

Maya Berry is Executive Director of the Arab American Institute (AAI), a non-profit, nonpartisan, national civil rights advocacy organization founded to nurture and encourage direct participation in our political and civic life to mobilize a strong, educated, and empowered Arab American community. In 1996, she established AAI's first government relations department, which she led for five years before becoming Legislative Director for House Minority Whip David Bonior, where she managed the Congressman's legislative strategy and developed policies on international relations, human rights, immigration, civil rights and liberties, and trade. With a deep knowledge of public policy making, she has helped expand AAI's work on combatting hate crime, protecting the rights of securitized communities, and strengthening our democracy. Berry serves as the Co-Chair of the Hate Crime Task Force at the Leadership Conference for Civil and Human Rights, on the board of Public Citizen, and the Bayard Rustin Democracy Fellowship Program, a project of the Democracy Initiative.