

ABOUT CAIR-OHIO

CAIR-Ohio, founded in 1998, is a civil rights and advocacy organization empowering Ohio Muslims. CAIR-Ohio is one of 35 chapters of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) and has offices in Columbus, Cincinnati, and Cleveland. This report does not cover the activities conducted by the Cleveland office of CAIR-Ohio.







VISION & MISSION

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

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

Through legal representation, education, media relations, and advocacy, we empower the American Muslim community and encourage participation in political and social activism. We counsel, mediate, and advocate on behalf of Muslims and others who have experienced discrimination, harassment, or hate crimes. Our lawyers work to protect and defend the constitutional rights of American Muslims, thereby supporting the rights of all Americans.

A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dearest community members,

As we reflect on the impact of our work in 2021, I want to express my sincerest gratitude for your support over the past year. Our efforts to protect civil rights and empower Ohio Muslims is only possible because of you. I am so proud of what we have accomplished, and I hope you will take this opportunity with us to appreciate our achievements as a community.

Over the past year, our legal team has taken on family reunification, hate crimes, and employment discrimination among so many other critical issues. The CAIR-Ohio team was also joined by the Ohio Muslim community in a monumental grassroots advocacy and legal battle for voter equity through redistricting. Furthermore, we had the pleasure of hosting a talented cohort of Muslim students through our youth empowerment programming to bolster their personal, academic, and professional success. While they took new skills, tools, and knowledge back to their schools and communities, our team also learned quite a bit from these young leaders. Their bright futures bring hope to our community.

These are just a few of the many initiatives we accomplished in 2021 with your support. But this past year was not without its hardships. Recovering from a pandemic, uncovering an attack from an anti-Muslim hate group, and losing a beloved Ohio imam transformed our organization. Because of these challenges, our team has redoubled its efforts to empower Muslim institutions, combat Islamophobia, seek justice, and build community power.

We will continue this work until every American Muslim can work, learn, live, and practice their faith free from surveillance, discrimination, harassment, and retaliation. I encourage you to reflect on the meaningful change we achieved together as a community, overviewed in this Annual Report. You can also visit our website www.cair-ohio.com for more information. We look forward to continuing to uplift and protect our community in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Amina Barhumi

Acting Executive Director

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OUR FRAMEWORK

LEGAL

Our legal team provides free legal services to Ohio Muslims facing religious discrimination and Islamophobia.

ADVOCACY

We engage in non-partisan lobbying and advocacy to complement our legal work and empower Ohio Muslims.

MEDIA

We issue press releases and appear on local and national media outlets to amplify the concerns of Ohio Muslims and educate the broader public.

YOUTH

We empower young people through leadership training experiences, internships, volunteer opportunities, and professional development programs.

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

We provide educational material and training on civic engagement, civil rights, and inclusion. We partner with advocacy and faith-based organizations to empower all marginalized people.







