



**CAIR**  
CALIFORNIA

# **STRENGTHENING OUR VOICES, ADVANCING TOGETHER**

ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015



# VISION AND MISSION

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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Our annual report is an opportunity to share highlights from the past year with our supporters and allies. We are thankful for another year filled with exciting and proud moments for CAIR and California Muslims.

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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.

On behalf of CAIR California (CAIR-CA), thank you for your unwavering support in sustaining our efforts to elevate our collective voice and advance our advocacy work for a more inclusive America.

CAIR-CA continues to grow as a leading community-based institution throughout the state – by serving our community’s civil rights needs, raising our community’s stature among policymakers and government agencies, and preparing tomorrow’s leaders. As 2015 draws to a close, I am tremendously pleased to share some of our major victories: the largest number of participants to date lobbying for legislation to promote equality at our annual *Muslim Day at the Capitol*, a historic Supreme Court ruling reiterating the right to religious accommodation in the workplace, and a strong community pushback against the government’s ill-conceived *Countering Violent Extremism* program.

We have also faced a number of challenges over the past year. The persistent activities of anti-Islam organizations, increased hate attacks, and discrimination remind us of the work that lies ahead, and the necessity of your ongoing support in our efforts toward a better America for all.

With your support and the blessings of Allah (all praises to Him), CAIR-CA will continue to work both in our community and with our partners to strengthen American Muslim civic engagement, provide the best civil rights and legal services, and continue to enhance youth programming and community outreach.

On behalf of the CAIR-CA Board and Executive Committees, I am thankful to our dedicated interns, staff, and volunteers who have given their time and energy to the advancement of CAIR’s work.

Thank you for your prayers and support; your engagement is essential to strengthening our voices and advancing together. We are proud to serve you through our four offices in Los Angeles (LA), Sacramento Valley (SV), San Diego (SD), and the San Francisco Bay Area (SFBA).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Safaa Ibrahim'.

Safaa Ibrahim  
Chair of the Board, CAIR California

# ADVANCING CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Across the state, CAIR-CA has worked tirelessly to strengthen and elevate our community's role in the political arena. And nowhere is this work more visible than in the growing number of participants each year who travel to Sacramento for *Muslim Day at the Capitol* (MDAC) and lobby for legislation that seeks to build a better California for all of its residents.



This year, nearly 500 participants held 75 meetings with their lawmakers at the fourth annual event. They came from all walks of life, from schoolchildren to grandmothers, to advocate for three bills:

- SB 178, which seeks to provide protection against warrantless government access to electronic communication.
- SB 358, which aims to place provisions in place to implement equal wages for employees, regardless of gender.
- AB 42, which aims to freeze skyrocketing

## 2014 GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

|     |                           |
|-----|---------------------------|
| 51  | Sacramento Valley         |
| 52  | San Francisco Bay Area    |
| 32  | Greater Los Angeles Area  |
| 35  | San Diego                 |
| 71  | Muslim Day at the Capitol |
| 241 | Total                     |

tuition and fees at California community colleges, California State University, and University of California systems.

Touched by the community's level of engagement, State Controller Betty T. Yee said, "It is heartening to see that Muslim Day at the Capitol continues to grow each year. The Muslim community's consistent presence at the State Capitol allows the legislators to hear their unique perspectives on critical issues affecting the state and enables us to work together to make this state better for all Californians."

Over the past four years, MDAC participants grew from 70 to nearly 500 this year. In previous years, these participants supported the TRUST Act and the Workplace Religious Freedom Act of 2012, both of which were signed into law – evidence that the Muslim community is actively working to make positive social change in the state of California.





Effective political engagement leaves an indelible impact – this is a lesson we have sought to teach even the youngest in our community – school children. Additionally this year, CAIR-SV hosted workshops with local youth on civic engagement, in preparation for MDAC, and trained them on how these bills could directly impact them and those around them.

### FIRST 'HISTORIC' NATIONAL MUSLIM ADVOCACY DAY LAUNCHED

In April, some 280 delegates from 22 states took part in the first historic *National Muslim Advocacy Day* on Capitol Hill, and visited the offices of approximately half of the Senators and one-third of members of Congress. Nine delegates from CAIR-CA also participated in

40 meetings during the *Advocacy Day* and the following day.

The delegates asked their lawmakers to:

- Urge the U.S. Department of Justice to change its racial profiling guidance for federal law enforcement by removing any existing loopholes that allow profiling in the name of national security, domestic surveillance, and policing the border.
- Support federal legislation that prohibits any federal, state, local, or Indian tribal law enforcement agency from engaging in profiling on the basis of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, national origin or religion.

- Support federal legislation that addresses the problems our nation is facing with youth violence by strengthening after-school programs.

The effort was sponsored by the U.S. Council of Muslim Organizations (USCMO), a coalition of several American Muslim organizations, including CAIR.

## MOBILIZING VOTERS

A cornerstone of a democratic nation is its citizens' ability to make informed choices and participate in improving their nation by electing representatives and voting on policies. Thus, our offices have consistently reached out to community members in mosques and elsewhere – helping them register to vote, disseminating voter education materials, and hosting candidate forums to better inform voters.

In a two-month campaign titled *Muslims United for Solidarity and Action* (Project MUSA) prior

to last year's mid-term election, CAIR-CA and the Muslim Student Association West (MSA West) mobilized voters around Proposition 47 – by hosting teach-ins at MSA meetings and mosques, and organizing phone banks to encourage voters to support it. The measure, passed in November, will reduce the penalty for six low-level nonviolent felonies by reclassifying them as misdemeanors, for defendants with no prior convictions in serious crimes. It will also allow for shorter sentences, resulting in an estimated savings to the state of up to \$250 million annually. Those savings will be used to fund school programs, victim services, and mental health and drug treatment.

