



# INSPIRED BY FAITH & A LOVE FOR JUSTICE

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



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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,

I was once asked by a community member to identify CAIR-NY's "ultimate" goal. I paused for a moment to reflect on the many ambitions we undertake towards fighting Islamophobia, racism and xenophobia. Then I replied that our bottom line goal is to create a world in which our services are **no longer needed...**

## A WORLD IN WHICH DISCRIMINATION IS ERADICATED AND OUR COMMUNITY IS EMPOWERED.

As it stands today, discrimination against Muslims is still rampant. The numbers prove that. CAIR's 2022 Civil Rights Report, *Still Suspect: The Rise of Islamophobia*, cites a record number of complaints: **6,720** requests for assistance with discrimination and bias incidents nationwide.

In New York, 2022 reaffirmed the need to grow CAIR-NY's immigration-related work. The immigration system is not just broken, but it heavily discriminates against Muslims. We took on our first in-house immigration matter in 2019 with a successful lawsuit to compel USCIS to schedule a naturalization oath ceremony for our client, an Albanian Muslim New Yorker, after a 58 month delay. Since then, we've continued the work to end family separation with litigation for individual families. We also have embarked on massive advocacy campaigns, like our Yemeni Repatriation effort bringing home hundreds of Yemeni Americans stuck in a war torn country due to COVID-19 travel restrictions. To extend this work, CAIR-NY is committed to hiring another full time attorney, inshaAllah (God willing).

Our team's efforts also grew with the onboarding of CAIR-NY's first full-time Communications staff member. The investment has already resulted in the expansion of our digital and print media, including a robust library of community resources, and our first major research based publication entitled *Feeling the Hate: Bias and Hate Crimes Experienced by Muslim New Yorkers*. Coupled with dozens of educational community workshops, this data-driven report has been cited by elected officials and journalists alike to amplify the voices of Muslim Americans who have experienced hate crimes and bias incidents.

CAIR-NY recognizes the continued need to grow our services in accordance with the needs of our community. InshaAllah, with your support, these services will ultimately end discrimination against Muslims and all communities.

As always, we thank you for standing with CAIR-NY. Let's continue to grow in 2023 together.

# Our Legal & Advocacy Work

# 243

# REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

CAIR-NY provides free legal services for individuals who are faced with anti-Muslim discrimination or harassment. In 2022, we answered 243 requests for assistance from across New York State from those who lacked legal representation.

The continued fight for justice, inclusion, and fairness for all Muslims in New York requires a team dedicated to the task. That's why our free services and legal counsel are designed for our community members to learn about and defend their rights.

## OUR TOP REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE



**29**  
WORKPLACE



**25**  
SCHOOL MATTERS



**25**  
IMMIGRATION



**22**  
PUBLIC ACCOMMODATIONS

# Our Legal Highlights

## A Victory for Students At CCNY

Despite many requests from the large Muslim population on campus, the City College of New York (CCNY) administration would not give students an appropriate space for prayer. Many students would end up praying in dirty areas, like stairwells and other odd spaces. They asked CAIR-NY to help advocate for an interfaith space that students of all faiths could use for prayer. CAIR-NY guided students on their rights and even helped to organize the students on campus. Together, we held a protest at the college and circulated an online writing campaign that got 3,700+ letters sent to the school!

Alhamdulillah, (thank God), these efforts have resulted in CCNY finally giving the students an interfaith space where they can pray! No more dirty stairwells for sujud (prostration)!



## Our City, Our Vote

Local Law 11-2022 was an example of successful advocacy. This law allows lawful permanent residents and persons authorized to work in New York City to participate in municipal elections, beginning in 2023. Local Law 11 enfranchised over 800,000 immigrant residents in municipal elections, making New York City the largest jurisdiction in the country to offer voting rights to its non-citizen residents.

