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CAIR-WA 2022
ANNUAL REPORT



Immigrant Justice Project

CAIR-WA'S IMMIGRANT JUSTICE PROJECT WAS CREATED IN RESPONSE TO PERVASIVE EXCLUSIVE IMMIGRATION POLICIES THAT TARGET MUSLIMS.

Our vision is a state where immigration is equally and equitably accessible for all people, regardless of their ethnic and/or religious identities. At CAIR-WA we believe that high-quality, language accessible, and culturally competent immigration legal services should be available to individuals of any income level. All people deserve the chance to seek safety, opportunity, and connection to family.

Our mission is to provide immigration services specifically for Muslims in Washington state who face barriers to immigration due to their ethnic and/or religious identities and to advocate for equitable immigration policies in our local, state, and national governments.

WHO WE SERVE

Through August 2023, CAIR-WA's services are limited to people who fit the following criteria: from Afghanistan; entered Washington state after July 31, 2021; and live in Washington state. We accept referrals from resettlement agencies and look forward to receiving service requests directly from community members via an online intake form in the future.



2023 MDAC Day of Action

STORIES FROM THE IMMIGRANT JUSTICE PROJECT

Application Stuck in Transfer

A family of five seeking to apply for green cards in August 2022 had been in the process of applying for Special Interpreter Visas through the Department of State before they were evacuated from Afghanistan on September 2, 2021. Their physical applications were stuck in the transfer from the Embassy in Kabul, which closed during evacuation, to the US Citizenship and Immigration Services office in Tukwila, WA. The application had to be transferred from the Department of State to the Department of Homeland Security. CAIR-WA's immigration team reached out to assure the Department of State that the clients were indeed in Washington in order to make sure that the documents made it to Tukwila. The applicants are still represented by CAIR-WA and are now awaiting an interview and are looking forward to being granted their permanent status in the United States.

Family of Eight Applying for Asylum

A family of eight who were evacuated to the United States on September 7th 2021, applied for asylum on September 2022. CAIR-WA prepared and filed the applications, has attended the interviews and

Since summer 2022, CAIR-WA has represented over 50 families who are seeking long-term status in the United States. The typical cost of representation for asylum cases can run over \$15,000 with a private attorney, so CAIR-WA's legal team has provided \$750,000 in free services for our clients.



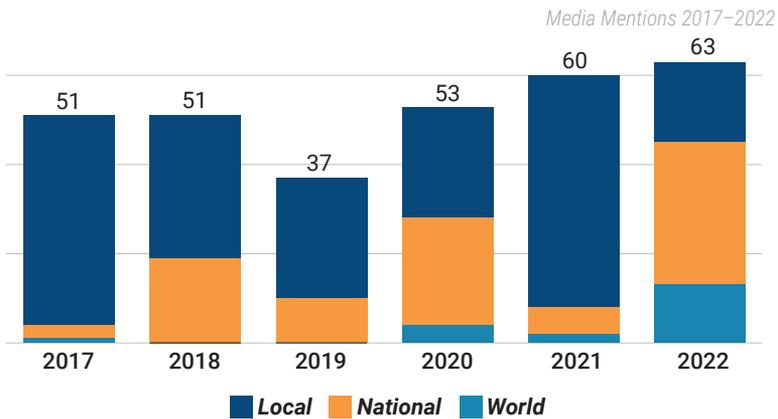
Green card filing for a family of four

biometric appointments with the family members and are continuing to represent the family in applying for continued work permission and temporary status while they wait for their asylum application to be decided.

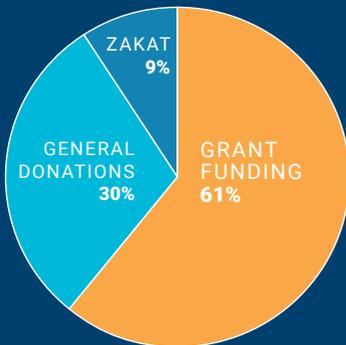
2022 By the Numbers

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

Over the past six years, CAIR-WA's media mentions are going up in number, and, more significantly, in scope. Our reach nationally, locally, and globally is growing, as is the quality of our media mentions. We are seeing more articles on issues that affect our communities by unique journalists (rather than one piece posted in multiple outlets) and in more high profile outlets.