Also, last November, CAIR-CA distributed over 14,000 voter guides throughout the state. The comprehensive voter guide rated 53 California members of Congress and 124 state legislators on civil liberties and social justice parameters and made recommendations on six statewide ballot propositions.







CAIR-CA offices also held nine voter education forums across the state. These forums provided an opportunity for our community to learn about various measures on the ballot as well as meet and learn about the candidates running for local city councils and school boards.

### **ELECTION 2016**

American Muslims are set to play a major role in the 2016 general election and impact the course of our nation by advocating for equal treatment of and equal opportunity for all Americans, rejecting policies and rhetoric that seek to marginalize underrepresented segments of our society, and prioritizing higher education and immigration reforms.

CAIR-CA offices look forward to strengthening and amplifying our state's Muslim voter base for next year's election. Our staff are already formulating their plans to register more voters, mobilize strong voter turnout, and connecting candidates to the community members to ensure California Muslims' voices are heard and that our advocacy efforts leave a lasting impact on our state and nation.





# DEFENDING OUR RIGHTS AND DIGNITY

The core of our work is defending the First Amendment rights of all Americans, a challenge we take on with great pride. As detailed in our *2015 CAIR-CA Civil Rights Report*, our offices handled more than 1,000 complaints over the past year – from employment discrimination to school bullying, to individuals encountering travel delays or being visited by the FBI simply for their First Amendment protected activities.



## 2014 CIVIL RIGHTS CASES

98 Sacramento Valley

389 San Francisco Bay Area

389 Greater Los Angeles Area

157 Greater Los Angeles Area -  
Immigrants' Rights Center

94 San Diego

1136 Total

This year, we are especially proud to welcome a historic ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court in favor of Samantha Elauf, a young Muslim woman who sued clothing retailer Abercrombie & Fitch for violating federal employment laws by not hiring her in 2008 because she wears hijab. Samantha initially contacted CAIR Oklahoma, which assisted her in filing a complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). Her case made it through various courts over the years and finally reached the U.S. Supreme Court, which decided in her favor in June. CAIR-SFBA filed an amicus brief in Samantha's case with the Legal Aid Society-Employment Law Center (LAS-ELC) on behalf of their client Hani Khan. Hani, having been terminated by Abercrombie in 2010 for refusing to remove her hijab, had brought her own successful suit against the company, with the aid of CAIR-SFBA and LAS-ELC.



## DISCRIMINATION IN THE WORKPLACE

Jonathan Berts, an African American Muslim who was born in the San Francisco Bay Area, enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 2002. His service was highly regarded and he was consistently given positive reviews, and placed in positions of leadership. He also received three medals for his outstanding work.

In early 2011, Jonathan applied for religious accommodation to grow a beard in accordance with Islamic beliefs but his request and subsequent appeal were denied. Following this, Jonathan's commanding officers reportedly subjected him to intense harassment, directing anti-Muslim slurs at him, and questioned his loyalty to the country. In addition, the commanding officers

### REPORTING BACK ON THE IMMIGRANTS' RIGHTS CENTER – ONE YEAR LATER

In 2014, the Immigrants' Rights Center (IRC) at CAIR-LA assisted 157 individuals, including filing 28 immigration applications on clients' behalf. Among IRC's clients are a young Syrian man, who after extended detention and torture in his home country traveled for months before arriving at the U.S.-Mexico border seeking asylum. IRC helped the young man with his asylum application, secured medical and counseling services for him, and represented him before the Los Angeles immigration court.

In another incident, IRC assisted with visitor visa applications of three siblings whose father had been diagnosed with a terminal illness in the U.S. The siblings contacted IRC after their visa applications were denied. IRC reached out to a local congresswoman for assistance, and re-submitted their applications with supporting letters and evidence. An expedited interview was scheduled, and the siblings were granted visas to visit their ailing father.

stripped Jonathan of his leadership positions. Ultimately, Jonathan was denied re-enlistment into active duty in early 2012. In December, CAIR's Northern California offices and the Church State Council filed a lawsuit on Jonathan's behalf, alleging violations of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) and the Administrative Procedures Act (APA).

In another case, CAIR-SV filed a lawsuit in December on behalf of Sudanese American Elsiddig Elhindi against the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), where he was subjected to severe and persistent harassment.

In early 2006, Elsiddig began working at California State Prison, Sacramento, where he remained through September 2014. After his co-workers learned that he was a practicing Muslim, they alluded to him being a terrorist, mocked Islam and its teachings, and used racially derogatory terms in his presence. Elsiddig reported the behavior to supervisors on multiple occasions, but the harassment continued. He ultimately filed charges with both the CDCR's internal Equal Employment Opportunity division and the EEOC. Upon learning of the filings, his co-workers and supervisors retaliated against him with increased harassment and actions that jeopardized his safety while on duty. He was also urged to retire early several times but he declined, stating that he needed to support his family. Looking for a fair resolution, Elsiddig reached out to CAIR, which filed the suit on his behalf.

## STANDING UP TO HATE AND ISLAMOPHOBIA

At CAIR-CA, we continue to work to ensure that California Muslims are able to live fully engaged lives and worship as they please, free from discrimination and bigotry.

