



CAIR
NEW YORK

Annual Report 2021



Inspired by Faith and a Love for Justice

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Message from the Executive Director



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

As-salaamu 'alaikum wa rahmatu Allah,
Greetings and may the peace and blessings of God be upon you,

Alhamdulillah, in 2021, CAIR New York continued its mission to empower and advocate for more than one million Muslim men, women, and children throughout New York State. We've been able

to provide free legal services for those in our community who have been impacted by Islamophobia, xenophobia, and racism, whether through workplace discrimination; hate speech; vandalism; physical violence; or unfair treatment by government officials or law enforcement agents.

We have also continued our outreach and educational initiatives through our Know Your Rights workshops and our New York Muslim Voter Project, through which we partnered with other Islamic organizations and encouraged Muslims to become more civically engaged by registering to vote and amplifying our voices as a community.

We, at CAIR-NY, encourage everyone to learn and empower themselves with knowledge of their rights as Americans so that they are better prepared to advocate for themselves and others. Such empowerment will surely make our community stronger.

As always, thank you for standing with CAIR-NY against injustice and helping us build a better future for our community. Our work would not have been possible without you and we look forward to strengthening our partnership in the coming year as we continue our fight for justice and equality for Muslims and all marginalized communities in the United States.

In solidarity,
Afaf Nasher, Esq.

About CAIR-NY

As America's largest Muslim civil liberties and advocacy organization, the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) has worked for more than 25 years to defend the Constitution of the United States. CAIR's New York chapter (CAIR-NY) is one of the busiest and most dynamic of CAIR's nationwide affiliates—defending, representing, and educating nearly one million Muslims in New York.

Our vision is to be a leading advocate for justice and mutual understanding, and our mission is to protect civil rights, enhance understanding of Islam, promote justice, and empower American Muslims. Our areas of operation include legal advocacy, education, media relations, civic engagement, and grassroots mobilization. We are a first line of defense for Muslim New Yorkers who have experienced discrimination, harassment, hate crimes, and other manifestations of bigotry. CAIR-NY works diligently to combat Islamophobia and systemic inequality in all its forms.

Our Core Initiatives



Supporting victims of hate crimes and discrimination



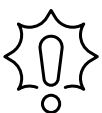
Educating New Yorkers through workshops and publications



Ending unjust profiling and surveillance



Championing fair and just legislation and policies



Countering Islamophobic rhetoric through media relations



Promoting community activism and civic engagement

How to Help: Join The Fight Against Hate

CAIR-NY offers you heartfelt thanks for your support and partnership. With the help of your generous donations, we are able to offer free legal services to Muslim New Yorkers who need our help and provide life-changing support to those experiencing injustice. Our generous donors, staff, interns and volunteers enable us to advance justice and strengthen civil liberties across the state.

Support Us



- Make a general donation cairny.org/donate
- Check whether your employer has a gift matching program
- Designate CAIR-NY as a beneficiary in your will (planned giving)
- Select us as your charity at Amazon Smile
- Hold a fundraiser to benefit our work

Connect With Us



- Sign up to receive email updates
- Follow us on social media [@cairnewyork](https://twitter.com/cairnewyork)
- Call us with your civil rights questions and concerns - (646) 665-7599
- Invite us to present an educational workshop - cairny.org/request-a-workshop-or-event
- Co-sponsor an event

Join Us



- Participate in our events and annual banquet
- Apply for an internship
- Volunteer your time and skills



Legal Highlights

CAIR-NY provides free legal service for individuals who are faced with anti-Muslim bias discrimination, or harassment. In 2021, we answered 226 requests for assistance from across New York State from those who lacked legal representation. Notably, more than 25% of cases were immigration-related, with workplace harassment (16%) being the second largest request.

Continuing Litigation Against:



Chase



Citibank



City of Yonkers



NYCDOE



USCIS



Venmo



Federal Bureau of Investigation



The City University of New York

Key Litigation Successes:



Muslim Women Win Right to Keep Hijab While in Police Custody

CAIR-NY, in partnership with Emery Celli Brinckerhoff Abady Ward & Maazel LLP (ECBAWM), a leading civil rights firm, reached a \$175,000 settlement against the Yonkers Police Department for forcing Ihsan Malkawi, a practicing Muslim woman, to remove her hijab for a mug shot and spend 36 hours in YPD custody without her hijab. In addition to the settlement, the City of Yonkers will bring an end to its discriminatory practice of forcing Muslim women to remove their hijabs.



Fighting Assault and Unlawful Deportation of Muslims by ICE Agents

CAIR-NY, the New Haven Legal Assistance Immigrant Rights Clinic, and Pollock Cohen LLP filed a lawsuit against the United States and three Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents after they assaulted and tased Bakhodir Madjitov and unlawfully attempted to forcibly deport him, separating him from his wife and son.



