

CAIR-WA 2023
ANNUAL REPORT



Responding to Crises

Since October 7, 2023, a genocide has been unfolding in Gaza. At home in Washington state, our communities have been grieving, protesting, and standing up for Palestine. See p. 5 for a graphic representation on how requests for help have increased since Oct. 7.

ADVOCACY AND LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Writing Letters on Behalf of Families

We convened a call with concerned parents in a local school district where there has been a rise in anti-Muslim incidents, then composed a letter which we sent to the district superintendent.

Washington Muslim Anti-Bullying Network

We are facilitating a Muslim anti-bullying network for families and students. The network communicates

internally about concerns in schools and holds learning and information sessions.

Workplace Discrimination

We have received reports of Muslims facing termination and harassment at work for reasons ranging from simply being visibly Muslim to making pro-Palestine social media posts nearly a decade prior. Standing up for Palestine, inside or out of the workplace, has led to workers receiving hateful messages from colleagues and scrutiny from supervisors. CAIR-WA attorneys are advising clients and referring them to employment attorneys wherever possible.

Issues in Schools

We have seen parents targeted with harassment and doxing—which is a





great danger to the safety of their families. We have seen teachers and district employees (from Muslim and non-Muslim backgrounds) who dare speak up on behalf of Palestinians be targeted in their place of work. The list goes on. This is not just one or two districts—we are seeing incidents take place in nearly every school district with Muslim students.

SELECTED EVENTS

October 27: Co-sponsored a fundraiser for the Palestinian American Medical Association at MAPS Redmond.

November 9: Seattle High School Student Walkout. We participated in a rally downtown organized by Seattle high school students as a part of the national Shut It Down for Palestine action. Pictured: Imraan speaking at the rally.

November 19: “What’s happening in Palestine and what can we do to help?” at Masjid Umar Al-Farooq

Know Your Rights presentations, including: Bullying and Disproportionate Discipline, Stand for Gaza: Know your rights as an

“The level of rhetoric and dehumanization that is being espoused by many officials and commentators in some ways exceeds the post-9/11 climate. This is highly concerning. In our experiences, this rhetoric has a direct impact on the levels of hate and harassment our communities see as a result.”

—Imraan Siddiqi, Executive Director

American Muslim, Know Your Rights as a Parent of School-Aged Children, Rights when Protesting, and Navigating Immigration.

Locations and Audiences have included: Redmond Youth Group, Organized Workers for Labor Solidarity (OWLS), Islamic Center of Tri-Cities, Iraqi Community Center of Washington, and online

Please check out the “Reporting Harassment” insert for more information on why and how to reach out to CAIR-WA.

By the Numbers

GRANT HIGHLIGHTS

Our 2023 grants included \$25,000 to fight school bullying as a part of the Immigrant Safety Action Network, \$93,000 from the Sheng-Yen Lu Foundation to fund our Immigrant Justice work, and \$10,000 for Palestine Rapid Relief from the Proteus Fund. In addition, we were honored to receive another multi-year grant from Inatai Foundation.

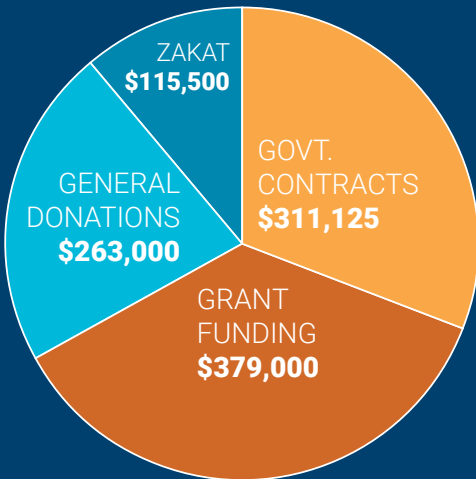
EXPENSES

CAIR-WA's largest expense by far is the salaries and benefits for our incredible staff. After staff, our expenses include offices and equipment, legal fees and filing costs, hosting community events, printing Know Your Rights guides and other materials, and miscellaneous costs.

