

ANNUAL REPORT



2025



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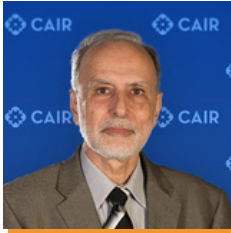
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A Letter from the Executive Director and the Board of Directors

Dear CAIR Family,

As we close out 2025, we find ourselves reflecting on **a year that tested our resolve like never before**. The attacks on our community intensified. Anti-Muslim rhetoric reached new heights. Attempts to silence Palestinian voices and criminalize anti-genocide advocacy escalated across the country.

But here's what our opponents didn't count on: **you**. **Your unwavering support, your courage to speak out, and your commitment to justice made 2025 a year of unprecedented victories.**

Last year, we stopped the so-called "**Nonprofit Killer Bill**" that threatened to destroy organizations nationwide. We filed **landmark lawsuits** that put institutions on notice: **silencing Muslim voices will be met with fierce legal resistance**. We documented shifting patterns of discrimination, proving that Muslims are increasingly targeted not just for who they are, *but for their principled stand against genocide and apartheid*. We secured visas for Moroccan-American adoptive families after nine months of bureaucratic roadblocks. And along with USCMO, we helped mobilize **750 delegates across 27 states** to make our voices heard on Capitol Hill.

Each of these victories represents something larger than a single policy win or legal settlement. They represent a movement that refuses to be intimidated. They represent communities that know their rights and demand accountability. They represent *a future where Muslim Americans can practice their faith freely, speak truth to power without fear, and build institutions that serve generations to come.*

The challenges ahead are real. **But so is our power when we stand together.**

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you. **It is your support that makes these victories possible.**

With deep gratitude,

The Board at CAIR



Manal Fakhoury

Dr. Manal Fakhoury
CAIR National
Board Chair



Nihad Awad

Nihad Awad
CAIR National
Executive Director

YOUR VOICE PROTECTED BY CAIR





The Fight to Stop The "Nonprofit Killer Bill"

We led a nationwide coalition to stop government overreach and protect civil society

The threat emerged quietly at first, buried in legislative language that seemed technical and procedural. **H.R. 9495, dubbed the "Nonprofit Killer Bill,"** would have granted the Treasury Secretary unprecedented power to designate any nonprofit organization as a "terrorist supporting organization" and **strip its tax-exempt status without due process.**

The implications were chilling. Any administration could weaponize this authority to destroy organizations it disagreed with. Muslim charities, advocacy groups, civil rights organizations, and more could find themselves labeled, defunded, and destroyed.

CAIR's Government Affairs Department recognized the **existential threat immediately.** If this bill passed, it would fundamentally alter the relationship between government and civil society, giving officials the power to silence dissent by simply cutting off the funding that keeps organizations alive.

The fight required building a coalition that transcended traditional political divides. CAIR worked with the ACLU, Amnesty International, reproductive rights organizations, environmental groups, and faith-based coalitions. The message was clear and urgent: *if they can do this to Muslim organizations today, they can do it to any organization tomorrow.* **Civil liberties are indivisible.**



The mobilization was massive. CAIR's Government Affairs Department generated more than **22,000 supporters** who sent over **66,000 messages to Congress** across two critical moments in the legislative battle. Congressional offices were flooded with calls, emails, and in-person visits. Lawmakers who might have overlooked the bill's dangers suddenly faced constituents demanding they vote no.

The advocacy extended beyond grassroots mobilization. CAIR coordinated congressional engagement, providing detailed policy analysis that exposed the constitutional violations embedded in the bill. We applied pressure through IRS-facing advocacy, highlighting how the proposal would force the agency into an enforcement role it wasn't equipped to handle fairly. We organized press conferences, op-eds, and media appearances that kept the issue in the public eye.

Even when proponents of the bill tried to sneak the measure into must-pass legislation, a common tactic for controversial proposals, we held firm. The sustained pressure had created an environment where supporting the bill became politically toxic. Lawmakers who might have quietly voted yes found themselves facing organized constituents who understood exactly what was at stake.

The bill failed. And with our resounding win, we instantly protected thousands of nonprofit organizations nationwide from government overreach.

