

Building and Defending Our Future



CAIR
CALIFORNIA

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



Message from the Chair

In the name of God, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.

Dear Friends and Supporters,

I am so proud of what CAIR-CA accomplished in 2019. Our work to enhance the understanding of Islam, protect civil rights, and empower American Muslims improved the lives of thousands of Californians last year.

For Muslim communities throughout California, our work takes many forms: defending civil rights, conducting community outreach, advocating for justice, and empowering Muslim changemakers. CAIR-CA is transforming people into allies locally and working with public officials statewide to build a more inclusive California.

CAIR-CA also works at the forefront of some of the most pressing national issues. In 2019, we helped hundreds of Californians navigate our country's complex immigration process, seeking justice for our clients in the face of oppression. In addition, CAIR-CA worked tirelessly to promote cultural understanding and end policies that disproportionately target people and communities of color.

We're proud to celebrate our 2019 achievements and eager to confront the challenges of 2020 head-on. With so much uncertainty in our world today, let's celebrate our progress while preparing to face new challenges.

Sincerely,

Amana Siddiqi
Chair of the Board, CAIR California



Vision: To be a leading advocate for justice and mutual understanding.

Mission: To enhance the understanding of Islam, protect civil rights, promote justice, and empower American Muslims.

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AT A GLANCE

Throughout California, CAIR-CA has been instrumental in restoring justice and protecting freedoms for Muslim communities. We have regional offices in Los Angeles (CAIR-LA), San Francisco Bay Area (CAIR-SFBA), Sacramento Valley/Central California (CAIR-SV/CC), and San Diego (CAIR-SD) that proudly work on behalf of and alongside American Muslims throughout the state. Our multi-pronged approach to legal services, outreach, advocacy, and empowerment has allowed us to broaden our impact in California and beyond.

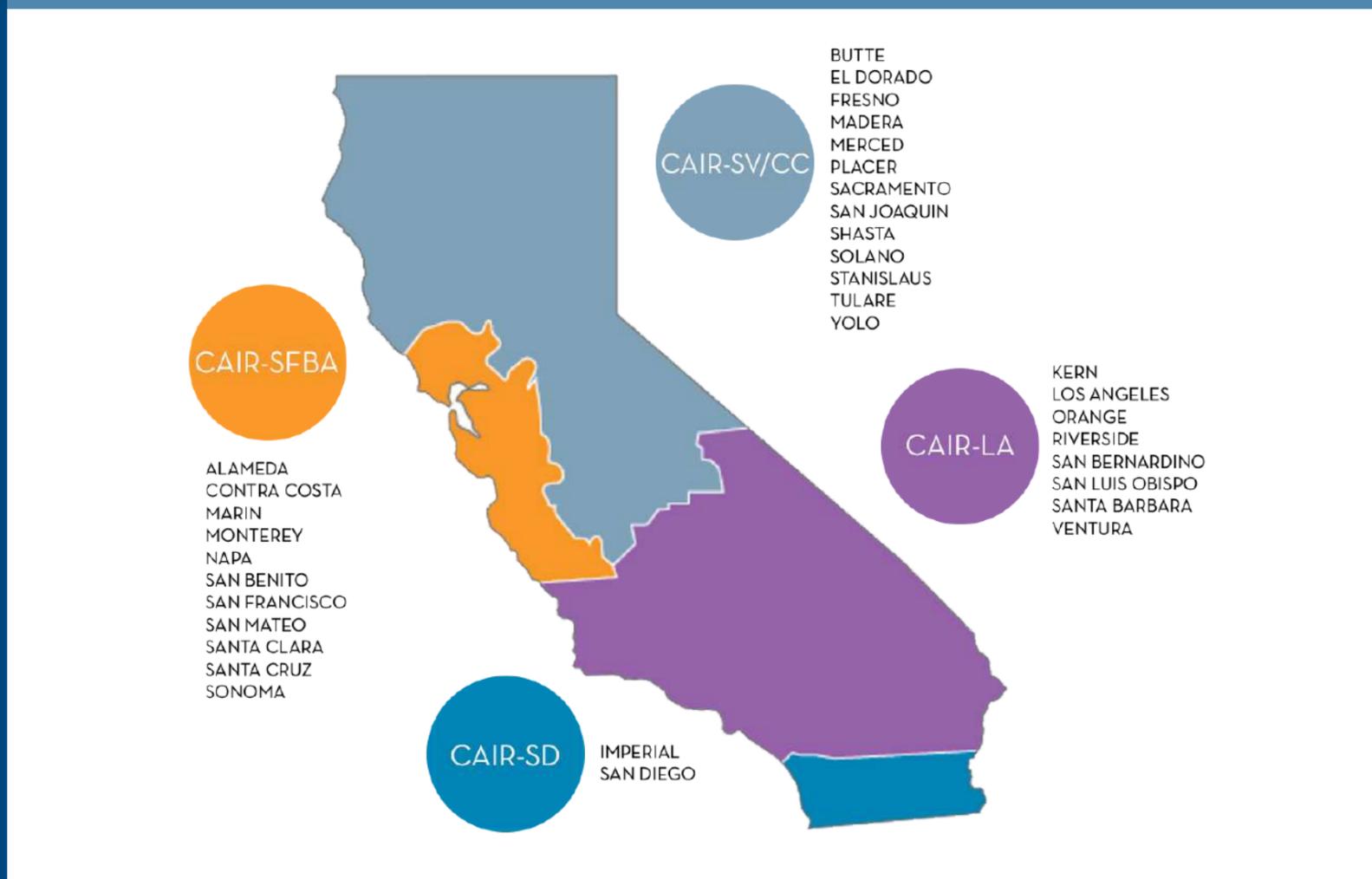
CAIR-CA's civil rights work was instrumental in securing victories for Muslims statewide. We were proud to work alongside people like Hamid Hayat, who was wrongfully imprisoned for more than 13 years, and 12-year-old Fatima Abdelrahman, who was forced to remove her hijab while waiting in line for an Air Canada flight to her squash tournament. It doesn't matter how big or how small: CAIR-CA's advocacy is stalwart.