2021 IMPACT IN NUMBERS



66,240 DIGITAL RÉSOURCE REACH

60+

TRAININGS, & EDUCATIONAL **SESSIONS**

MASAJID PARTNERS



11,231 **DIGITAL COMMUNIT**

MEMBERS









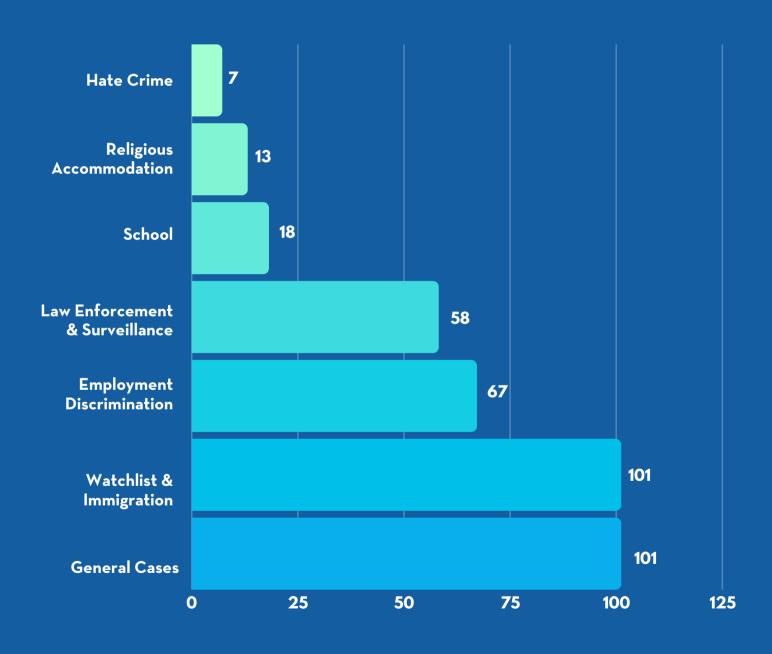


CIVIL RIGHTS GINES



LEGAL REQUESTS

As the Ohio Muslim community grows, so does our community's need for legal help. While our attorneys specialize in combating Islamophobia and religious discrimination, we also help Ohio Muslims find the resources they need for a variety of legal issues. On average, we receive one legal request a day.



TOTAL: 365 LEGAL REQUESTS

LEGAL TEAM SUMMARY

CAIR-Ohio's Legal Team is committed to defending our community's rights and ensuring fair and just treatment for all. We provide free legal services to Ohio Muslims facing religious discrimination and Islamophobia.

22

RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION COMPLAINTS FILED

20 IMMIGRATION CASES HANDLED

INDIVIDUALS REACHED OUT FOR HELP THROUGH SECOND CHANCES CLINIC, AN EXPUNGEMENT PROJECT

FAMILIES REUNITED AFTER UNJUST VISA DELAYS

NEW ATTORNEY HIRED

2 SUMMER LEGAL FELLOWS

LEGAL FELLOWS PROGRAM

Through CAIR-Ohio's Legal Fellows Program, law students engage in important civil rights work while honing their legal skills.

Our fellows conduct legal research, draft complaints, and engage with clients under the supervision of our attorneys. Our fellows gain invaluable experience with federal litigation and community empowerment.





NOUHA EZOUHRI

University of Iowa College of Law

Nouha's work at CAIR-Ohio included research on Muslim students' rights on campus and writing drafts for federal litigation. Nouha also provided clients with record sealing assistance through our Second Chances Clinic.



SARAA EL-ASSIR

University of Toledo College of Law

During Saraa's summer as a CAIR-Ohio Legal Fellow, she drafted a mandamus complaint which was eventually filed in DC's District Court. Our mandamus work assists families who are separated due to unexplained visa delays or undue administrative processing times.



ORGANIZATIONAL EMPOWERMENT

As the Muslim community in Ohio grows, so does the need for community institutions. We are proud to provide legal services and support to Muslim organizations.

The Ohio Muslim community gives back in the most meaningful ways through religious, educational, and charitable programs established by community leaders. CAIR-Ohio helped institutionalize many worthy causes in the past year. For example, our team helped incorporate and file 501(c)(3) applications for organizations run by and for the Ohio Muslim community.



HILLIARD

Hilliard Islamic Society

A recently instituted organization established to provide additional congregational prayer services for Hilliard community members.



MASON

Islamic Center of Mason Learning Academy

An educational organization that provides Islamic, Arabic, and Qur'anic studies, college preparatory courses, and after-school tutoring for the community.





DAYTON

The Little Hearts School House Mentoring & Community Services

A charitable organization established to provide youth with free educational and career development mentoring services as well as assistance with food, clothing, furniture, and household goods for community members in need.



COLUMBUS

International Cultural & Relief Association

An organization dedicated to refugee assistance and youth mentoring through fundraisers which highlight cultural diversity within the community.

MUSLIM STUDENT EMPOWERMENT

CAIR-Ohio empowers American Muslim students with the necessary skills to positively impact their communities.







OUR 6-WEEK SUMMER INTENSIVE

CAIR-Ohio's six-week Summer Internship Development Program gives a cohort of undergraduate students the opportunity to work on organizational projects both independently and collaboratively. They gain important skills, community connections, and work experience to help advance their future academic and professional endeavors. The program includes an educational curriculum focused on communication skills, advocacy, media relations, legal work, and nonprofit management.