In 2025, we proved that CAIR's Government Affairs Department had evolved into **one of the most effective policy advocacy operations in the country**, capable of mobilizing diverse coalitions, generating massive constituent engagement, and defeating legislative threats that endanger not just Muslim communities but **American democracy itself.**

Your unwavering support is crucial to ensuring that we have the resources to lead these battles, and the talent to win them.

WHAT WAS AT STAKE

- No due process
- Executive overreach
- Criminalization of dissent
- Weaponization of federal agencies



How We Stopped It



22,000+

Supporters Mobilized



2

Critical Legislative Moments



66,000+

Messages Sent to Congress



22,000+

Nationwide Coalition Activated

PROTECTING THE FREEDOMS THAT LET YOU SPEAK



AMERICAN MUSLIMS
REFUSE TO BE
SECOND CLASS
CITIZENS
CAIR

LIBERTY
AND
JUSTICE
FOR ALL. RIGHT?
CAIR

SCOTUS,
PLEASE REMIND THE
FBI
ABOUT THE CONSTITUTION
CAIR

AMERICAN MUSLIMS
REFUSE TO BE
SECOND CLASS
CITIZENS
CAIR

We Defended Free Speech

CAIR filed landmark lawsuits defending civil rights amid rising repression



Throughout 2025, as attacks on pro-Palestinian advocacy intensified and efforts to silence Muslim voices escalated, many organizations adopted defensive postures. **CAIR did the opposite.** The Legal Defense Department launched an **unprecedented wave of offensive litigation**, filing lawsuit after lawsuit that sent an unmistakable message: constitutional violations will be met with aggressive legal action.

The scale and coordination of this litigation campaign was historic. We identified patterns of systemic abuse and launched strategic legal challenges designed to **establish precedents**, shift institutional behavior, and protect entire categories of rights. From universities to corporations, from state governments to federal agencies, CAIR put institutions on notice that violating Muslim civil rights would result in costly, high-profile litigation.



The cases spanned the full spectrum of civil rights violations that emerged in 2025's hostile climate. Universities that compelled disclosure of student records in response to political pressure found themselves facing **First Amendment lawsuits**. Employers who retaliated against workers for pro-Palestinian advocacy were sued for **viewpoint discrimination**. Educators punished for their political speech received legal representation. Government officials who banned political expression faced constitutional challenges.

Each lawsuit was carefully crafted not just to vindicate individual rights but to **establish legal principles that would protect countless others**. Our strategy recognized a crucial reality: *in a climate of rising authoritarianism, defensive legal work is not enough*. Institutions needed to understand that targeting Muslims, silencing pro-Palestinian voices like Mahmoud Khalil and Sami Hamdi, or punishing anti-genocide advocacy would be *expensive, public, and legally perilous*.

The coordination across cases also created powerful synergies. When universities saw peers facing litigation for compelled disclosure of student information, they reconsidered their own policies. When employers watched discrimination cases unfold publicly, they thought twice before retaliating against employees. While this deterrent effect was not always immediately visible, **it had real-world impact**.

That impact was made concrete through **decisive legal victories** that directly expanded free speech protections. In the case of Mahmoud Khalil and his fellow students at Columbia University, we filed for a **temporary restraining order** protecting those students from unconstitutional government overreach. We directly challenged federal agencies and congressional committees attempting to force Columbia to hand over private student disciplinary records in retaliation for pro-Palestinian activism. By expanding the lawsuit to include federal defendants and securing court intervention to block the university from complying with these demands, CAIR defended not just these students' privacy, but **established a crucial precedent** that the government cannot weaponize student records to punish political speech.

In **one landmark case**, CAIR secured a **federal injunction** requiring the University of Missouri to allow Mizzou Students for Justice in Palestine to participate in the University's 2025 Homecoming Parade. The court rejected the university's attempt to exclude the group based on speculative security concerns tied to events at other campuses and ruled that the exclusion constituted **unlawful viewpoint discrimination**. The decision reaffirmed that universities may not silence student groups because of their political views

and established a clear precedent protecting pro-Palestinian student expression nationwide.

