GRASSROOTS ACTIVISM



LEADERS OF CAIR-LA AND SEVERAL GROUPS OF THE MUSLIM AND LATINO COMMUNITIES

in Orange County formed the Muslim Latino Collaborative, which aims to support both communities by encouraging mutual learning, developing meaningful relationships, and mobilizing both communities to amplify their voices in pursuit of unity and justice. Members of the collaborative include the Islamic Institute of Orange County, Orange County Congregation Community Organization (OCCCO), Orange County Communities Organized for Responsible Development (OCCORD), Los Amigos of Orange County, UniteHere! Local 11, and other leaders, clergies, and activists.

CAIR-SFBA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ZAHRA BILLOO

joined the historic Women's March in Washington, D.C., as a featured speaker. She emphasized to attendees that women's rights are human rights and that minority communities will stand together against bigotry and injustice. The march, along with many local marches, was the largest mass mobilization in recent history, and sent a message to the new administration that all Americans must be treated as equals.

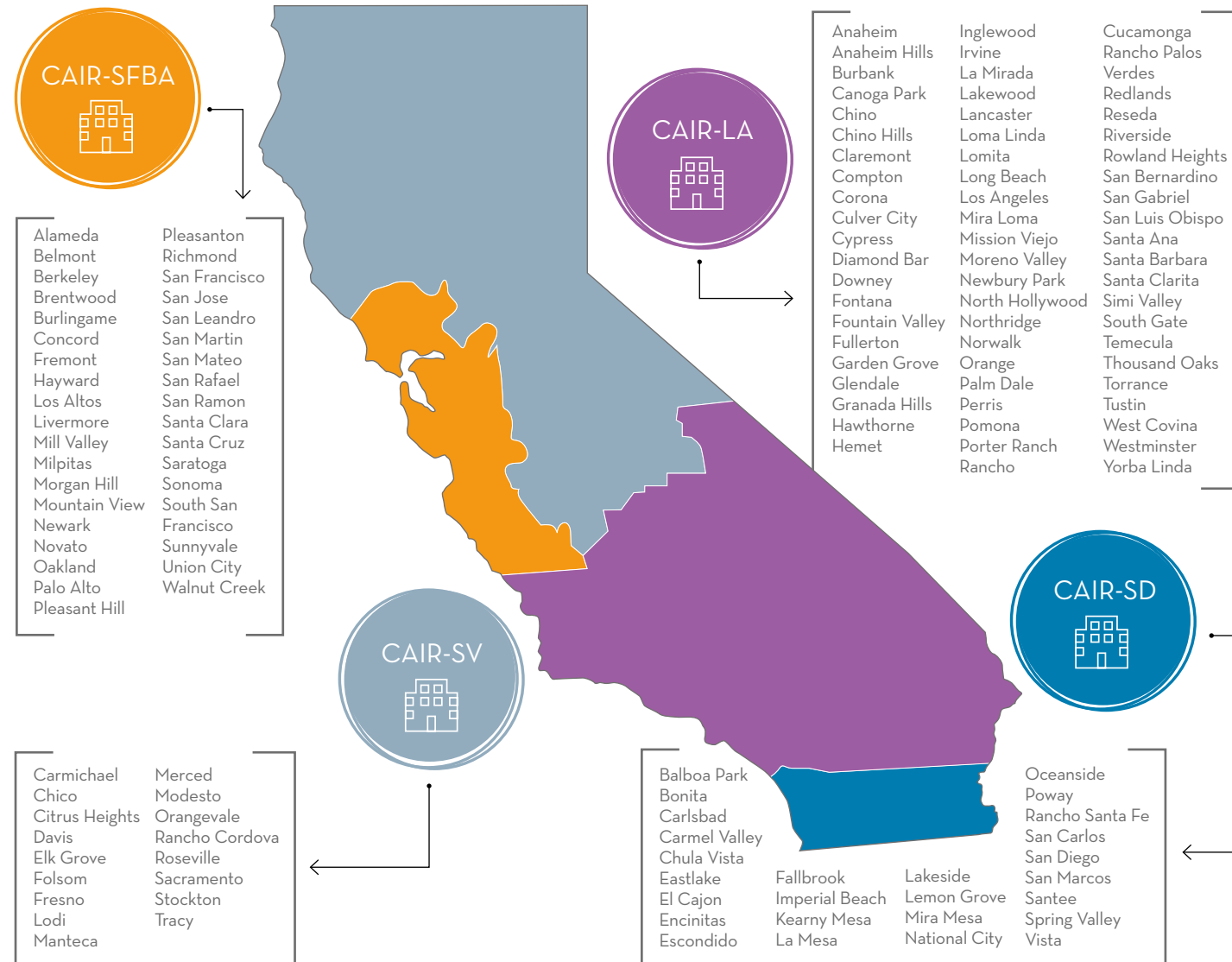
CAIR-SFBA, Meet a Muslim, People Acting in Community Together (PACT), and Multifaith Voices for Peace & Justice held a unity rally that brought together 1,000 attendees in support of the Muslim community. The rally, hosted by 100-plus diverse organizations, demonstrated a pluralistic alternative to the white supremacist and anti-Islamic "March Against Sharia" event, hosted by ACT for America a which the Southern Poverty Law Center has designated hate group.