12 SUMMER INTERNS

10+ TRAININGS

INTERNSHIP PROJECTS

- 2021 Election Resources and Get Out The Vote Efforts
- Education Resources
- Prayer Accommodation Resources
- Second Chances Clinic
- Redistricting Work
- Policy Research
- Nonprofit Management Work

19
TOTAL
INTERNS
FOR 2021



OUR YEAR-ROUND INTERNSHIPS

College students intern with CAIR-Ohio in our Columbus and Cincinnati offices throughout the fall and spring semesters. In 2021, a total of 19 students worked with staff on outreach and government affairs; legal; and operations projects.

4 GUEST SPEAKERS

8 FALL & SPRING INTERNS

INTERN TESTIMONIALS



BILAN YAKOUB COLUMBUS

2021 Summer Internship Development Program

Interning at CAIR-Ohio, I have been given opportunities that I would not have been offered elsewhere. I have gained so much knowledge on a variety of different subject areas ranging from legal work to advocacy. I am grateful to have worked closely with other intelligent interns. I am also grateful to have had thought-provoking conversations with them every day.



ALSEDEAQ HAWAMDEH TOLEDO

2021 Fall Semester Internship

My time interning at CAIR-Ohio has equipped me with skills in grassroots organizing that I apply in and out of the office. Collaborating on different projects including a Voter Guide and Second Chances Clinic, with peer interns and staff in the office, has helped me realize the importance of community outreach as a tool for advocating for disenfranchised people. CAIR-Ohio staff has helped me to see the importance of this work. I am inspired, because of them, to continue working and striving to spread love and understanding through grassroots organizing.



SOHAIL SAJJAD CINCINNATI

2021 Fall Semester Internship

I had the privilege of working and collaborating with many different people, on a myriad of different issues ranging from voter education to Black History Month awareness. Interning at CAIR-Ohio really opened my eyes to what seems like never-ending, insurmountable woes that disenfranchised citizens face. It solidified the worrisome notion that the sort of work CAIR-Ohio is doing—the outreach, the advocacy, and outspoken work to combat the unjust status quo—is work that everyone needs to be doing. There are simply too many people that need help. That is the main reason I wanted to intern for CAIR-Ohio. Far too much suffering and injustice are occurring in the world, and no one is helping; CAIR-Ohio gave me a chance to make a meaningful, positive impact.

COMMUNITY WAY S*

CAIR-Ohio bestows Community Empowerment Awards to individuals who have helped strengthen their local community and masajid.







DR. SONDOS AL SAD
Healthcare Equity & Education
DR. SALMAN ASHRAF
Community Leadership
DR. AYAZ HYDER
COVID-19 Response







DR. IBRAHIM AMIDOU
Economic Empowerment
DR. ARIF BAIG
Community Leadership
SAMIRA JAWEED
Social Services







ANGIE PLUMMER
Refugee Empowerment
ARWA SALEH
Youth Education
ANILA ZINDANI
Youth Education







TAHA KHANZADA
Community Service
SARAH SYED
Youth Empowerment
AMINA WASE
Civic Engagement





GOTV WORK

CAIR-Ohio worked to ensure that our community members made their voices heard on Election Day through Get Out the Vote and voter education efforts.

Participated in National Muslim Voter Registration Day at Islamic Center of Greater Cincinnati

Hosted 2 phone banking events to mobilize Muslim voters in Columbus and Cincinnati

- 1,300+ calls
- 150 meaningful conversations

Hosted a Meet the Candidates event at Islamic Society of Greater Dayton

Published Voter Education Guides

- 2021 Voter Guide
- Voting this Election in 2021
- Know Your Rights at the Polls













REDISTRICTING CAMPAIGN

CAIR-Ohio has worked to ensure Ohio Muslim voters are not left out, split up, or ignored as the state draws new voting districts.

Through community education and advocacy efforts, CAIR-Ohio has pushed for fair maps that protect minority voting power. We also joined a lawsuit against the Ohio Redistricting Commission after it passed unconstitutional state legislative districts.