CAIR also achieved a **historic victory** alongside Palestine Legal on behalf of University of Maryland Students for Justice in Palestine, resulting in a **\$100,000 settlement** after the university unconstitutionally banned a student-led interfaith vigil for Gaza. **One of the highest financial penalties ever imposed** on a U.S. university for violating students' free speech rights, the settlement underscored that institutions cannot suppress protected expression by yielding to political pressure or threats. The agreement required the university to publicly recognize the student organization as being in good standing, reinforcing both accountability and long-term institutional change.

The cases addressed **the defining civil rights crisis of 2025**: the weaponization of institutional power against pro-Palestinian advocacy and Muslim political expression. In a year when many communities felt besieged, CAIR's Legal Defense Department demonstrated that aggressive, strategic litigation could shift power dynamics and establish real accountability.

Your dedicated support is what empowers us to defend free speech for us all.



PROTECTING THE FREEDOMS THAT LET YOU LIVE WITH DIGNITY



We Exposed the Shift in Anti-Muslim Discrimination

CAIR's flagship civil rights report revealed how discrimination has evolved to punish anti-genocide advocacy

Every year, CAIR's Research and Advocacy Department publishes its comprehensive civil rights report documenting complaints, tracking trends, and analyzing the state of Muslim civil rights in America. The 2025 report, titled *"The Right to be Different"*, revealed a major challenge: **institutional behavior, not just individual incidents, became the biggest vehicle of oppression** against Muslim civil rights.

Overall, the research documented a **record high 8,683 complaints nationwide in 2025**, providing granular data on where, how, and why discrimination occurred. But complaint totals alone didn't capture the significance of 2025, when many developments operated at a systemic level and affected entire populations rather than producing isolated, reportable incidents.

Our research documented how political actors and institutions worked to **redefine the boundaries of protected religious and civic participation** in 2025. We found coordinated efforts advancing the idea that Muslim religious identity and political speech about Israel and Palestine position people outside the normal protections of religious liberty and equal citizenship. As a result, **2025 became a climate in which Muslim civic participation carried heightened risk not seen since 9/11.**

Additionally, for the **second year in a row, employment discrimination was the top incident category in 2025**, surpassing hate crimes, government overreach, and other traditional forms of bias. While in 2024, we found Muslims targeted alongside Palestinians, Arabs, Jews, African Americans, Asian Americans and others for their anti-genocide and anti-apartheid viewpoints, 2025 brought a focus on **anti-Muslim narratives**. In particular, the notion that Islamic religious principles are inherently threatening and anti-American became a source of workplace discrimination, targeting the livelihoods of Muslims.

On the state level, the Research and Advocacy Department closely documented how Governors Abbott and DeSantis weaponized state power and taxpayer funds to paint Muslims as uniquely suspicious. In Texas and Florida, these officials claimed they had banned or planned to ban Islam, using "sharia" as a code word. Abbott's actions included targeting an Islamic center, a proposed mosque-centered development, Muslim burial practices, Islamic mediation services, Islamic schools, and **CAIR itself**.



Beyond state-level attacks, our research exposed that **five bills aimed at banning Islam from the United States** were introduced in Congress by high-ranking federal officials.

Federal officials also applied **collective suspicion** to Afghans, Somalis, and Syrians rather than relying on individualized assessments, fundamentally undermining American legal principles that hold individuals, not groups, responsible for their actions.