CAIR-SV AND CAIR-LA this year led a group of 140 members on an annual pilgrimage to Manzanar internment camp, where 10,000 Japanese Americans were unjustly incarcerated during World War II. This year also marked the 75th anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066, which allowed for the removal and incarceration of some 120,000 Japanese Americans in 10 internment camps. The day-long program at Manzanar featured talks from camp survivors, interfaith prayer service, and site tours.

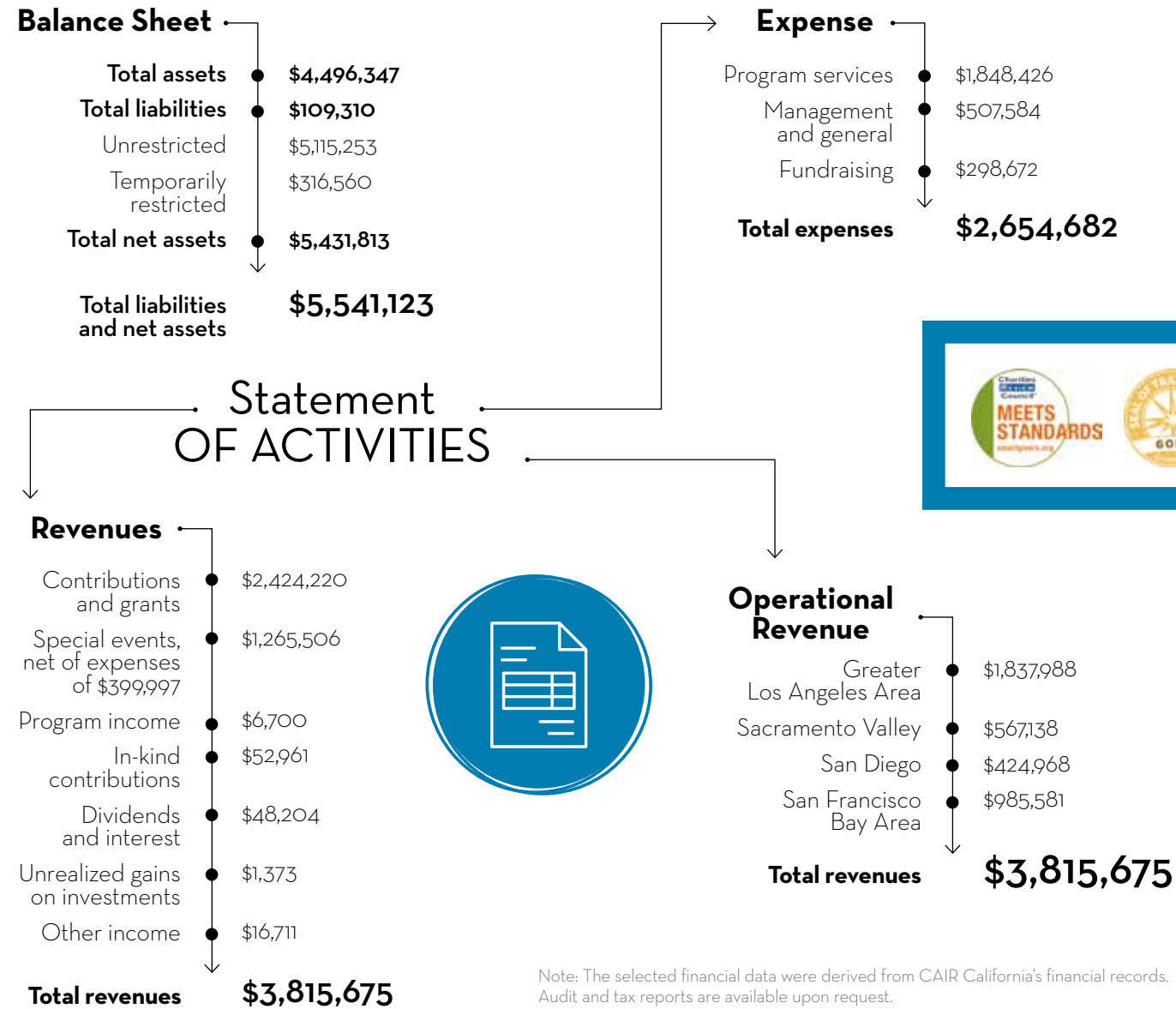
OUTREACH CITIES

At CAIR-CA, our work centers on community engagement and empowerment. Therefore, we continuously host workshops, talks and forums for our members throughout the state of California.



FINANCIAL REPORT

The statement of financial activities below is for the fiscal year 2016 for all CAIR California offices.