During the past year, we documented nearly double the number of hate incidents and Islamophobia complaints reported to our offices. In 2013, the total reported incidents were 65, while in 2014, that number jumped to

115. In one incident, passengers in a car hurled slurs and threats at a woman who was driving home with her family in an adjacent car; the woman was wearing a hijab. The car further cut in front of the family's car and then slammed on its brakes, in attempts to force the victim to rear-end the other vehicle. In another incident, a woman wearing a headscarf was walking on a sidewalk with her father after dinner at a restaurant when a car pulled up to her, and passengers shouted a derogatory slur at her, then tossed garbage at her before driving away.

Additionally, the San Francisco transit system has remained a target for Islamophobic advertisements since 2012. More than half a dozen campaigns of anti-Muslim advertisements have been placed on the city's transit system since then. However, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors unanimously passed two resolutions condemning these

hateful campaigns, and there have been vehement denunciations from interfaith circles and other allies of these campaigns.

We continue to urge community members to promptly report any hate incidents to their local CAIR office. Reporting hate incidents is a critical component of our organizational and community-wide effort to document anti-Islam bigotry and build a more inclusive society.

### **SCHOOL CORRECTS MISINFORMATION ON ISLAM**

After intervention by CAIR-LA, a high school in Orange County corrected misinformation in its world history class materials on Islam and Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him).

In February, concerned parents of a student at University High School in Irvine contacted CAIR-LA about two handouts distributed to students as part of a lesson on Islam. One handout titled "Muhammad, the Messenger of







Allah” included an excerpt from a 1979 TIME magazine article and provided misleading information about the Prophet and was written in a condescending tone. Another handout titled “Explaining Islam” featured inaccurate information about the concept of jihad and the sectarian split after the Prophet’s death. The topic of terrorism was also included without prior discussion in class with the students, confusing students and conflating terrorism with Islam.

CAIR-LA notified the school and the publisher of the handouts about the inaccuracies. Both entities responded quickly to the concerns and agreed to cease distribution of the materials and update the class curriculum with accurate information about Islam and Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him).



## STRANDED IN YEMEN

In April, Saudi Arabia began bombing Yemen and attacked much of the infrastructure, including the civilian airport in the country’s capitol, leaving many Americans and others stranded in the country. The U.S. Embassy closed down, and our government repeatedly refused to evacuate American citizens out of Yemen, while other countries such as China, India, and Somalia took extraordinary measures to evacuate their citizens. CAIR took a number of urgent steps to advocate on behalf of these stranded Americans:

- CAIR along with American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) and Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Asian Law Caucus (ALC) set up a website, [www.stuckinyemen.com](http://www.stuckinyemen.com), to locate and advocate for trapped Americans. Some 600 entries were logged, among them dozens from California.
- CAIR-SFBA held a joint news conference with San Francisco Supervisor Jane Kim and ALC, urging that the U.S. utilize all necessary means to rescue Americans swiftly.
- CAIR and ADC filed a lawsuit against the U.S. State Department and U.S. Defense Department Secretaries, seeking government action to rescue trapped individuals.
- CAIR, ADC, and several Yemeni American organizations filed a formal petition with the Department of Homeland Security requesting that Temporary Protected Status be granted to Yemeni nationals currently living in the United States, because of worsening humanitarian conditions.

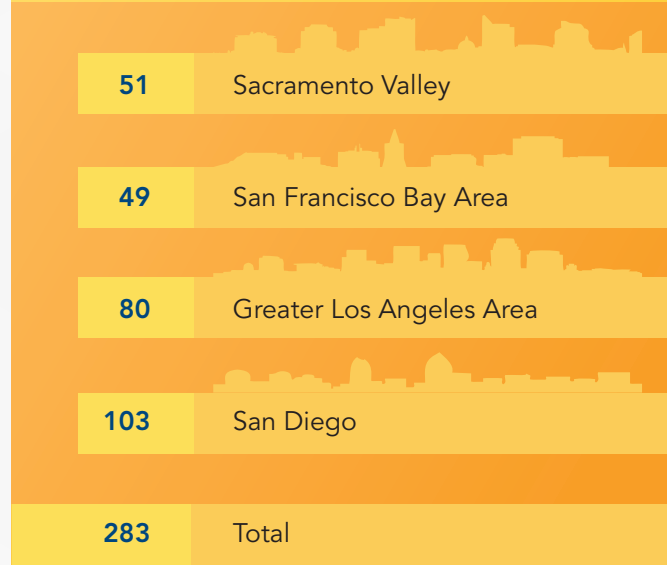
# AMPLIFYING OUR VOICES

For over 20 years now, CAIR-CA has worked to establish strong relationships with journalists, bloggers, and editors in efforts to portray and amplify authentic representations of American Muslims. We have pitched positive stories to the media, conducted interviews that go beyond the headlines, organized media events, and provided our community members and youth with effective tools to engage the media.

In the aftermath of the tragic shootings at the Charlie Hebdo magazine office in Paris, CAIR National along with CAIR-LA and other CAIR chapters took a lead in communicating our perspective on the shootings and free speech.

In more than a dozen media interviews on the subject, CAIR-LA reiterated that speech – even hateful speech – should not be stifled, but neither should speech that seeks to repudiate

## 2014 MEDIA INTERVIEWS







bigotry. CAIR officials also shared that the vast majority of 1.6 billion Muslims worldwide, following in the forgiving spirit of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), largely ignore derogatory depictions of our beloved Prophet, and instead aim our efforts at shared dialogue and understanding.