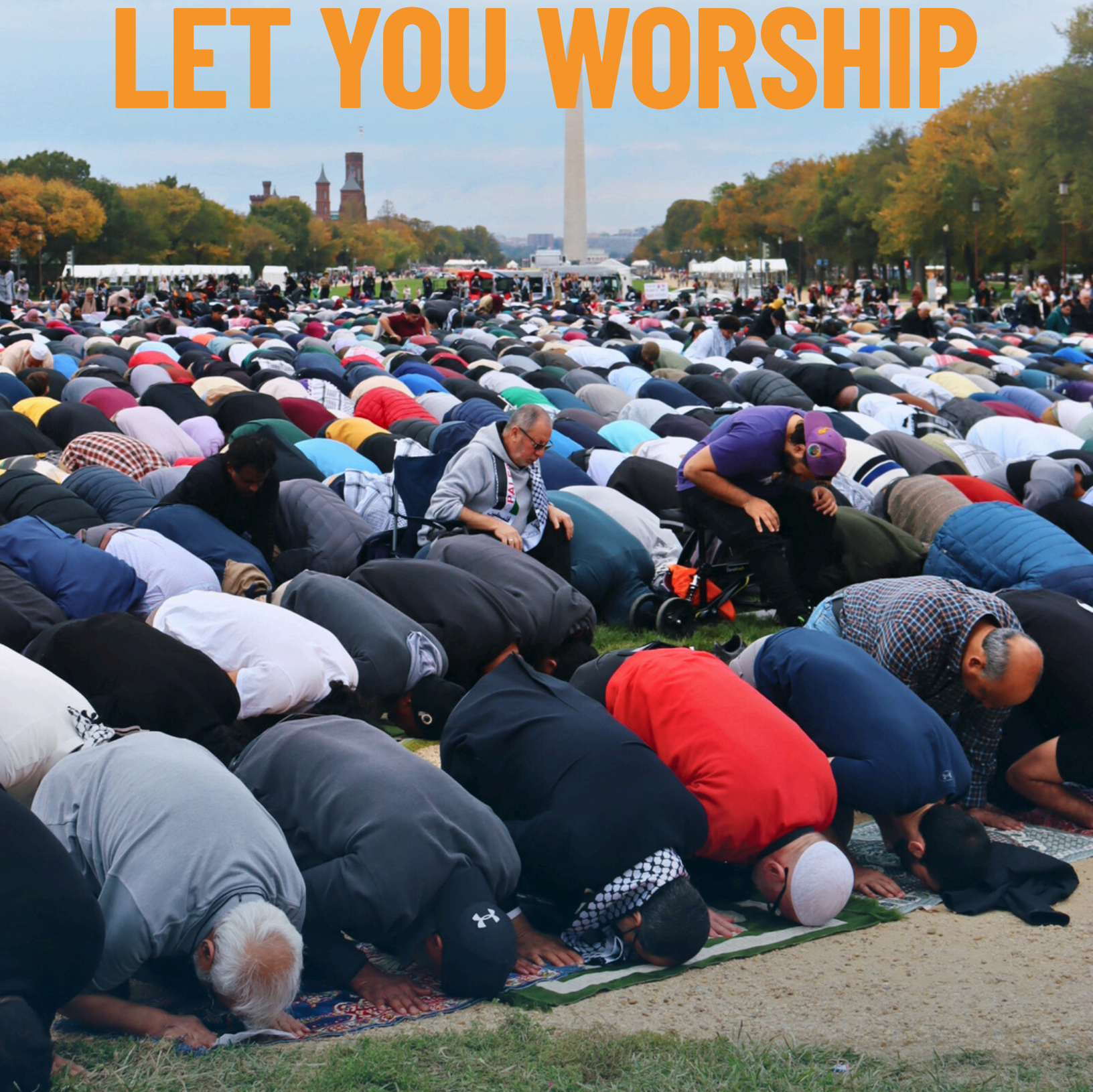
Even as Islamophobia has spiked in 2025, voters in New York City selected Zohran Mamdani as their mayor and voters in Virginia selected Ghazala Hashmi as their lieutenant governor. Overall, CAIR tracked **38 victories of Muslim candidates**, proving that Muslims are securing their place in our government.

The Research and Advocacy Department's work in 2025 **reinforced CAIR's position as the leading authority on anti-Muslim bias in America**. When media covered discrimination stories, they cited CAIR data. When policymakers considered civil rights legislation, they referenced CAIR research. When courts evaluated discrimination claims, **our documentation provided crucial context**.

CAIR's Research and Advocacy Department transforms data into power. Your continued support funds the rigorous work we do to collect, analyze, and *weaponize our findings* in defense of Muslim civil rights and constitutional protections for all Americans.



PROTECTING THE FREEDOMS THAT LET YOU WORSHIP



We United Children With Their Families

CAIR secured visas for adopted Muslim children after exposing anti-Sharia bias



For **nine agonizing months**, over a dozen Muslim American families lived in limbo. They had completed adoptions of Moroccan children through legal processes. They had met every requirement. *They had done everything right.* But their children's visas remained inexplicably stalled at the U.S. State Department, leaving families separated and children stranded.

The families didn't understand what was happening. Adoption cases that should have been straightforward were dragging on with no explanation. Communication from consular officials was evasive. Timelines kept extending with no clarity about what was causing the delays.