Immigration-related services were a large part of CAIR-CA's impact in 2019. By helping hundreds of clients successfully navigate the immigration process, CAIR-CA helped reunite families, overcome bigotry, protect the persecuted, and represent those in need of legal counsel.

Not only is CAIR-CA on the frontlines of the civil rights and immigration fights of today, we're also promoting cultural understanding and ending policies that disproportionately target people and communities of color. By challenging injustices across California and by working closely with state legislators in Sacramento to pass sweeping reforms into law, CAIR-CA leveraged diverse coalitions to protect our state's most marginalized communities. Whether through protests, interviews, or documentaries, CAIR-CA and its regional partners worked diligently to shape the narratives around American Muslims in California and nationwide.

We're eager for you to join us in our mission to enhance understanding of Islam, protect civil rights, and empower American Muslims leading into 2020 and beyond.

Counties We Serve



Our Work	LA	SV/CC	SD	SFBA	Total
Civil Rights Intakes	466	64	52	181	763
Immigration Intakes	758	214	44	289	1,305
Government Meetings	132	100	41	112	385
Media Interviews	102	169	119	125	515
Community Outreach Events & Activities	364	225	116	563	1,268
Educational Workshops & Presentations	46	41	44	212	343

SUPPORT US

Donate Your Time and Money

When you donate to CAIR-CA, you can specify how your donation is allocated to our services. All financial contributions to CAIR-CA are tax-deductible (77-0411194) and Zakat-eligible.

There are several ways you can contribute:

- Make an online donation
- Become a monthly donor
- Utilize your employer's matching program
- Donate stocks
- Include CAIR-CA in your estate planning
- Volunteer with your local office
- Participate in the internship or law clerkship programs

Donate to CAIR-CA:



Show Your Support

Even if you're not able to donate your time or money, there are still ways to pitch in and get involved with CAIR-CA's work:

- Follow your local office on social media
- Sign up for local newsletters
- Attend workshops and seminars
- Host a fundraising event



CIVIL RIGHTS

From Hamid Hayat's reunion with his family after more than 13 years of wrongful imprisonment to 12-year-old Fatima Abdelrahman, who was forced to remove her hijab while waiting in line for an Air Canada flight to her squash tournament, CAIR California's work has led to positive legal, policy, cultural, and media outcomes.



Hamid Hayat

CAIR-SV/CC provided substantial media, advocacy, and organizational support to Hamid Hayat, an American citizen wrongfully detained for more than 13 years. Hayat's original conviction, a result of post-9/11 Islamophobia, FBI entrapment, and improper informant tactics, was vacated on July 30, 2019. CAIR supported Hayat's criminal defense team by conducting civil rights advocacy, outreach, and education.

