

CAIR

Council on American-Islamic Relations

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Description of CAIR's Purpose

The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) is a nonprofit, grassroots membership organization. We have headquarters in Washington, D.C., and CAIR chapters exist or are being formed in most major cities across America.

CAIR was established to promote a positive image of Islam and Muslims in America. We believe misrepresentations of Islam are most often the result of ignorance on the part of non-Muslims and reluctance on the part of Muslims to articulate their cause.

CAIR 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.

Description of CAIR's Activities

Media Relations

We work with media professionals around America to help shape a positive image of Islam. CAIR activists also monitor the local, national and international media to challenge negative stereotypes of Islam and Muslims.

Conferences and Seminars

We organize conferences and seminars for media professionals, government officials and the academic community. These events are designed to present otherwise unavailable information about Islam and Muslims.

Publications

A variety of publications addressing the needs of Muslims in America are offered to opinion leaders and the public. We also publish a quarterly newsletter CAIR News.

CAIR also produces practical handbooks, such as "Hajj and Ramadan Publicity Resource Kits," for use by Muslim leaders and activists.

Action Alerts

CAIR issues action alerts to local communities as a means of promoting local activism and generating a grassroots response on important issues. We believe local response is a key factor in making our voices heard.

Research

CAIR undertakes research on subjects relevant to the American Muslim community, including gathering data for an annual report on the status of Muslim civil rights. This report details anti-Muslim bias and violence.

Position papers on a variety of issues relating to Muslims in America are produced as required.

Anti-Discrimination Work

CAIR works through its legal advisors and local activists in fighting discrimination of any type directed against Muslims in America. This discrimination often relates to misuse of Islamic symbols or the violation of civil rights in the workplace.

Training/Outreach

CAIR trains American Muslim community activists and leaders in techniques of effective media and public relations, lobbying and public speaking. Experts are available to offer seminars in local communities.

Internships

CAIR offers internships to students and other interested individuals who wish to gain experience in media relations, political activism and anti-discrimination work.

Inter-Faith Relations

Islam places much stress on promoting mutual respect and good relations between followers of the Abrahamic faiths. CAIR works toward this goal through public education and inter-faith cooperation.

Qualifications for Membership

CAIR membership is open to anyone, regardless of sex, race, creed or national origin, who shares our goals.