CAIR's investigation uncovered something disturbing: the visa delays weren't bureaucratic inefficiency; they were **driven by anti-Sharia bias** within the State Department. Muslim American families were being held to different standards, their adoptions subject to extra scrutiny and delays that non-Muslim families never faced.

CAIR launched a **multi-front advocacy campaign**. We engaged directly with U.S. Senators and Representatives, providing detailed documentation of the discriminatory delays and demanding intervention.

The advocacy worked. CAIR secured visas for **over a dozen Moroccan children**, finally allowing Muslim American families to reunite with their adopted children. But CAIR didn't stop at securing the visas. We demanded **accountability** for the officials whose bias had caused these families so much pain. The advocacy resulted in **formal reprimands** for two U.S. State Department consular officials.



HOW CAIR RESPONDED

Investigation

- Identified anti-Sharia bias

Congressional Advocacy

- Senators and Representatives engaged

Agency Accountability

- State Department pressured to act

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These reprimands **established crucial precedent**, putting State Department personnel on notice that anti-Muslim bias in visa processing would face consequences.

The case highlighted *a form of discrimination that often goes unnoticed*: **bureaucratic bias** that operates through delays, extra scrutiny, and differential treatment rather than explicit denial.

For the families involved, **the impact was life-changing**. Children could finally come home. Parents could finally celebrate their adoptions.

**YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT
ALLOWS US TO MAKE SURE THAT
THESE KINDS OF INCIDENTS
CAN'T HAPPEN AGAIN.**

WHAT THIS MEANT FOR FAMILIES

Children finally came home.
Families could finally begin
their lives together.



FAITH IN ACTION





We Proved Our Strength

CAIR's 10th Annual National Muslim Advocacy Day brought the power of organized community to Congress

In a year marked by intensifying attacks on Muslim communities and escalating efforts to silence pro-Palestinian voices, CAIR's Government Affairs Department and USCMO organized **the most powerful demonstration of Muslim political engagement in our history**. The **10th Annual National Muslim Advocacy Day** brought **750 delegates from 27 states** to Capitol Hill for meetings with **more than 210 congressional offices**.

Nearly a thousand Muslims from across the country, diverse in ethnicity, age, profession, and regional background, converged on the nation's capital **united by commitment to civil rights and justice**. They represented the *full breadth of Muslim America*: doctors and teachers, students and retirees, immigrants and multi-generational Americans, activists and first-time advocates.

The mobilization required months of organizing. CAIR chapters across the country worked with USCMO to recruit delegates and provide training on **effective advocacy**. The delegates practiced answering difficult questions, responding to hostile assumptions, and *building relationships with congressional staff*.

The advocacy day itself was **a masterclass in grassroots power**. Delegates fanned out across Capitol Hill, meeting with Representatives and Senators from their home states and districts. They shared *personal stories of discrimination*, explained policy priorities, and made clear asks about legislation affecting Muslim communities. They reminded elected officials that **Muslim constituents are organized, engaged, and paying attention**.

The meetings addressed **the full range of issues affecting Muslim communities in 2025**: opposing the Nonprofit Killer Bill, defending pro-Palestinian speech, challenging surveillance overreach, protecting religious accommodation, and demanding accountability for hate crimes. Delegates connected these policy issues to real experiences, **putting human faces on abstract debates**.



Beyond the direct advocacy, the event built **community power in lasting ways**. Delegates returned to their home states energized, trained, and connected to a national network. They had experienced firsthand that **organized advocacy works**, that their voices matter, and that *they're part of a movement larger than any individual community*. Many became ongoing advocates, maintaining relationships with congressional offices and recruiting others for future advocacy.

The mobilization sent **clear messages to multiple audiences**. To Congress, it demonstrated that **Muslim communities are organized political forces that cannot be ignored**. To Muslim communities themselves, it showed **the power of collective action** and the importance of democratic engagement. To opponents of Muslim civil rights, it proved that efforts to marginalize and silence Muslim voices would be met with **organized, sustained resistance**.