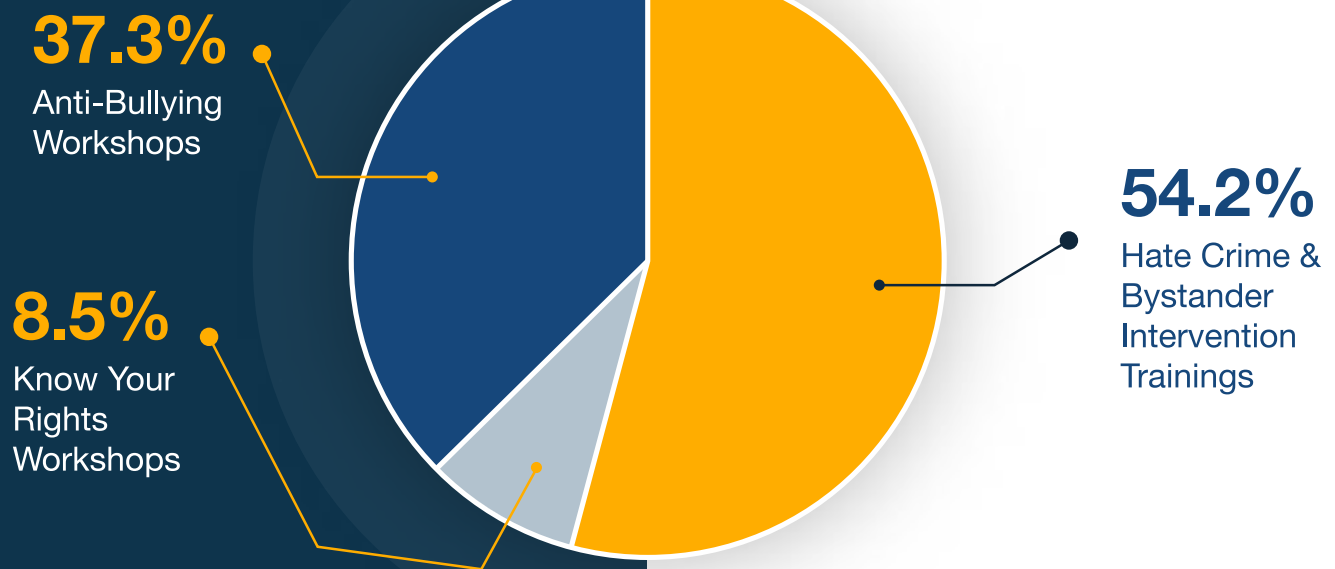
A lawsuit opposing this voter access law was filed shortly after it was enacted. The lawsuit seeks to invalidate Local Law 11 and restrict voters' access to the ballot box.

In response to the lawsuit, CAIR-NY, Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF), Black Alliance for Just Immigration (BAJI), LatinoJustice PRLDEF, and Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP intervened in the lawsuit to defend Local Law 11 and uphold non-citizens access to the ballot box.

# Our Community Outreach

**59**  
**Educational Workshops**

As a part of 2022, we were able to offer a variety of free educational workshops on exercising your rights to the community.



**Plus**

**19**  
Civic Engagement

**2**  
Crisis Response Events

**7**  
Panel Discussions

**4**  
Press Conferences

**2250<sup>+</sup>**  
Community Members Reached



# Our Community Highlights

## Hope Against Hate: Uplift the Youth

As part of our commitment to anti-bullying work, we presented 22 anti-bullying workshops for students educating them on their rights and resources, engaging 1450 students.

Furthermore, CAIR-NY published a “Bullying Recourse Guide For Parents” in 7 different languages (English, Arabic, Farsi, Urdu, Bengali, Spanish and French) as well as a “Know Your Rights as A Muslim Youth at School” at School pamphlet for students.



## Muslim Advocacy Day:

With coalition members, CAIR-NY and hundreds of fellow Muslims travelled to Washington D.C. as part of the USCMO's 2022 Muslim Advocacy Day. We met with elected officials in Congress and discussed the most pressing issues impacting American Muslims in today's political climate and worked towards building stronger relationships with our nation's lawmakers.



# Communications Highlights



**CAIR-NY's Communications Team continues to regularly engage with the media, centering our narratives and debunking false stereotypical images of Muslims.**





# Our Communications Highlights: Feeling the Hate Report

In 2022, CAIR-NY published our *Feeling the Hate Report: Bias and Hate Crimes Experienced by Muslim New Yorkers*. This report was created by administering a comprehensive survey and dozens of educational community workshops to better understand the Muslim community's experiences with hate crimes and bias incidents. This report summarizes the finding of the survey, illustrates key data, and offers recommendations.