CAIR-WA income in 2022



GRANT HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights of our 2022 grants include an Immigrant Justice grant from Sheng-Yen Lu Foundation, a City of Seattle Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs (ORIA) grant for work with Afghan refugees, and a Department of Social and Health Services grant for immigration legal work for Afghan resettlement.

MDAC 2022

Muslim Day At the Capitol
Wednesday, February 9

1 DAY
ALL ONLINE

A FULL DAY OF WASHINGTON STATE ADVOCACY

On February 9, 2022, nearly 100 MDAC participants advocated in support of three bills: improving language access in schools, improving language access for prescription drugs, raising the age in the juvenile legal system, and advocating against one bad policing bill.

As strong supporters of immigrants and refugees in our state, we uplifted two budget items related to refugee funding. First, the \$2.2 million in the Governor's proposed budget to expand legal services to assist Afghan arrivals—critical for the services CAIR-WA is providing; and second, a crucial budget request for \$30 million in additional state funds to support the resettlement infrastructure in our state to serve all refugees.

CAIR-WA staff also held incredible morning sessions featuring keynote speakers demystifying lobbying, the Capitol, and policy making.

LOCAL POLICY EXPERTS ON THE PANEL

- **Jorge L. Barón**—Northwest Immigrant Rights Project
- **Maya Manus**—Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle
- **Brenda Rodriguez Lopez**—Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network
- **Mohamed Shidane**—Somali Health Board
- **Kendrick Washington**—ACLU of Washington

20 Years of Civil Rights Advocacy

During our twentieth year, we at CAIR-WA held key Know Your Rights (KYR) campaigns. Civil rights and KYR education are a fundamental part of what we do.

WELCOME TO WASHINGTON CAMPAIGN

In 2022, CAIR-WA launched a "Know Your Rights WA" website at knowyourrightswa.com. It's currently focused on newly arrived Afghans in our state, and is available in English, Dari (listed as "Persian"), and Pashto.

At knowyourrightswa.com, readers can learn about their basic civil rights in Washington state, including in housing, work, healthcare, and education.

We advertised this new website on social media, tv, billboards in key neighborhoods, and with flyers at community partners' locations.

BACK TO SCHOOL

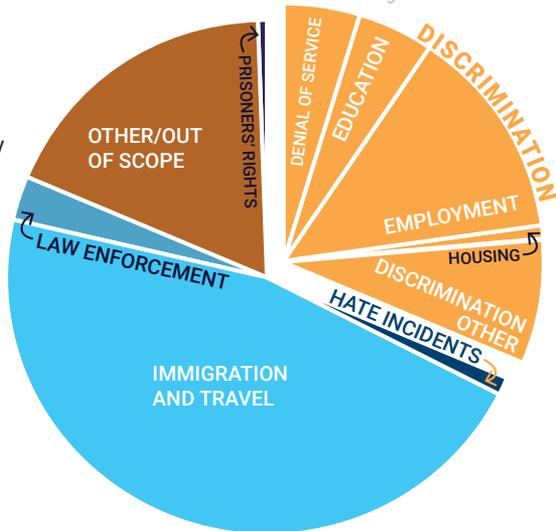
Each year, CAIR-WA sends letters to school districts across the state with information on how to support Muslim students and families in our state. This fall, we also

published a guide on our blog, as well as information tailored to Muslim students and families on social media. It included information on rights regarding education, free speech, dress code, student clubs, searches, discrimination, and religion.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS IN HOUSING

CAIR-WA held a campaign to help community members understand their entry-level basic housing rights to be equipped with tools so they can protect themselves. We held interviews with experts, and published guides in English, Dari, Somali, and Arabic.

Legal Matters in 2022



About CAIR-WA

MISSION

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

OUR TEAM

Board:

Osama Hamdan, *Board President*
Ahmed Gaya, *Board Treasurer*
Nimco Bulale, *Board Member*
Yusra Hamidani, *Board Member*
Adasha Turner, *Board Member*
Sumayyah Waheed, *Board Member*

Leadership Team:

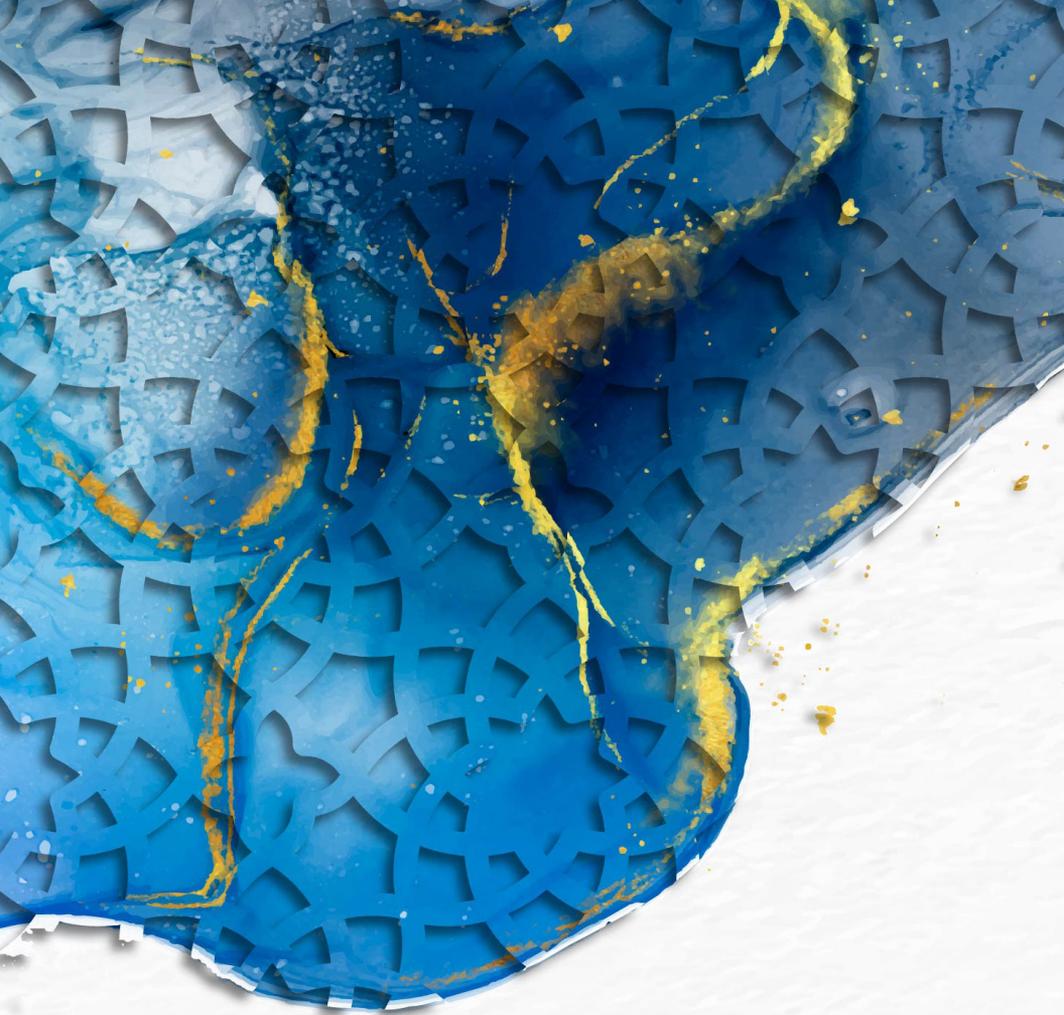
Imraan Siddiqi, *Executive Director*
Amanda Azad, *Deputy Executive Director*
Noor AlSaleh, *Director of Operations and Philanthropy*
Katie Walker, *Senior Communications and Marketing Strategist*

Staff:

Ayoub Ahmed, *Community Organizer*
Mariam Badr, *Media Coordinator*
Alex Baron, *Immigrant Justice Attorney*
Faiza Duale, *Immigrant Justice Attorney*
Jim Maher, *Legal Program Administrator*
Shirin Aqa Mustafazada, *Immigration Legal Assistant*
Anessa Novasio, *Immigration Attorney*
Najma Osman, *Policy Associate*
Angelique Rodriguez, *Policy Assistant*
Matin Rokhsfat, *Administrative Assistant*
Hannah Vickner Hough, *Immigration Attorney*



Day of Action 2023: Executive Director Imraan Siddiqi, Policy Assistant Angelique Rodriguez, Deputy Executive Director Amanda Azad, and Media Coordinator Mariam Badr



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WASHINGTON

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