



Council on American-Islamic Relations
Minnesota Chapter

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To be a leading
advocate for justice and
mutual understanding

www.cairmn.com



History

For more than 14 years, CAIR continues to serve American Muslims. CAIR has worked to promote an accurate image of Islam and Muslims in America. Through media relations, public education and advocacy, CAIR offers an Islamic perspective on issues of importance to our society. CAIR seeks to empower the American Muslim community and encourage positive social activism and political participation.

CAIR is America's largest Islamic civil liberties and advocacy group, and currently has 35 offices and chapters nationwide and in Canada.

Mission

Enhance the understanding of Islam, encourage dialogue, protect civil liberties, empower American Muslims, and build coalitions that promote justice and mutual understanding.



Encouraging Dialogue

Media: CAIR enhances understanding of Islam and Muslims by engaging with the media. CAIR representatives regularly appear on local, national and international print and broadcast media outlets. In addition CAIR produces print, radio and TV advertisements designed to correct misconceptions about Islam and Muslims.

Government Policy: CAIR advocates for justice in U.S. government policies, both domestic and foreign by engaging local, state and national officials and elected representatives on a variety of important policy questions.

Public Outreach: CAIR has initiated educational outreach campaigns as part of the "Explore" series including: "Explore Islamic Civilization and Culture," "Explore the Quran," and "Explore the Life of the Prophet Muhammad."

Empowering American Muslims

Leadership Trainings: CAIR helps produce the future leaders of the American Muslim community by training activists and imams on how to engage the media, run for elected offices and participate in civic activities.



Internships: CAIR works to secure the empowerment of future generations by offering students skills in advocacy work.

Pursuing Justice

Civil Rights: CAIR defends American Muslims who have experienced religious discrimination. We champion equal civil and constitutional rights for all Americans. CAIR is the only American organization that produces an annual report that documents the status of American Muslim civil liberties.

Enhancing Understanding of Islam

Surveys/Research: CAIR's research department conducts vital studies on the American Muslim community and policy issues: producing reports that contain data on American Muslims not found elsewhere.



Publications: CAIR produces handbooks for various professions that offer an accurate understanding of Islamic beliefs and general guidelines for interaction with Muslims. These publications are used in conjunction with diversity or sensitivity training workshops that are conducted at the local, state, and federal levels.

"I congratulate the Council on American-Islamic Relations on a successful year of encouraging dialogue, protecting civil liberties and building coalitions that promote justice and mutual understanding."
-Rep. Betty McCollum (D-MN)



CAIR-MN Report 2007-08 Highlights

CAIR-MN Resolves Workplace Bias Complaint.

CAIR-MN intervened on behalf of a Muslim woman who was initially denied a job at an Old Country Buffet restaurant in Fridley due to her religious headscarf. CAIR-MN worked with Buffets Inc and the woman was granted a second interview and eventually the job. CAIR-MN also met with the company to discuss its uniform regulations and arrange upcoming sensitivity trainings for regional managers.

"CAIR-MN's support to our community during this troubling time has been tremendous. Their visits and presence in our community was uplifting for us all." -St. Cloud Muslim

CAIR-MN Asks for an Investigation at a Middle School in Blaine after Three Muslim Girls Report Months of Verbal and Physical Harassment.

As a result of CAIR-MN's work, all students and staff at the school received sensitivity training; a Diversity Coordinator was hired for the school district; world religions were incorporated into the social studies curriculum; and systems were implemented for better communication between staff and students.

CAIR-MN Holds Prison Outreach Campaign. In order to make chaplains across the state aware of the month of Ramadan, CAIR-MN provided nine prisons in the state with Qurans, books, prayer rugs, "Correctional Guide to Islamic Practices," and presentations. CAIR-MN made individual contact with each chaplain to ensure that Muslim prisoners' needs were being met during Ramadan.

CAIR-MN Holds a Women's Forum in Minneapolis to Discuss Issues in the Workplace. The forum helped educate women on their rights in the workplace and assisted them with job related difficulties.