INCOME

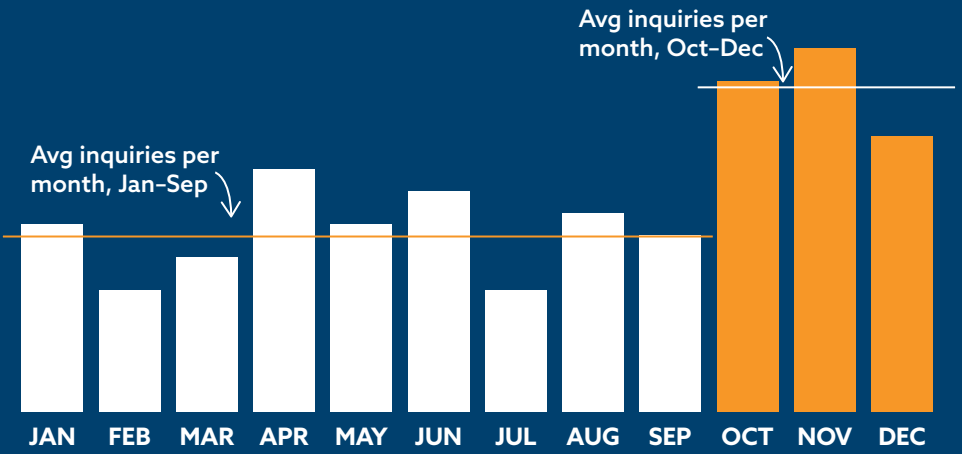
This year, a third all of CAIR-WA's income came from individual donors, with nearly a third of those donations being Zakat.

CAIR-WA INCOME IN 2023



Muslim Day at the Capitol, March 2023

2023 Legal Inquiries: **234 total, 88 Oct-Dec**



LEGAL INTAKES IN 2023

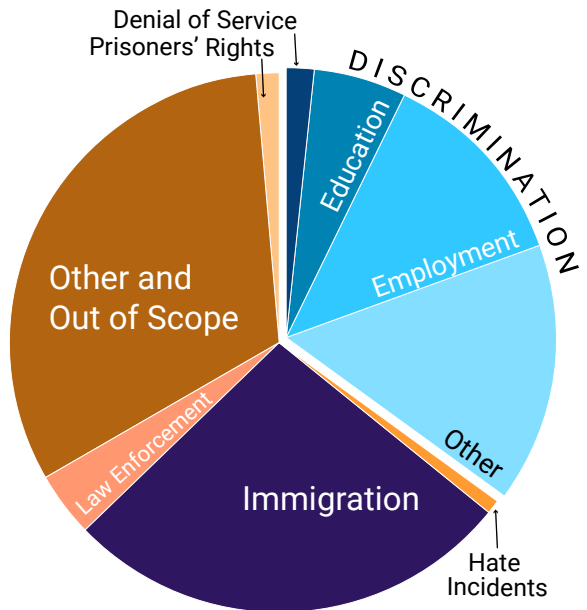
What are out of scope cases?

Out of scope and other category includes referrals for general legal needs such as folks seeking family law attorneys, referrals for general needs such as financial assistance, and requests for help from people who aren't in Washington.

Total intakes: 234

Civil rights: 180

Immigration: 63



Community and Events

WINTER

Continuous Trauma & Social Devastation, or Caring for All

Imraan Siddiqi, CAIR-WA Executive Director, spoke on a panel at the Gaza Community Mental Health Foundation's event.

Global Hate: The Many Faces Fascism feat. *Linda Sarsour*

Linda Sarsour, a Palestinian Muslim American award-winning author, hosted an event with us about Global Islamophobia (Pictured, below). Thank you to MSA UW Seattle for allowing us to use their space for this event; and thank you to everyone who attended.