In Washington D.C., CAIR co-hosted a town hall on free speech, titled *Free Speech and Free Press: Laws, Limits and Liberty* at the Newseum. The event featured a panel of experts representing a spectrum of views and organizations to discuss how societies and lawmakers around the world are struggling over if, and where, to draw the line on free speech and free press protection.

CAIR-CA's media engagements during the past year include:

- CAIR-Northern California Civil Rights Coordinator Brice Hamack gave FOX40 TV Sacramento an interview on FBI entrapment tactics in certain terrorism cases; the interview reached nearly 16,000 viewers.
- A panel about anti-Muslim cartoons and an attack on an Islamophobic event in Texas on MSNBC's *All In with Chris Hayes* featuring CAIR-SFBA Director Zahra Billoo reached over 350,000 national viewers.
- CAIR-LA's response to the Paris shootings, free speech, and offensive depictions of the Prophet on the *Tavis Smiley Show* and 14 other

local and national media outlets reached over 36 million viewers nationwide.

- CAIR-San Diego Executive Director Hanif Mohebi participated on a panel with KPBS Midday Edition host Maureen Cavanaugh for a live radio discussion on CAIR-CA's annual civil rights report, heard by 800,000 listeners.



# CVE: UNDERMINING AMERICA'S FREEDOMS

In February, the White House held a three-day *Countering Violent Extremism* (CVE) Summit. Instead of addressing an array of violent extremist elements present in our society, the summit's focus was woefully narrow and sought to draw an exclusive link between extremism and American Muslims – a community that has helped build America through its hard work, contributions, and activism.

While CAIR has consistently supported the protection of our nation and fellow Americans, we believe that any government policy that seeks to dismantle terror threats by solely targeting law-abiding Muslims is stigmatizing and ineffective, and goes against our founding values of freedom and religious liberty.

Few details of this federal program were made public by the White House and the Departments of Justice and Homeland Security. However, the response from CAIR National and chapters in Los Angeles, Minneapolis, and Boston – pilot sites for the program – was swift and strong. Our three-fold comprehensive response consisted of:

- Organizing and educating the community about the false premise and ramifications of the CVE program, including resulting stigmatization of American Muslims.
- Preparing a strong, unified response to our government in conjunction with allies and fellow Muslim organizations.
- Encouraging the government to reassess the program's effectiveness and implications.

In Southern California, CAIR-LA and other community leaders initially met with the Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson in attempts to have our community's concerns addressed about CVE. CAIR-LA then held several community town halls, including one with MSA West and the Muslim Anti-Racism Collaborative, to help community members better understand the misguided framework of the program and provide them with

actionable tools. CAIR-LA also signed on to a joint letter further asking Secretary Johnson about the program's false premise and that the government "stop investing in CVE programs that will only stigmatize and marginalize our communities further, and instead assist our communities to become more fully engaged participants in our democratic system." The letter was co-signed by the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California, Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Los Angeles, Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund – Los Angeles, and the Islamic Shura Council of Southern California.

CVE has additionally raised concerns from former government officials, a wide range of civil liberties organizations, and faith communities.

- In April 2014, the New America Foundation reported: "Since 9/11 extremists affiliated with a variety of far-right wing ideologies...have killed more people in the United States than have extremists motivated by al Qaeda's ideology."
- Former FBI Special Agent Michael German observed in October 2014: "There were no DHS or [DOJ] CVE programs, for example, directed to white, Christian communities after former Ku Klux Klansman Frazier Glenn Miller murdered people at a Jewish community center last April, even though West Point's Combatting Terrorism Center reported that far right extremists attack and kill more Americans than any other terror groups."



# EMPOWERING OUR YOUTH

To train our future leaders, CAIR-CA has dedicated significant resources in instilling leadership skills and citizenship in our youth. This year, we expanded our social justice immersion program *Muslim Gamechangers Network* (MGN) to San Francisco, and continued our flagship *Muslim Youth Leadership Program* (MYLP) in Sacramento.

## MUSLIM GAMECHANGERS NETWORK

CAIR-LA hosted its second annual MGN program in conjunction with the Islamic Center of Hawthorne and the Islamic Center of South Bay this year with nearly 30 students participating. The extensive social justice training program equips high school students with the tools to challenge injustices and build legacies of positive change in our communities. Weekly interactive sessions are held, along with fieldtrips, centered on themes of identity, history, social responsibility, and community organizing. CAIR-SFBA launched the first Bay Area iteration of MGN in August, in partnership

with the Yaseen Burlingame Center. Nearly 40 students registered to participate.

“ I really appreciated how MGN taught me about the value of collective efforts and action. MGN provided us different mentors with various expertise who educated us on topics necessary to become an effective advocate and gamechanger for our communities. ”

Dania Fadawi, West High School student

## MUSLIM YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

CAIR-CA held the 11th annual MYLP at the State Capitol in Sacramento in August. The annual conference brought together over 40 Muslim high school students from across the state to participate in workshops on community organizing, leadership development, and public speaking.





These participants, who have previously demonstrated exemplary leadership skills in their own communities, partook in a “mock legislature” session and served as legislators – debating public policy issues and preparing bills to be presented on the Assembly Floor of the State Capitol. This “mock legislature” session allowed participants to gain a deeper, practical understanding of how bills are reviewed, and laws are passed.