CAIR-MN Organizes Media Training. The training invited a few local organizations to learn about how to better interact with the media. The training was led by CAIR Communications Director Ibrahim Hooper.

CAIR-MN participates in the Somali Crime Victims Discussion in Minneapolis. The forum addressed victims' concerns on safety to city council, police, and other local leaders.

"I very much enjoyed the CAIR-MN banquet and I was touched by the warm reception extended to me by many of the attendees. The presentations later in the evening further sensitized me to the current concerns of Minnesota's substantial Muslim community. I passed those concerns along to my senior staff."
- Special Agent in Charge, FBI-Minneapolis.

CAIR-MN Holds Community Dinner at Masjid An Nur. The sold-out event, "African-American Muslims and the Civil Rights Movement" was an honest and open discussion on issues of civil rights. Speakers included Congressman Keith Ellison, NAACP-MN Presidents, and CAIR-MI's Executive Director Dawud Walid.

CAIR-MN Organizes Town Hall Focusing on Hate Crimes. CAIR-MN held the town hall to educate Blaine residents on issues of hate crime after a Muslim owned store was set on fire. Speakers included interfaith leaders, NAACP-MN President, FBI Special Agents, Blaine Police Lieutenants, Mayor of Blaine, and the Anoka County Attorney.

CAIR-MN Joins Minneapolis Civil Rights Advisory Committee. CAIR-MN was invited to join the board and offer government officials input on issues of civil rights in the Muslim community.

CAIR-MN Helps Muslim Couple in Police Brutality Case. A Muslim couple contacted CAIR-MN regarding the use of abusive language and threats made by a police officer during a traffic stop. The couple did not speak English, which frustrated the police officer. CAIR-MN worked with other community organizations to assist the family. The traffic charge against the couple was dropped and a city investigation into the police officer's conduct was opened.

CAIR-MN Assists a Twin Cities Muslim Family Caught in an Immigration Discrimination Dispute. CAIR-MN worked with several government officials and the family was granted the right to stay in the U.S.

CAIR-MN Hosts Young Muslims Professional Coffee Hour. CAIR-MN kicks off the first of a series of network building efforts amongst young Muslim professionals in Twin Cities.

CAIR-MN Helps Coordinate an Agreement between Twin Cities Muslim Cab Drivers and Several Local Blind Organizations. After

"As a blind Christian, I am so very pleased to hear of successes as this [Muslim cab drivers provide free rides at blind convention]. We come from all over to enjoy the benefits this country offers and it is little gestures as your honorable cab drivers have given and/or displayed. On my behalf, please thank your drivers, for I truly believe it is examples, as this, that truly brings a smile to the face of God."
- President of American Council of the Blind-MN

reports surfaced of Muslim cab drivers refusing rides to blind individuals with guide dogs, CAIR-MN met with both Muslim cab drivers and leaders of Twin Cities blind organizations to facilitate an agreement and unite all sides.

CAIR-MN Hosts Meeting with Eight Journalists from the Middle East and MN Muslim Community Leaders. The topic of discussion was "Overview of the Minnesota Muslim American Community's Civic and Political Empowerment during the 2008 U.S. Elections." The journalists were invited by the U.S. Department of State Foreign Press Center.

CAIR-MN Helps Build Relationships Between Campus Police and Somali Students. CAIR-MN teamed up with the Somali Student Association and the University of Minnesota Police Department to work together on issues of student accessibility to complaints against officers, as well as having positive officer presence at SSA events and activities. UMPD has also agreed to diversity training on Islam and Somali culture from CAIR-MN. The students have agreed to trainings on knowing their rights and UMPD roles and concerns on campus

CAIR-MN Organizes Town Hall Meeting at St. Cloud Islamic Center. After an assault involving a Muslim man seen leaving the Islamic Center, CAIR-MN met with the Muslim community in St. Cloud to offer support and resources. Information on safety and reporting crimes was presented.