In a case that was considered flawed from the start, Hayat, an American citizen, was convicted in 2006 of attending a training camp while he was in Pakistan.

Federal prosecutors praised the case as a victory against terrorism; however, many spectators questioned the obvious post-9/11 prejudice that permeated the case – an early example of misguided anticipatory prosecution.

On July 30, 2019, the original judge in the case ordered Hayat's conviction and 24-year sentence to be overturned – a first-of-its-kind ruling out of more than 800 in post-9/11 U.S. terrorism-related prosecutions. Hamid is the first post-9/11 international terrorism defendant to be officially cleared of any wrongdoing.

After being locked up for more than 13 years in a Phoenix, Arizona prison, Hayat was

freed on August 9, 2019. CAIR's advocacy and empathy remained stalwart. Once Hayat's sentence was overturned, CAIR worked to reunite Hayat with his family and deliver two press conferences, drawing national media attention to the case. On February 14, 2020, the government dismissed all charges and announced an end to any consideration of retrying or further pursuing a case against Hamid.



Fatima Abdelrahman

When 12-year-old Fatima Abdelrahman was forced to remove her hijab while boarding an Air Canada flight, CAIR-SFBA stepped in to provide legal and media representation on her behalf.

Through a well-coordinated media campaign, Fatima's story received top-tier media attention from over a dozen national and international outlets, prompting a public apology from the airline.

Noor Hussain

After Noor Hussain had her hijab forcibly removed and her arms uncovered by a Riverside County sheriff's deputy, CAIR-LA filed a lawsuit on her behalf. Thanks to CAIR-LA's aggressive legal representation, in tandem with their coordinated advocacy to county leaders, Riverside County now has one of the most progressive policies on religious coverings in the nation – ensuring no one will have to go through what Noor did.



IMMIGRATION



5 YEARS
of serving the
immigrant community

In 2019, CAIR-CA substantially expanded its immigration services program, providing legal representation to some of California's most vulnerable communities. Whether through reunifying families separated by conflict, protecting those targeted by persecution in their home country, or providing pro-bono legal counsel, CAIR-CA helped hundreds of Californians navigate the immigration system and find justice in the face of bigotry.



- Naturalization or Citizenship Preparation
- Adjustment of Status/LPR
- Other Immigration Assistance
- Removal Defense
- Petition for Alien Relatives or Future Relatives
- Muslim Ban
- T/U Visa/VAWA Petitions
- Immigration Benefits Delay
- Asylum
- Temporary Protected Status (TPS)

Countries of Origin of Clients Served by CAIR-CA Immigrants' Rights Attorneys in 2019



A Syrian refugee, who had nearly bankrupted herself paying for private attorneys who were unable to win her case, turned to CAIR-SV/CC in a last-ditch effort to secure Temporary Protected Status. After CAIR-SV/CC secured her TPS approval in 2019, she was able to return to work and remain in the country.



A Uyghur woman was seeking safety from the Chinese government, which had rounded up large numbers of Uyghurs including her family, and placed them in re-education camps in Xinjiang. CAIR-SFBA is representing her in seeking asylum. She is safely awaiting her interview in the United States.



A Burmese man was attacked by monks who falsely accused him of a crime, threatening to kill him because he was Muslim. CAIR-SFBA represented him in his asylum case and helped him obtain work authorization in the United States while waiting for his interview.



CAIR-LA provided legal representation to a woman who fled emotional, physical, and mental abuse in Uganda. CAIR-LA attorneys helped her successfully file a Violence Against Women Act petition, and ultimately helped her obtain a green card to remain in the United States.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

CAIR-CA worked with local and state leaders to promote cultural understanding and end policies that disproportionately target communities of color. By challenging injustice wherever it occurs, and by advocating for sweeping regulations at the state level, CAIR-CA leverages diverse coalitions to achieve meaningful progress in protecting California's Muslim communities.



77 elected officials

recognized CAIR-SFBA for its 25th Anniversary

Throughout the Bay Area, CAIR-SFBA worked with partner organizations and leaders to promote more inclusive communities, end discriminatory practices, and build local power.