In 2021, CAIR-Ohio

- launched Redistricting Resources webpage
- hosted community education workshops
- convened a Redistricting Mobilization Group for rapid response updates & action
- provided non-partisan advocacy training & opportunities







redistricting education and community mapping workshops in Columbus, Cincinnati, and Dayton

100+ community maps submitted to the Ohio Citizens' Redistricting Commission

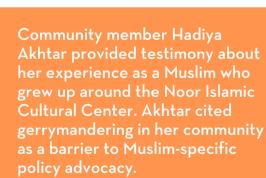


CAIR-Ohio has been working across the state as a proud member of the Ohio Citizens' Redistricting Commission, Equal Districts Coalition, and the Equal Districts-Grassroots Mobilization Subcommittee.















In 2021, CAIR-Ohio

- spoke to communities at Fair Maps Town Halls (as part of Equal Districts Coalition) in Cincinnati, Dayton, and Columbus
- facilitated verbal testimony and submitted written testimony (on behalf of both CAIR-Ohio and individual community members) to the Ohio Redistricting Commission

CAIR-Ohio Sued Ohio Redistricting Commission Over Unconstitutional Maps









The Brennan Center for Justice at NYU Law and the law firm Reed Smith filed the suit on behalf of CAIR-Ohio and other plaintiffs.

ne Court of Ohio Clerk of Court - Filed September 27, 2021 - Case No. 2021-1210



DIGITAL ADVOCACY

Through online action alerts, we prompted advocates to voice their concerns to local, state, and federal officials.

ACTION ALERTS

13,440 **SUBMISSIONS**

34,916
LETTERS SENT

Stop Anti-Muslim Training in Ohio Schools

Tell Congress to Pressure State Dept. to End Forced Expulsions and Violence Against Palestinians

Urge President Biden to Call for Immediate Ceasefire, End to Gaza Bombardment

Protect the Right to Wear Hijab in School Sports

Urge Congress and President Biden to Evacuate Afghans, Deliver Humanitarian Assistance

Muslim Healthcare Professionals: Oppose Legislation that Undermines Vaccination Efforts

Protect Our Democracy; Push the Senate to Support the Freedom to Vote Act







COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA LIGHT GIT STATE TICTS OHIO DEMANDS ⊋QUAL STRICTS

EQUAL. DISTRICTS

Drawing Our Future

PRESS CONFERENCES

CAIR-Ohio leverages the power of media to protect the civil rights of Ohio Muslims, amplify community voices, and advocate for important issues.

Hosted two press conferences in Cincinnati and Columbus to respond to humanitarian crisis in Gaza

Conferences to demand a fair and transparent redistricting process

Joined Common Cause Ohio at Senator Portman's office in support of the Freedom to Vote Act

Hosted a press conference to seek justice for Uber driver in Cincinnati who was a victim of a hate crime

Joined Equal Districts Coalition Press







IN THE NEWS

Winterman was still at large on Tuesday when the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) held a news conference to discuss Ahmat's story. CAIR spokesperson Whitney Siddigi said that since Winterman had complained about Ahmat to Uber, the driver's account with the company had been suspended.

CAIR shared a WKRC-TV report on the story on its YouTube channel. The story contains portions of the video recorded by Ahmat of Winterman.



9/11: 20 YEARS LATER

20 years later, Muslim-Americans still feeling same discrimination as days following 9/11

From 2016-2020, 60 percent of Muslims reported feelings of discrimination, Hundreds more have sought out The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-Ohio) this year alone

As one of the largest Muslim civil rights groups in the state, CAIR is working to break those

"Micro-aggressions occur on a daily basis, depending on where you live and where you are." Dahbour said. "People will ask you questions about how safe it is to visit your family, assuming the re Middle Fast is a war zone. They just make assumptions and I'm asked these thing



The Columbus Dispatch

Columbus area residents, families feel tension from unrest in Gaza

Dean Narciso The Columbus Dispatch

View Comments

The escalating missile strikes between

Israel and Hamas have killed more than 200, injured more than 1,000 and displaced many more - most of them within the narrow strip of Palestinian territory known as Gaza.