**BRIDGING COMMUNITIES PROGRAM AND LEADERSHIP RETREAT**

This year, the *Bridging Communities Program*, hosted by CAIR-SFBA, once again brought together American Muslim and Japanese American high school students to explore identity, challenges, and parallel histories of the two communities through a series of workshops. As part of *Bridging Communities*, CAIR-SFBA participants also went on an annual pilgrimage to the World War II concentration camp at Manzanar.

This year, CAIR-LA expanded it’s Bridging Communities Program to include a Leadership retreat in partnership with the Latino community.

The retreat, held in April at the Japanese American National Museum, brought together participants to discuss themes around identity and stereotypes, the immigrant experience and immigration reform as well as community challenges, and equipped them with various community organizing tools. The retreat also aimed to build a foundation among the youth on increased solidarity and participation in grassroots action, particularly on college campuses.





“ Before this program (MYLP), I didn't think it was possible for a Muslim to be a leader in mainstream society. But being here and seeing all of the advisors successful in their own communities is inspiring because they were once in the same position that we are in, and I know now that we can be successful leaders in our community too. ”

Zarraf Jamil, American High School student

### **MEDIA ENGAGEMENT TRAINING**

In May, CAIR-SV in partnership with the Islamic Scholarship Fund hosted a youth journalism workshop to educate participants about contemporary media and various avenues for engagement. The youth discussed their experiences with the media and learned how to draft press releases to local newspapers on local and national Muslim community events. Journalists, who addressed the participants, shared insightful information on the power of traditional and digital media, ranging from newspapers to blogs, and the influence of news and journalism in shaping public perceptions.

The speakers also emphasized that American Muslim youth have an obligation to ensure that the public understands our perspectives on world events and our positive contributions to American society.

### **COLLEGE AND CAREER FAIR**

CAIR-SV held its fifth annual *College and Career Fair* last November to help students navigate the college and career-seeking process. At the fair, over 100 high school students had an opportunity to meet college admissions personnel and financial aid outlets to guide them with college admission. Some of the new features of the fair this year included harnessing the power of LinkedIn and other social networks for professional success. Representatives from various universities, including University of California, Davis, and California State University, Sacramento also gave presentations. Additionally, to help familiarize students about diverse career paths, CAIR-SV invited Muslim panelists from traditional and nontraditional fields such as healthcare, education, finance, and the nonprofit sector to address the students.



# PROMOTING GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY

At CAIR-CA, our work centers on engaging and empowering our community. Thus, we strive to instill the importance of grassroots activism through workshops, forums, and opportunities for community engagement.

Our goal is to constantly improve and expand services to our members throughout California. Therefore, in 2014, through support from the community and the California Bar Foundation, we hired a rural legal outreach coordinator for the central California region to conduct outreach and *Know Your Rights* (KYR) workshops. Following is an array of services that were provided to community members:

- Five KYR workshops were held at various mosques and Islamic centers, reaching 500 individuals directly. The topics covered included employment discrimination, law enforcement harassment, and school bullying.
- Information tables were set up at various rural area mosques to educate members about CAIR's free civil rights and legal services, reaching another 1,500 individuals.

In addition, CAIR-CA offices hosted dozens of KYR workshops across the state to educate and empower community members on their civil rights and responsibilities.

## 2014 OUTREACH BY OFFICE

CAIR-CA staff conducted presentations, workshops, and other outreach events in the following communities:

### CAIR-SFBA

- Antioch
- Belmont
- Berkeley
- Brentwood
- Burlingame
- Daly City
- Dublin
- Fremont
- Hayward
- Los Altos
- Mill Valley
- Milpitas

- Monterey
- Morgan Hill
- Mountain View
- Newark
- Novato
- Oakland
- Palo Alto
- Pleasant Hill
- Pleasanton
- San Francisco
- San Jose
- San Ramon
- Santa Clara
- Santa Cruz
- Saratoga
- Sausalito
- Sonoma
- South San Francisco
- Stanford

- Sunnyvale
- CAIR-LA**
- Anaheim
- Chino Valley
- Claremont
- Conejo Valley
- Corona
- Culver City
- Diamond Bar
- Fontana
- Fountain Valley
- Fullerton
- Garden Grove
- Glendale
- Hawthorne
- Irvine
- Lomita
- Long Beach
- Los Angeles
- Mission Viejo
- Monrovia
- Murrieta
- Northridge
- Ontario
- Pomona
- Rancho

- Cucamonga
- Redlands
- Reseda
- Riverside
- Rowland Heights
- San Bernardino
- San Luis Obispo
- Santa Ana
- Santa Clarita
- Simi Valley
- Temecula
- Tustin
- Vermont
- Victorville
- Westwood
- Whittier
- Yorba Linda

- Cordova
- Roseville
- Sacramento
- Stockton
- Tracy
- Vacaville
- Woodland
- CAIR-SD**
- Balboa Park
- Bonita
- Carmel Valley
- Chula Vista
- El Cajon
- Encinitas
- Escondido
- Fallbrook
- Imperial Beach
- Kearny Mesa
- La Mesa
- Lakeside
- Lemon Grove
- Mira Mesa
- National City
- Oceanside
- Poway
- Rancho Santa Fe
- San Carlos
- San Diego
- San Marcos
- Santee
- Spring Valley
- Vista





In other outreach efforts, CAIR-LA held town halls and community forums to address the growing crisis of the terror group ISIS and its negative impact on Muslims and others worldwide. CAIR and Muslim leaders emphasized that the destructive ideology of ISIS must continually be repudiated, and that American Muslims should demand our President and government to not embolden foreign governments engaged in occupations and human rights violations. CAIR and the Fiqh Council of North America also issued a 28-page open letter, signed by over 120 international Islamic scholars and prominent Muslim leaders, refuting the ideology of the terrorist group.