Yuba County Jail

For more than 40 years, Yuba County Jail has been under a consent decree to improve conditions. To make matters worse, the county recently began contracting with ICE to allow use of Yuba County Jail for detaining immigrants. In 2019, CAIR-SV/CC helped lead an ongoing, multiyear advocacy campaign to end the county's contract with ICE and improve Yuba County's treatment of people detained there. Through op-eds, rallies, press conferences, and meetings with key officials, CAIR-SV/CC played a crucial role in a coalition of advocates that kept a spotlight on the inhumane conditions at Yuba County Jail.

Community Captains Network

CAIR-LA created and launched a pilot program, Community Captains Network (CCN), which helps to recruit, train, and empower American Muslims – who can then mobilize their communities around social and economic justice issues. One of CCN's organizing efforts is to encourage the American Muslim community to be civically engaged and vote in the upcoming presidential election in November.

The California Legislature

CAIR-CA collaborated with its network of legislative allies in Sacramento to pass important legislation protecting California's minority communities from targeted policing. Working closely with Assemblymember Phil Ting, CAIR-SFBA helped secure passage of AB 1215, a landmark bill prohibiting the use of facial recognition and biometric surveillance technology by law enforcement throughout California.



Berkeley Headwear and Hairstyle Discrimination Ban

The Berkeley City Council unanimously agreed to ban discrimination based on hairstyle or headwear, ensuring those who wear a hijab, kufi, or beard cannot be discriminated against for employment, housing, or public accommodation.



San Francisco, Berkeley, and Oakland Facial Recognition Bans

CAIR-SFBA and our coalition partners successfully advocated in San Francisco to pass the nation's first-ever ban on city use of facial recognition software. This victory paved the way for similar bans in Berkeley and Oakland, and eventually a state-wide moratorium on the technology.



Berkeley and Oakland Sanctuary Contracting Ordinances

CAIR-SFBA worked with leaders in Berkeley and Oakland to pass local "Sanctuary Contracting Ordinances", which prohibit the cities from doing business with vendors who provide deportation or data services to federal immigration agencies.



Alameda and San Jose Privacy Principles Resolutions

In consultation with CAIR-SFBA and partner organizations, Alameda and San Jose have committed to using the Privacy Principles Resolutions to craft comprehensive privacy policies to protect the public's trust and security.

Muslim Day at the Capitol

At the eighth annual Muslim Day at the Capitol, CAIR-CA led 650 community members, religious leaders, students, and activists in a day of advocacy and action at the State Capitol. Attendees participated in 100 meetings with elected officials, advocating for three different pieces of legislation designed to promote just policies within the state.



650

participants in our annual Muslim Day at the Capitol

100

meetings with elected officials

3

key civil rights bills supported



SINGLED OUT
ISLAMOPHOBIA IN THE CLASSROOM
EFFECTS OF DISCRIMINATION ON MUSLIM STUDENTS

I DECIDED TO WEAR MY HIJAB... PEOPLE MADE FUN OF ME... AND I HAVE NEVER WORN IT TO SCHOOL AGAIN TO THIS DAY.

...might say, "A BOMB NOW?"

FINDINGS

...year, CAIR-CA surveyed students between the ages of 11 and 18 who are Muslim at school.

TOPICS ARE DISCUSSED
...and topics in schools.

...that when Islam or Muslims are discussed in class that it was done...

HAVE YOU BEEN BULLIED AT SCHOOL?

...being bullied for being Muslim.

TEACHERS, ADMINISTRATORS, AND OTHER ADULTS AT YOUR SCHOOL MAKE COMMENTS ABOUT ISLAM OR MUSLIMS?

...that school staff have made offensive comments about Islam or Muslims at school.

airla.org | 714-776-1177

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...that school staff have made offensive comments about Islam or Muslims at school.

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MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

In 2019, CAIR-CA leveraged its media relationships to promote cross-cultural understanding, amplify the voices of Muslim activists, and combat Islamophobia wherever it occurred.

Be it through protests, interviews, or documentaries, CAIR-CA and its regional partners worked diligently to shape the narratives around American Muslims in California and beyond.

The New York Times

“Much-Heralded Terrorism Conviction from 2006 is Overturned”



“CAIR-LA DECRIES WHITE SUPREMACIST FLYERS FOUND ON CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY CAMPUS”

Accountability in Yucaipa

In April, CAIR-LA led a campaign calling on then-Yucaipa Mayor Bobby Duncan to resign after multiple posts targeting Muslims and immigrants from South America were found on his Facebook.

One day after Executive Director Hussam Ayloush gave interviews to local media, Duncan apologized. Concerned residents attended the next Yucaipa City Council meeting to protest Duncan’s Facebook posts.