Community Outreach Highlights

Our outreach department works diligently to involve our community members with educational opportunities and participation in civic engagement. Our community outreach supports our youth, our masjid partners, our allies, and our community at large so that they are empowered.



226 Requests for Assistance



29 Press Releases for Media Engagement



14 Supported Rallies and Peaceful Protests



35 Community Educational Workshops



NY Muslim Voter Project

In 2021, CAIR-NY joined a coalition of New York Muslim organizations to create the New York Muslim Voter Project (NY MVP) to increase the civic engagement and voter turnout of Muslim New Yorkers through education and increasing voter registration. New York City's 800,000 Muslims make up about 9 percent of the city's total population and almost 22 percent of America's Muslim population, so it is incredibly important to mobilize Muslim voters in New York and across America to participate in the democratic process and vote for leaders that will represent our community.



Muslim Advocacy Day 2021

On June 23 - 24, 2021, CAIR-NY joined a coalition of Muslim advocacy organizations for the US Council of Muslim Organizations' 6th annual Muslim Advocacy Day on Capital Hill. The event was a resounding success, despite being virtual due to COVID-19. Members of the CAIR-NY advocacy team were able to meet with representatives of Congress to discuss the issues that matter to our community.



Supporting Our Youth:

Schools continue to be a breeding ground for bigotry and hate, but CAIR-NY is committed to supporting our youth and fighting the discrimination that our youngest brothers and sisters face. In 2021, we hosted anti-bullying workshops for over 200 grade school and college students and spoke out against the numerous school-related bias incidents that came to our attention.



Student and Family Verbally Assaulted With Islamophobic, Anti-Palestinian, Anti-Immigrant Insults at The Wheatley School Graduation:

Huda Ayaz, an 18-year-old-recent graduate of The Wheatley School, was invited to give a speech at her graduation ceremony. In her speech, which had been approved in its entirety by her principal, Huda encouraged her classmates and other attendees to educate themselves on the ethnic cleansing of Palestinians and Uyghur Muslims and implored them to “speak for those who cannot speak for themselves.” “Afterward, Ayaz was booed by some of the attendees , who chanted, “We support Israel” while others harassed and bullied her and her family, telling them to “go back to Pakistan.” CAIR-NY spoke out on Huda's behalf, demanding an apology from the principal and school:

“...The Islamophobia, anti-immigrant, and anti-Palestinian sentiment at the school district and The Wheatley School is appalling and must be addressed for the safety of Muslim and immigrant students. We expect the school district, The Wheatley School, and Dr. Feeney to issue a public apology to the student and her family and to publicly state that they will protect the student from harassment if she attends any school activities.” — Ahmed Mohamed, Legal Director, CAIR-NY


Calling Out Anti-Palestinian Hate Speech From Brooklyn Politician

CAIR-NY called for Kings County Democratic District Leader of the 41st Assembly District Lori Maslow to resign following her several hateful tweets about Palestinians and Chinese-Americans. In one post, Maslow can be quoted saying “You got your facts backwards. Palestinians kill Jews. Think we are going to stand there and let that happen? We value life. They don’t. Never again.”

Showing Solidarity with Asian-Americans After 65-year-old Woman Assaulted While en Route to Church

CAIR-NY condemned the latest in a series of hate crimes targeting the Asian-American and Pacific Islander communities, when a 65-year-old woman was assaulted and verbally abused while on her way to church. The woman was kicked, punched, and viciously stomped upon while her assailant allegedly made anti-Asian statements.

Communications Highlights



CAIR-NY regularly engaged with the media, centering our narratives and debunking false stereotypical images of Muslims.

Calling for Hate Crime Investigation After Acid Attack on Muslim Woman on Long Island

CAIR-NY called for a hate crime investigation into an acid attack targeting a 21-year-old Asian-American Muslim woman, Nafiah Ikram, in Long Island. The attacker ran up and threw what is thought to be battery acid in her face.

Demanding Hate Crime Probe for ‘Death to Palestine’ Vandalism Targeting Brooklyn Mosque on ‘Eid al-Fitr

CAIR-NY called on state and federal law enforcement authorities to investigate vandalism targeting Tayba Islamic Center on Coney Island Avenue in Brooklyn as a possible hate crime. “Death to Palestine” was reportedly sprayed painted on the mosque overnight.

2021 Financial Summary

Total Revenue



- Contributions: \$332,552
- Foundation Grants: \$135,408
- Special Events: \$126,862
- Government Grants / PPP: \$52,762
- Assets Released from Restriction: \$25,000
- In-Kind: \$21,261

Total Functional Expenses



- Program Services: \$350,251
- Administrative: \$78,022
(includes rent, insurance, accounting, and potential affiliation fee to CAIR National)
- Fundraising: \$58,633
(includes development payroll and event costs)



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