SPRING

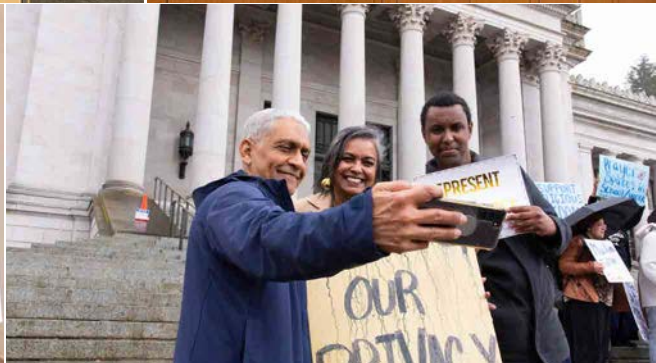
University of Puget Sound Class "Antisemitism and Islamophobia"

Imraan Siddiqi, CAIR-WA's Executive Director, visited the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma to teach a class exploring the intersections between two forms of prejudice that have had a significant impact on contemporary social and political issues.

SUMMER

Community BBQ in Vancouver

We had a great time meeting and connecting with the Islamic Society of Southwest Washington community in Vancouver, where we experienced great conversations and hospitality.





Muslim Day at the Capitol: Day of Action

MDAC WASHINGTON 2023: BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

by Hadia Ahmed, Spring 2023 Media Intern

This year's Muslim Day at the Capitol in Olympia, Washington was the first in-person MDAC to take place since 2020. As Washington state becomes a more diverse community, events such as MDAC are important to have in order to honor and recognize those differences. MDAC gives an opportunity for us to actively engage with local politicians and play our role in advocating for the rights and interests of our Muslim community.

The day began with a talk from Washington's very own Governor: Jay Inslee. He spoke to us on current bills and reforms he and his team are working on such as the housing crisis. He also took questions from the audience and addressed concerns on bills concerning funding for special education.

Following the Governor, Nabrath Sheriff talked about her journey from a political campaign volunteer to present day being a Legislative Aide to a Washington Senator. Samir Junejo talked about his role as a State Relations Director for the City of Seattle and did a Q&A session with the MDAC audience on how they can become active members of their local districts.

We were treated to a surprise visit by Senator Yasmin Trudeau, Washington State's first Muslim woman senator, where she spoke about her recent advocacy for mothers in the political field, since she recently gave birth to her second child, during her campaign in the summer of 2022.

After creating posters on current Muslim political campaigns and events, the MDAC attendees headed to the steps of the Capitol building to hold a peaceful rally. Even though this was very quickly followed by rainy weather, the crowd was in good spirits.

Immigrant Justice Project

FIRST ASYLUM CASE APPROVAL FOR CAIR-WA'S IMMIGRANT JUSTICE PROJECT

Two years ago, the U.S. evacuated its troops from Afghanistan. In August 2021, the Taliban took over and many Afghans fled the region. Washington has since welcomed over three thousand Afghans to our state.

CAIR-WA has committed to providing immigration legal support for our brothers and sisters being resettled in Washington state. The process of setting up a new area of work hasn't always been easy, but in July 2023, we received the first asylum approval for one of our clients! We are hopeful that this will be the first of many.

These families have encountered many obstacles. The two-year timeline for our FIRST asylum approval illustrates the arduous process that immigrants to the U.S. face, alongside language barriers and other resettlement priorities such as housing, basic needs, and employment. We've also received reports of violence, intimidation, harassment, and bullying from this already vulnerable community.

COMMUNITY STEPS UP TO HELP IMMIGRANT JUSTICE PROJECT CLIENT

In August, CAIR-WA put out a call to

help an Afghan client working with the CAIR-WA Immigrant Justice Project. This brother relocated out of state to find employment and needed help with travel funding so he could make a vital asylum interview in the Seattle area. The community stepped up and fully funded our LaunchGood campaign within a few days. The client was able to make the interview, and recently, he was approved for asylum. It wouldn't have been possible without our beloved community. Thank you to all who donated!

IJP DATA

Clients served in 2023: 160

In 2023, the Immigrant Justice Project served 160 clients, including 65 children and at least one unaccompanied minor. We have attended USCIS interviews for over 70 clients.

Asylum Approvals: 18

IJP attorneys filed asylum for at least 84 clients, and received 18 approvals in 2023.

Types of immigration filings:

IJP attorneys have filed at least 40 applications for lawful permanent residence (I-485) or special immigrant visas.

We have filed several other applications and represented clients in other advocacy capacities including working on family reunification applications.