Additionally, CAIR-SD held a public safety fair to bring the community together, strengthen relations with public safety agencies and celebrate Eid-ul-Adha last year. The event drew 300 visitors and was organized in cooperation with the Muslim Community Center of Greater San Diego. The program featured food, safety workshops, and attractions for children.

**CAPITOL RAMADAN IFTAR**

CAIR-CA proudly hosted the twelfth annual *Capitol Ramadan Iftar* in July to commemorate the blessed month of Ramadan. The

reception drew more than 200 state lawmakers, community advocates, and interfaith leaders, who broke fast with one another at the State Capitol.



The event was co-hosted by more than 55 assembly members and senators who additionally co-authored a members' resolution, presented by Senator Richard Pan, congratulating the California Muslim community on the commencement of Ramadan and for the Muslim community's contributions to the fabric of the state.







## OUR WORK WITH ALLIES

CAIR and the American Muslim community work hand-in-hand with organizations from the African American, Latino, Japanese, Christian, and other communities to defend the rights and freedoms of all Americans.

This year celebrated the tenth year of CAIR-SV office joining members of the Florin Japanese American Citizens League on an annual pilgrimage to Manzanar. The pilgrimage serves as an important reminder about the collective need to combat fear and bigotry and stand up for all Americans' Constitutional rights. Over the years CAIR-CA offices have organized hundreds of participants to join the annual Manzanar Pilgrimage.

In immigration reform efforts, CAIR-SV joined other communities at the state Capitol in April as state legislators announced a major 10-bill package to protect hardworking undocumented immigrants from discrimination, lack of health care, and fraud.

Last November, CAIR-SD participated in an interfaith candlelight vigil to memorialize more than 50 homeless individuals who had died in the city's streets over the previous year. The event was sponsored by the San Diego Rescue Mission and supported by CAIR-SD and other community organizations. The program included a walk and invocations given by various faith groups, culminating with the reading of the names of homeless individuals who had died.





# WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT US

We are grateful for our community's support of our efforts to protect the First Amendment rights of American Muslims and work toward dialogue and understanding among all Americans. Following are some of the accolades our chapters and staff received in 2014-2015:

- Access Sacramento honored CAIR-SV Executive Director Basim Elkarra with its third annual *Power of Voice* award for his "outspoken support and leadership in the area of free speech, tolerance and civil liberties."
- Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Asian Law Caucus honored CAIR-SFBA with the *Yuri Kochiyama Impact Award* for its partnership with the ALC on the Safe San Francisco Civil Rights Ordinance, an ordinance that prevents religious and racial profiling by the city's law enforcement agencies.
- CAIR-LA Executive Director Hussam Ayloush was among a group of Muslim leaders and institutions recognized at the inaugural *Muslim Heritage Month* celebration for his continued service to the American Muslim and wider Los Angeles communities. The event was hosted by the City of Los Angeles and Project Islamic HOPE. Other Muslim leaders and institutions recognized included Imam Abdul Karim Hasan, Maryum "May May" Ali, and the UMMA Community Clinic.
- California Assemblymember Kansen Chu recognized CAIR-SFBA Government Relations Coordinator Sameena Usman as one of Assembly District 25's "Community Heroes". The event was meant to "recognize the contributions our neighbors make every day to our community."
- CAIR-LA Immigrants' Rights Center received recognition from the U.S. Department of Justice's Board of Immigration Appeals.
- CAIR-SD was honored with the Champion of the Community Award by the Islamic Center of San Diego for its work in defending the American Muslim community in San Diego and Imperial Counties.



CELEBRATES **10** YEARS



2006

CAIR-SD was officially launched.



2008

An educational campaign was launched to bring area faith leaders together, continuing efforts to reach out to members of the interfaith community to strengthen dialogue and understanding.



2010

CAIR-SD successfully defended the right of a young Muslim woman to have her driver's license photo with her hijab. The woman had initially been ordered by the Department of Motor Vehicles to remove her hijab for the photo.

2007

CAIR-SD defended the right of students to pray in the city's public schools.



2009

Community educational campaigns were created about Islamophobia, its components, root causes and remedies.



2011

The first Executive Director was hired, and the local office hosted the first *Muslim Day at the Airport* in conjunction with other CAIR offices, and successfully sued a major airline after its staff refused to serve a female Muslim.





## CAIR-SAN DIEGO CELEBRATES 10 YEARS

CAIR-San Diego is proud to celebrate a decade of service to the greater San Diego Muslim community through its dedicated volunteers, staff, and board members.

Founded by community leader and first Executive Committee President Omar Hassaine, CAIR-SD started out as a volunteer office in 2004. A year later, the office's first Public Relations Director and Acting Executive Director Edgar Hopida was hired. In 2006, CAIR-SD was formally launched and joined the CAIR California team, opening its office in the Kearney Mesa area – a central location for the area's Muslim community.

Since then, CAIR-SD has grown by leaps and bounds – tackling some of the most significant civil rights cases, strengthening interfaith relations and empowering the Muslim community. In 2011, the office hired its first Executive Director Hanif Mohebi and has now expanded to include several staff members and interns.



2012

A young Muslim man, who had been placed on the no-fly list and was stranded in Costa Rica, was brought home safely after the successful advocacy by the local office.