The city government later adopted a policy defining social media use for elected officials.

Challenging Duncan Hunter

CAIR-SD partnered with the East County Coalition to put pressure on the federal government to open an investigation on Congressman Duncan Hunter’s war crimes. In an interview for Barstool Sports’ *Zero Blog Thirty* podcast, Hunter admitted to allegedly killing hundreds of civilians, including women and children, by indiscriminately shelling the Iraqi city of Fallujah.

The coalition met for eight months, mobilized community members to attend “Hunter Is A War Criminal” rallies, and retrieved over 800,000 signatures. Hunter eventually resigned from his position due to illegal use of campaign funds and the broad community backlash CAIR-SD helped generate.

A Prayer Beyond Borders

In October 2019, CAIR-SD released “A Prayer Beyond Borders,” a documentary showcasing Christian and Muslim faith communities standing together in prayer and demanding justice for families separated by physical and ideological borders.

The film has gained national attention, attracting visits at the San Diego border from influential members from the faith and political communities such as Imam Omar Suleiman and Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib.



YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Regional Approaches, Statewide Outcome

CAIR-CA's youth development programs amplify the voices of young advocates in the Muslim community. Our youth advocacy training and networking opportunities enable young Muslims across California to find their voices, speak their truth, and advocate for change in their communities.



Muslim Youth Day in Los Angeles



CAIR-LA hosted its first Muslim Youth Day at Los Angeles City Hall. The event included advocacy training, empowering young Muslims to advocate for issues that affect their daily lives.

The Muslim Gamechangers Network: Investing in the Future

The Muslim Gamechangers Network, which to date has graduated more than 400 students, is a student-oriented program designed to teach participants how to engage with local communities and governments. CAIR-SFBA, in partnership with MCC East Bay, graduated 27 students through the program in 2019.

Muslim Youth Leadership Program

From August 1 to August 4, 2019, CAIR-CA hosted 45 high school students for the 15th annual Muslim Youth Leadership Program (MYLP) in Sacramento.

MYLP is a hands-on program designed to introduce students to the different avenues that shape public opinion and public policy.

Students from across the state participate in workshops on community organizing, leadership development, and public speaking and hold a mock legislative session on the floor of the State Assembly.



45 students participated in the 2019 MYLP

15 years of immersive youth development

500+ students have participated in the MYLP since its creation

“Our hope is that participants use the skills they gain in our program to empower their peers and community members. These future leaders inspire us with their passion to make a difference!”

Basim Elkarra, Executive Director of CAIR-SV/CC and Chairman of MYLP

“MYLP is a reminder to us all that proper investment in young people will carry our communities past the trials and threats we face every day.”

Oussama Mokeddem, CAIR-SV/CC Policy & Advocacy Manager

2019 FINANCIAL REPORT

The statement of financial activities below is for the fiscal year 2019 for all CAIR California offices.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Revenues

Contributions and grants	\$4,315,393
Special events, net of expenses	\$1,298,796
Dividends and interest	\$3,190
Unrealized gains on investments	\$702,760
Other income	\$69,464



Functional Expenses

Program services	\$3,243,256
Management and general	\$918,866
Fundraising	\$1,077,493



Program Expenses (Excludes Indirect Expenses)**

Civil Rights	\$107,353
Government	\$134,302
Immigrants' Rights	\$69,040
Media	\$66,168
Outreach/Education	\$67,714
Youth Leadership	\$45,895



Operational Revenues

Greater Los Angeles Area	\$2,907,403
Sacramento Valley/ Central California*	\$1,237,621
San Diego	\$261,945
San Francisco Bay Area	\$1,982,634



BALANCE SHEET

Total Assets	\$10,161,704
Total Liabilities	\$622,526
Unrestricted	\$8,730,329
Temporarily restricted	\$1,587,296
Total Net Assets	\$9,497,589
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$10,161,704



*This includes a \$400,000 grant from the state of California for census outreach efforts, a large portion of which will be sub-granted to partner organizations.

**Excludes indirect costs such as facility and personnel-related expenses.

CAIR-CA has established reserve and endowment funds to ensure the organization's long-term financial sustainability. A portion of the 2019 net income has been applied toward those funds.

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



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CALIFORNIA

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Youcef Sari – Operations & Development Coordinator
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Sameena Usman – Government Relations Coordinator
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