Asylum Presentation in Lynnwood (Left to right): Immigrant Justice Attorney Alex Baron, Policy Assistant Angelique Rodriguez, Immigration Legal Assistant Shirin Aqa Mustafazada

Outside of our Afghan work, we currently have at least 11 non-Afghan clients spanning from removal cases to affirmative asylum cases.

PRESENTATIONS

Know Your Rights Presentation with IRC in Federal Way

Community Organizer Ayoub Ahmed held a Know Your Rights presentation in collaboration with IRC at Todd Beamer High School in Federal Way.

Asylum Presentation in Lynnwood

CAIR-WA's Immigrant Justice Project team held a presentation about asylum at the Lynnwood Library with consecutive interpretation in Dari and Pashto and made a live-stream recording available to those who missed it.

Recorded Know Your Rights Presentations on Navigating Immigration

Topics include: Advocating for Yourself, Temporary Protected Status, Asylum Seekers, Family-Based Applications, and more.

Re-Parole Days

CAIR-WA held two "Re-Parole" days at our offices for our Immigrant Justice Project clients. On May 5, 2023, the Department of Homeland Security announced an option for Afghan parolees through the Operation Allies Welcome program to apply for anew period of parole, as the initial two-year parole period was set to expire the summer of 2023.

Stories

FAZAGA V. FBI ORAL ARGUMENT IN SEATTLE

On June 8th, attorneys in the Fazaga v. FBI case conducted oral arguments on behalf of Sheikh Yassir Fazaga, Ali Malik, and Yasser Abdelrahim. In the case, most recently ruled on by the Supreme Court, the plaintiffs are challenging the FBI's secret spying on them (and their communities) based on their religion – in violation of the Constitution and federal law. At stake is whether the plaintiffs' religious discrimination claims can move forward nearly twenty years after the spying occurred, inching them closer to their day in court. The hearing was open to the public on June 8th at 1:00pm at the Ninth Circuit in downtown Seattle.

FRONT PAGE OF SUNDAY'S SEATTLE TIMES: LOCAL IMAM SUES FBI OVER WATCHLIST

"The imam believes he's been put onto a federal government watchlist aimed at identifying known or suspected terrorists attempting to travel into or throughout the U.S. But he's received no confirmation or explanation, typical of roughly a million people – according to an estimate by the Council on American-Islamic Relations – who share a similar fate."

CAIR-WA was instrumental in getting this story by Nina Shapiro featured. Through our long-standing credibility and relationships in the media, we helped their reporting staff understand



the magnitude of the issues facing our community. Cultivating relationships with and educating the press on what's at stake in the community ensures that the public has a better understanding of issues facing Muslims in America.

Currently, CAIR National has a case challenging the federal No Fly List in front of the Supreme Court.

STANDING WITH THE ISLAMIC CENTER OF THE FEDERAL WAY AFTER BURGLARY

In the video released by the Mosque, two men enter through a window, walking through the building and eventually breaking into an office where, according to mosque's officials, they stole the proceeds of charitable donations, totaling about \$300. "Seeing a house of worship targeted and disrespected like this is highly concerning," said Imraan Siddiqi, CAIR-WA's executive director. "We stand with the ICFW community in calling for those who burglarized to be identified and caught."

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*
Alex Baron, *Senior Staff Attorney*
Faiza Duale, *Immigrant Justice Attorney*
Jim Maher, *Legal Program Administrator*
Shirin Aqa Mustafazada, *Immigration Legal Assistant*
Anessa Novasio, *Staff Attorney*
Najma Osman, *Policy Associate*
Angelique Rodriguez, *Policy Assistant*
Matin Rokhsafat, *Operations & Community Specialist*
Hannah Vickner Hough, *Senior Immigration Attorney*



Day of Action 2024 (left to right): Operations & Community Specialist **Matin Rokhsafat**, Community Organizer **Ayoub Ahmed**, Policy Associate **Najma Osman**, Legal Program Administrator **Jim Maher**, Executive Director **Imraan Siddiqi**, Immigration Legal Assistant **Shirin Aqa Mustafazada**



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