

Council on American-Islamic Relations -Michigan Policy Statement and Direction

The Council on American-Islamic Relations of Central Michigan (CAIR-Michigan) is a nonprofit, grassroots membership organization. CAIR-Michigan was established to promote a positive image of Islam and Muslims in America. CAIR-Michigan is dedicated to presenting an Islamic perspective on issues of importance to the American public. In offering that perspective, we seek to empower the Muslim community in America through political and social activism to defend their rights which are guaranteed by the Constitution. Specifically, CAIR-Michigan is created:

- " To insure that the interests and positions of American Muslim community in the United States in general and in Michigan in particular are understood and respected; and
- " To raise awareness within the American society in general and Michiganders in particular about Islam and the Muslim community; and
- " To act as an advocacy group to protect civil rights of Muslims in Michigan; and
- " To cooperate with other organizations having similar objectives and purposes.

Problems Facing Muslims

1. School students at all levels are constantly exposed to written disinformation about Muslims and Islam.
2. Guest speakers to schools frequently misinform students about Islam and its people.
3. There are increasing incidents of Muslims being discriminated against by public servants, court system, as well as by the public-at-large.
4. The print, electronic media, and entertainment media are escalating its anti-Muslim bias and portraying Muslims in negative stereotypes.
5. There is little representation by Muslims on boards and commissions or with civic and service organizations.
6. Often incidents affecting Muslims in the community are not known to support groups e.g. a Muslim refugee or family on welfare may not come to the attention of the Islamic community.

How to Overcome the Problems

1. Serve on boards and commissions;
2. Speak to schools, churches, community and civic organizations and create speaking materials and handouts;
3. Serve as a first line of support on matters of discrimination against Muslim individuals in Michigan;
4. Assist in developing a working network of central Michigan Muslims;
5. Network with local and national common cause organizations;
6. Prepare a periodic newsletter;
7. Compile and maintain a resource directory of Muslim and Muslim owned businesses in Michigan;
8. Respond to negative news and negative articles dealing with Muslims as well as supporting positive articles published in the media; and take affirmative steps to educate the media;
9. Serve as a national clearinghouse on matters affecting Michigan's Muslim community;
10. Conduct fund-raising as necessary;
11. Represent the Muslim community at conferences and social functions.

Organizational Structure

Board of Directors

Members (at least 4)

Officers

President
Secretary
Treasurer

Executive Committee

Officers

President
Secretary
Treasurer
Other assignment by the Board

Executive Director