# Financial Report

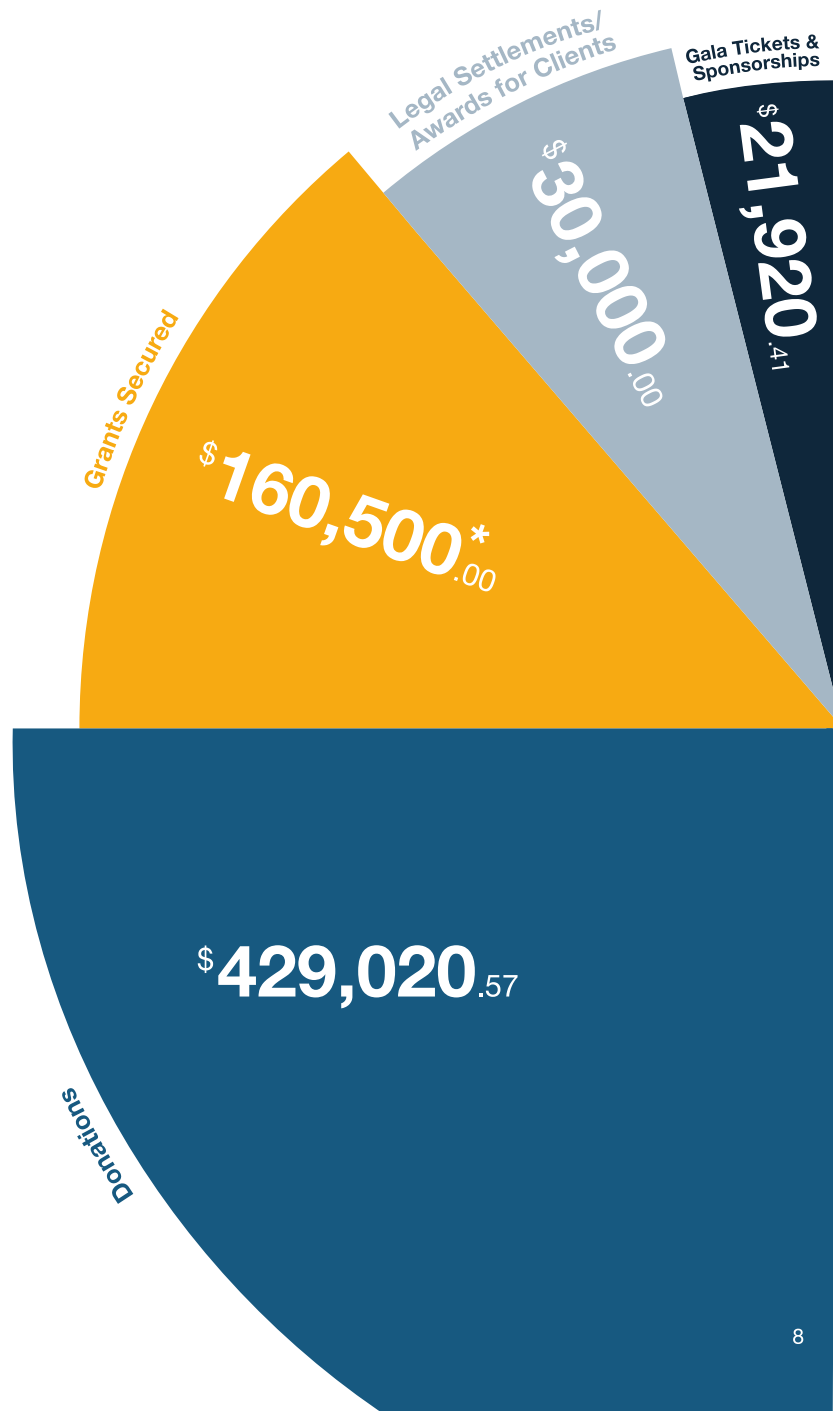
CAIR-NY offers our heartfelt thanks for your support and partnership. With the help of your generous donations, we are able to offer free legal services to Muslim New Yorkers who need our help and provide life-changing support to those experiencing injustice. Our generous donors, staff, interns and volunteers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

## 2022 Unaudited Financials Summary

**Expenditures; \$637,823.23**

Communications	\$16,657.45
Salaries (Gross)	\$429,058.01
Employer Taxes	\$36,630.06
Civic Corps Fees	\$4,000.00
Insurance (State and Private)	\$8,730.00
Rent, Utilities and Supplies	\$36,233.73
Software	\$6,943.41
Professional Services (Accounting, Graphic Design, Marketing)	\$52,155.85
Special Events (Gala, Muslim Advocacy Day)	\$47,414.72

**Revenue; \$641,440.98**



\* \$81,554 funds received in 2022

\* \$78,946 funds for 2022 that were received in early 2023



# Learn More About CAIR-NY

As America's premier Muslim civil rights organization, the Council on American-Islamic Relations has worked for more than 25 years to empower American Muslims. The New York chapter is one of the busiest and most dynamic of CAIR's nationwide affiliates, defending, representing, and educating nearly one million Muslims in the New York area.

## Our Vision

CAIR-NY's vision is to be a leading advocate for justice and mutual understanding.

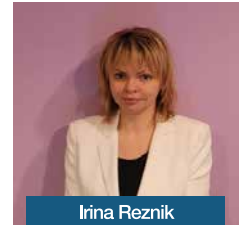
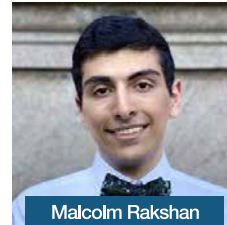
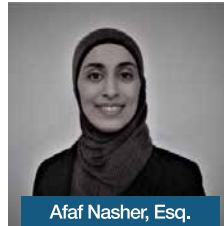
## Our Mission

CAIR-NY's mission is to enhance understanding of Islam, protect civil rights, promote justice, and empower American Muslims.

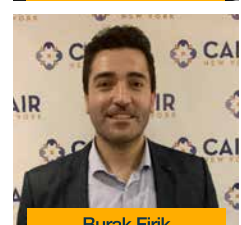
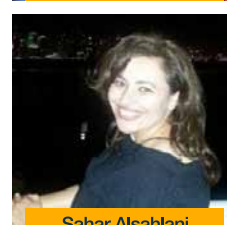
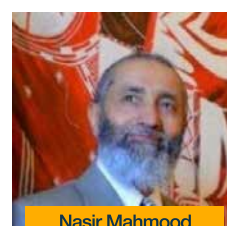
## Our Services

CAIR-NY serves Muslim New Yorkers through legal advocacy, education, media relations, civic engagement, and grassroots mobilization. As a first line of defense, CAIR-NY protects New Yorkers who have experienced discrimination, harassment, hate crimes, and more. We combat Islamophobia and systemic discrimination in all its forms.

## Staff



## Board of Directors





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