2014

CAIR-SD and other CAIR-CA offices mobilized the state's Muslim community to send 17,200 letters to California's two U.S. Senators, urging them to pressure Israel to end its killing of Gaza civilians and destruction of infrastructure.

2013

Alongside other CAIR-CA offices, CAIR-SD jointly published their first-of-a kind anti-bullying report based on Muslim students' school experiences. The first mayoral election guide for San Diegan voters was published by the local office.

2015

A local school was planning to perform a recitation of Islamic dhikr, as part of a holiday program which featured other religious music. After receiving a complaint, the school removed the dhikr while retaining the other religious programming. CAIR-SD stepped in and successfully advocated for the reinstatement of the dhikr into the program.

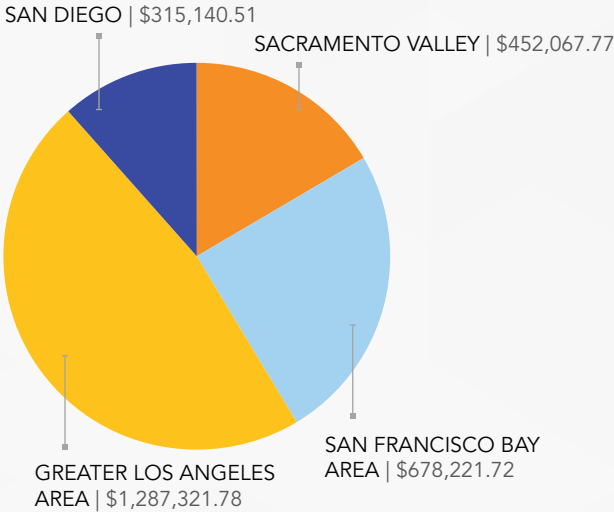


# 2014-2015 FINANCIAL REPORT

The statement of financial activities below is for the fiscal year 2014 for all CAIR California offices.

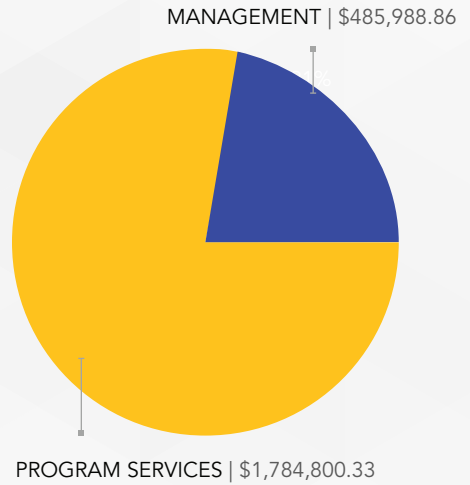
## OPERATIONAL INCOME

TOTAL \$2,732,751.78



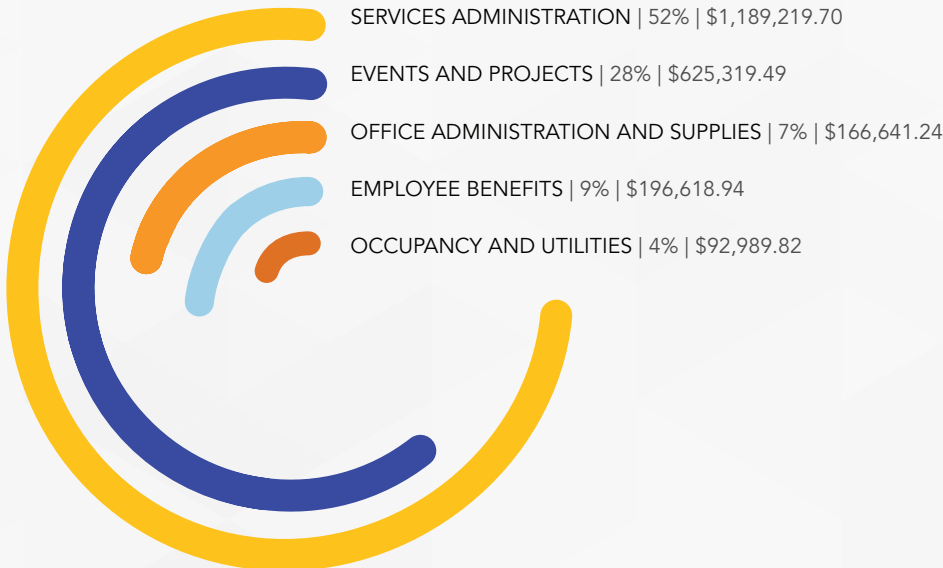
## DISTRIBUTION OF EXPENSES

TOTAL \$2,270,789.19



## LIST OF EXPENSES

TOTAL \$2,270,789.19



The selected financial data were derived from CAIR California's financial records. Audit and tax reports are available upon request.

Note: The financial information provided herein was updated on 11/15/2015.



# HOW TO SUPPORT US

*"But whatever thing you spend [in His cause] – He will compensate it; and He is the best of providers." (Quran 34:39)*

We are tremendously thankful to our generous donors, staff, interns, and volunteers who have contributed their efforts, time, and money toward the advancement of the American Muslim community and CAIR-CA. Please continue to support and pray for us.

## SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

1. Sign up for your local office's mailing list to stay informed
2. Respond to action alerts
3. Attend workshops and seminars, and invite others to join
4. Follow us on social media
5. Host a gathering about CAIR-CA for your family, friends, and community

## DONATE YOUR MONEY

1. Make a donation
2. Become a Champion of Justice monthly donor by donating \$1 or more a day
3. Donate stocks
4. Designate CAIR-CA as a beneficiary in your will
5. Double your donation through your employer's matching program
6. Host a fundraiser to benefit CAIR-CA

## DONATE YOUR TIME

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

## CAIR GREATER LOS ANGELES AREA

<https://ca.cair.com/losangeles>

<https://www.facebook.com/cairlosangeles>

<https://twitter.com/CAIRLA>

## CAIR SAN DIEGO

<https://ca.cair.com/sandiego>

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<https://twitter.com/cairsandiego>

## CAIR SACRAMENTO VALLEY

<https://ca.cair.com/sacval>

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## CAIR SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA

<https://ca.cair.com/sfba>

<https://www.facebook.com/cairsanfranciscobayarea>

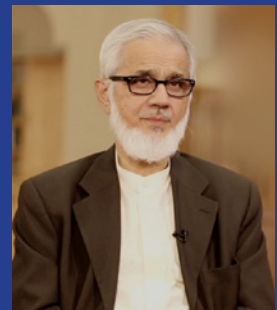
<https://twitter.com/CAIRSFBA>

*"As a dedicated organization to defend the rights of Muslims and to promote better understanding of Islam. It (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.

Our tax ID is 77-0411194.



# OUR TEAM SERVING YOU

## CAIR CALIFORNIA

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Safaa Ibrahim - Chair  
Haitham Abulhaija - Vice Chair  
Asif Harsolia, M.D. - Secretary  
T. Sami Siddiqui - Treasurer  
Hussam Ayloush, M.B.A. - Staff Representative  
Ahsen Ahmed  
Fahad Ahmad  
Omar Hussain  
Omar Milbis  
Sabir Ibrahim, Esq.  
Spojmi Nasiri, Esq.  
Yasir Mahar

### STAFF

Arefa Simjee - State Chapter Coordinator  
Brice Hamack, Esq. - Northern California Civil Rights Coordinator

## CAIR GREATER LOS ANGELES AREA

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Yasir Mahar - President  
Asif Harsolia, M.D. - Vice President  
Dina El Deeb - Secretary  
Hafez M. Hafez. - Treasurer  
Alaa Milbes  
Fawad Shaiq  
Roohi Ahmed  
Shamel Abd-Allah, M.D.

### STAFF

Hussam Ayloush, M.B.A. - Executive Director  
Ali Mir - Outreach Coordinator  
Cecilia Peralta - Operations Director  
Farida Chehata, Esq. - Immigrants' Rights Attorney  
Fatima Dadabhoy, Esq. - Senior Civil Rights Attorney  
Haroon Manjlai, J.D. - Public Affairs Coordinator  
Jacqueline Bruce - Administrative Coordinator  
Maureen Dadabhoy, M.A. Ed. - Legal Coordinator  
Mostafa Mahboob - Development Manager  
Ojaala Ahmad - Communications Coordinator  
Sherrel Johnson - Community Relations Manager & Assistant to the Director  
Sahar Pirzada - Youth Development Manager  
Saniya Husain - Multimedia Specialist  
Yalda Satar, Esq. - Civil Rights Attorney

## CAIR SACRAMENTO VALLEY

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Haitham Abulhaija - Vice President  
Wasim Ali - Secretary  
Eyas Abdeen - Treasurer  
Fawzia Keval, Ed.D.  
Masood Cajee, D.D.S.  
Rafat Razi, D.D.S.  
Sameera Ali, Esq.  
Tawfiq Morrar, Esq.

### STAFF

Basim Elkarra - Executive Director  
Danna Elneil - Operations Coordinator  
Heba Mikbel - Finance Coordinator  
Maheen Ahmed - Programs & Development Coordinator  
Sabina Khan - Communications Coordinator

## CAIR SAN DIEGO

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Ahsen Ahmed - President  
Fahad Ahmad - Vice President  
Hani Eltalmas  
Lallia Allali  
Noha Salem, Esq.  
Ziad Ashgar

### STAFF

Hanif Mohebi - Executive Director  
Patricia Sosa - Finance Consultant  
Terri Smith - Administrative Coordinator  
Susanne Arani, Esq. - Staff Attorney

## CAIR SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Spojmi Nasiri, Esq. - President  
Maleeha Haq, Esq. - Vice President  
Aliyah Abdo, Esq. - Secretary  
Ahmed Shah - Treasurer  
Afshan Keval  
Ihab Badr  
Musaab Attaras  
Rami Elkinawy  
Patricio Pace  
Safaa Ibrahim

### STAFF

Zahra Billoo, Esq. - Executive Director  
Amina Abid - Operations Manager  
Fatima Iqbal, Esq. - Staff Attorney  
Lucy Porras - Programs & Development Coordinator  
Sameena Usman - Government Relations Coordinator



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CAIR Columbus  
CAIR Connecticut  
CAIR Dallas/Fort Worth  
CAIR Georgia

CAIR Houston  
CAIR Iowa  
CAIR Kentucky  
CAIR Massachusetts  
CAIR Miami  
CAIR Michigan  
CAIR Minnesota  
CAIR Missouri

CAIR New Jersey  
CAIR New York  
CAIR Oklahoma  
CAIR Philadelphia  
CAIR Pittsburgh  
CAIR San Antonio  
CAIR Seattle  
CAIR Tampa

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Tel: 408.986.9874  
info@sfba.cair.com  
<https://ca.cair.com/sfba>





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CALIFORNIA

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