The **750 delegates** who participated in **National Muslim Advocacy Day** embodied the future CAIR is building: **Muslim communities that are politically engaged, organizationally sophisticated, and unwilling to accept marginalization**. *With your support, we can continue to grow this grassroots movement and build lasting power.*



Advancing Muslim Civil Rights Through Collective Advocacy And Policy Leadership

Shaping the Policy Conversation and Preparing Leaders

Complementing this direct advocacy, **CAIR's National Policy and Leadership Conference on September 19** served as a **strategic space for reflection, alignment, and capacity-building**. Bringing together advocates, organizers, academics, and policymakers from across the country, the conference was designed *not merely as a convening, but as an intervention*, responding to a rapidly shifting political landscape with **clarity, solidarity, and shared purpose**.

Participants engaged in **rigorous discussions** that connected policy analysis with *on-the-ground organizing*, fostering a **shared understanding of the challenges facing Muslim communities and allied movements**. The conference emphasized collective strategy: *how to translate values into policy outcomes, how to build durable coalitions, and how to sustain leadership in moments of heightened pressure and opportunity*.

The impact of the conference lay in its **multiplier effect**. Attendees left equipped with **practical tools, strengthened networks, and renewed resolve** to lead within their respective spheres, *local, national, and academic*. By investing in **leadership development and strategic coherence**, CAIR helped ensure that advocacy efforts across the country are **informed, coordinated, and resilient**.

A Year of Strategic Impact

Together, these two major efforts defined **CAIR's 2025 approach to policy and advocacy**: pairing **direct engagement with power holders** with **intentional investment in community leadership and movement strategy**. **National Muslim Advocacy Day** translated grassroots concerns into congressional action, while the **Policy and Leadership Conference** ensured those efforts were sustained by **informed, connected, and prepared leaders**.

In a year marked by profound challenges to civil rights and global justice, **CAIR's work helped shift conversations, strengthen accountability, and advance a vision** in which Muslim communities are *not only defended, but empowered to shape the policies that affect their lives*.



STANDING FOR JUSTICE



2025 Statement of Financials

Contributions	\$ 11,282,895.56
Events	\$ 633,721.65
Affiliate Dues	\$ 689,296.35
Other Income	\$ 87,516.22
Investment Income, Net	\$ 183,414.02
Total Revenue	\$ 12,876,843.80
Program Expenses	\$ 5,764,340.34
G&A	\$ 1,613,371.85
Fundraising	\$ 1,928,319.6
Total Expenses	\$ 9,306,031.79
Change in Net Assets	\$ 3,570,812.01
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	\$ 6,661,057.00
Net Assets, End of Year	\$ 10,231,869.01

The numbers above are unaudited and are only those of CAIR's National Headquarters.

How You Can Help

CAIR is the nation's leading Muslim civil rights organization, defending constitutional freedoms and fighting discrimination for over 30 years. From Capitol Hill to courtrooms nationwide, CAIR stands as a shield protecting Muslim communities and the constitutional rights of all Americans.

Your Support Makes Victory Possible

Every lawsuit, every legislative victory, and every family reunited depends on supporters like you. Your donation funds the attorneys who challenge federal agencies, the advocates who mobilize thousands to Capitol Hill, and the researchers who expose discrimination. Whether you give **\$25 or \$2,500**, you strengthen our collective defense and expand our capacity to win.

Get Involved Beyond Giving

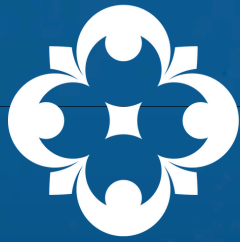
Besides your generous donations, there are more ways to get involved with CAIR. Volunteer with your local CAIR chapter for community events and advocacy campaigns, sign up for our Action Alerts, and follow us on social media to amplify our messages. Whether you have an hour a month or ten hours a week, **there's a place for you with CAIR.**

DONATE NOW AND BE PART OF THE MOVEMENT.



cair.com/donate





CAIR

The Council on American-Islamic Relations

NEED TO REPORT AN INCIDENT?

If you've experienced discrimination, harassment, or hate, CAIR's civil rights team is here to help.

Online: cair.com/report

Hotline: [202-742-6420](tel:202-742-6420)

Email: civilrights@cair.com

WAYS TO GIVE

Support CAIR's work defending civil rights and protecting our communities.

Donate Online



cair.com/donate

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CAIR Foundation
453 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20003

Other Ways to Give

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- Stock donations
- Vehicle donations
- Cryptocurrency
- Estate & planned giving

Learn more:

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