Ways to SUPPORT US

We are grateful to our supporters whose generous contributions enable us to advance justice and strengthen civil liberties across the state.



SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

1. Follow us on social media
2. Respond to action alerts
3. Attend workshops and seminars
4. Host a gathering about CAIR-CA

DONATE YOUR MONEY

1. Make a one-time donation
2. Become a monthly donor
3. Donate stocks
4. Include us in your will
5. Join employer matching program
6. Host a fundraiser

DONATE YOUR TIME

1. Volunteer with your local CAIR office
2. Participate in the internship and law clerkship programs

As a dedicated organization, to defend the rights of Muslims and to promote a better understanding of Islam, CAIR is eligible to receive part of the zakat funds for its programs and services.

(Dr. Muzammil H. Siddiqi, Chairman, Fiqh Council of North America)

As always, your donations to CAIR-CA are tax-deductible. Tax ID is 77-0411194.

Our Team at your SERVICE

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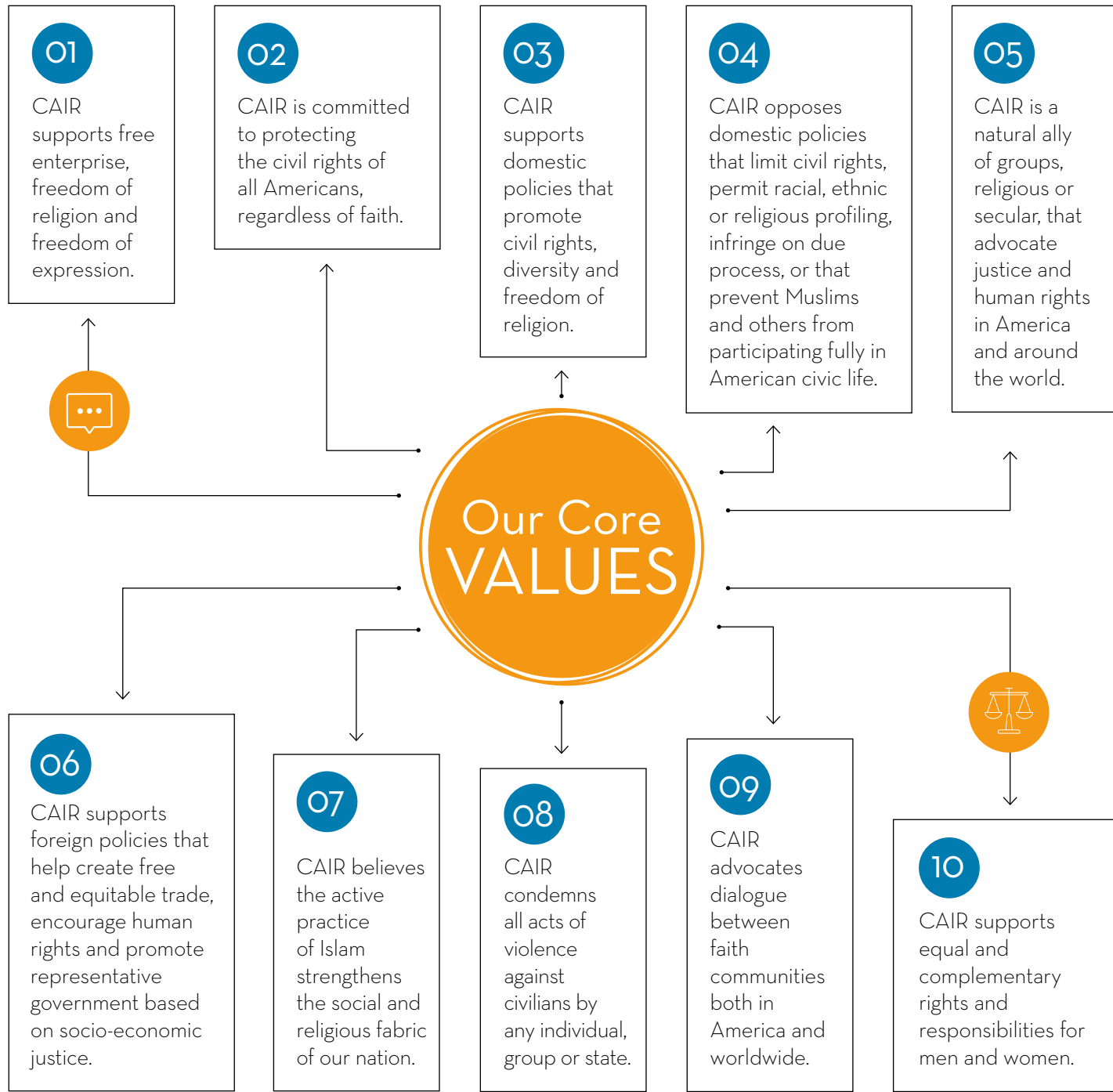
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