The destruction and misery are being felt by those who have strong ties on both sides of the conflict, including many families in central Ohio

Among the local residents with links to Gaza who spoke during a Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) news conference Tuesday was Afnan Isleem Algharabli, 28, a stay-at-home mom of a 4-month-old daughter. She expressed exhaustion and frustration at not knowing when and where the next bombs would fall and at the human toll of the conflict.



"You can talk politics all day long and armies all day long, but what about these kids? Do they deserve this?" said



MOVING FORWARD

cair-ohio.com/movingforward

VIEW FULL TIMELINE OF EVENTS ON OUR WEBSITE

In December of 2021, CAIR-Ohio terminated its Executive Director Romin Iqbal after learning our organization was targeted by an anti-Muslim hate group. We were humbled by the outpouring messages of support from across the state and nation.

As part of our renewed efforts to fight Islamophobia and protect our staff and community, we are moving forward with key guiding principles and priorities outlined on this page.

PROTECTING OUR TEAM, COMMUNITY, & MISSION

ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES

Department of Justice Investigation Request

CAIR, on behalf of every CAIR chapter and along with 80+ other Muslim organizations, has requested the Department of Justice investigate The Investigative Project on Terrorism (IPT), an anti-Muslim hate group, for systemic surveillance and targeting of the American Muslim community.

Legal Action

Both CAIR and CAIR-Ohio are considering legal action and all options remain on the table.

Local Law Enforcement Investigation

CAIR-Ohio reported the AR-15 package mailed to its Columbus office and unauthorized purchases from weapons and ammunition retailers to law enforcement. Local law enforcement is investigating.

CONTINUITY MEASURES OF PROGRAMS & SERVICES

An Act of Resistance & Resilience

While the goal of IPT's spying was to derail our work, we are proud that our programs and services never stopped as we responded to this situation. This surveillance is meant to create fear and distrust in our communities – yet we have banded together stronger than ever as American Muslims demanding our right to practice our faith and continue our work free from intimidation.

Renewed Commitment

Despite these attempts to harm us and undermine our critical work to protect civil rights and fight Islamophobia, we remain undeterred. Our staff and community have demonstrated incredible resolve in the face of hate. And we are more committed than ever to our mission.



SAFETY, WELLNESS, & SECURITY MEASURES

Surveillance & Privacy

Through a variety of security measures, CAIR-Ohio has ensured that our office spaces are safe and not under external surveillance.

Cyber & Physical Security

Additional steps have been taken to improve cyber and physical security. The third-party forensics expert who investigated Mr. Iqbal's spying confirmed there was no breach in our system and what happened was behavioral. However, we will continue to improve and prioritize the security of our work.

Staff & Community Wellbeing

CAIR-Ohio has hosted community meetings, a Community Healing Circle, staff retreats, and enlisted the help of a nationally renowned Muslim mental health organization to facilitate processing and healing for both staff and community members.

OUR PRIORITIES MOVING FORWARD

Our dedicated team has a renewed commitment to our mission: to protect and defend the civil rights of Ohio Muslims. And we are moving forward with several guiding principles.

1 Our community comes first, always.

We value transparency & accountability.

We will never be intimidated from practicing our faith or doing our work. Nothing can harm us except with the will of Allah SWT.

In addition to continuing the fight against Islamophobia and the likes of IPT, much of our work for 2022 is centered around the following:

Strengthening Our Organizational Infrastructure

As we continue strengthening our organizational infrastructure in areas of security, training, and policies, our goal is to ensure all Muslim institutions in the state have what they need to be safe and protected from these malicious Islamophobic attacks.

Establishing & Improving Partnerships

We are focused on strengthening and creating new relationships and coalitions with masajid in Central and Southwest Ohio, as well as partners working toward social justice, equity, and civic power.

Building & Elevating Community Power

Through advocacy, civic engagement, identifying and addressing key issues, and uplifting community activism, CAIR-Ohio is working for and alongside the Ohio Muslim community toward collective empowerment.

Prioritizing Multiply Marginalized Muslim Communities

All Muslims face Islamophobia, but Muslims who also identify as part of additional groups that are frequently marginalized face compounded systems of oppression. CAIR-Ohio is specifically prioritizing its relationships and work with the Somali Muslim community and other Black Muslim communities. This includes working toward improved representation within CAIR-Ohio staff, intern, and board member roles.

MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR ISLAMOPHOBIA NETWORK

Mr. Iqbal was a small tool in a larger \$105 million Islamophobia Network

spreading hate, fear, and misinformation across the United States.



- Politicians
- Think tanks
- Academics
- Religious groups
- Activists

Extreme anti-Muslim hate



Distort Islam and Muslims for monetary and political gain



Negatively influence public opinion and government policy about Muslims and Islam

Our fight against Islamophobia is not new. And our work to protect and empower the community frightens anti-Muslim hate groups. While recent events are alarming, it is evidence that our work is crucial and necessary.



RECOGNITION

We would like to acknowledge all government offices that have submitted proclamations in recognition of our work.



Senator Sherrod Brown

Ohio Senate Democratic Caucus

Mayor John Cranley of Cincinnati

Senator Steve Wilson

Montgomery County Board of Commissioners

Mayor Nan Whaley of Dayton

Warren County Board of Commissioners

Hamilton County Board of Commissioners

Representative Joyce Beatty

Representative Troy Balderson

Franklin County Board of Commissioners

Mayor Andrew Ginther of Columbus

Columbus City Council

Hilliard City Council

"Through outreach, activism, and education, CAIR has championed civil rights for Muslims, ensuring the community is civically engaged through action alerts, voter registration drives, and workshops." — Rep. Joyce Beatty

"Your efforts demonstrate how we fight hate, misinformation, and fearmongering — through service, through education, through understanding, and also through celebration." — Senator Sherrod Brown

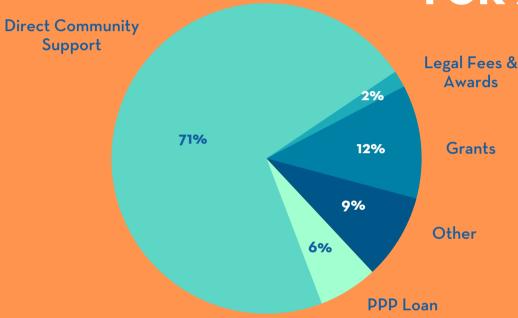


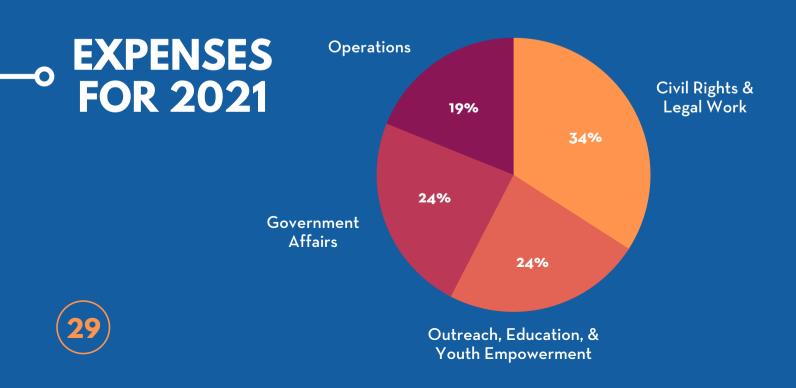
"CAIR-Ohio works tirelessly to empower American Muslims. I am confident that CAIR-Ohio's work has changed countless lives, helping give the Muslim community of Central Ohio a voice." — Rep. Troy Balderson

"The council's unwavering dedication to enhancing the understanding of Islam, encouraging dialogue, protecting civil liberties, empowering American Muslims, and building coalitions that promote justice and mutual understanding has proved the organization a vital part of Ohio's cultural and societal fabric." — Ohio Senate Democratic Caucus

FINANCIAL SUMMARY







Acting Executive
Director
Amina Barhumi



Legal Director Lina Abbaoui, Esq.



Outreach & Government Affairs Director Whitney Siddiqi



Operations Director Monuza Ashraf



Staff Attorney Maryam Abidi, Esq.



Staff AttorneyTala Dahbour, Esq.



Outreach Coordinator Victoria Hickcox



Creative Designer Fadila Gitosuputro



Operations Coordinator Sarah Mazouz

