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Individual success is easy. Community success can only come about with strong institutions.”

-Executive Director Ahmed Rehab

n sixteen years of service, CAIR-Chicago has handled almost 5,900 civil rights cases of anti-Muslim discrimination, negotiated over $1.75 million directly for clients, conducted 1,579 mainstream media interviews receiving over 20,300 mentions, and graduated 886 interns.

With the grace of God, CAIR-Chicago continued to build on its successes over the course of 2019.

We remain active as the first line of defense for members of our community when confronted with anti-Muslim bigotry, whether it be an individual subjected to a violation of rights, a mosque subjected to vandalism or discriminatory permit denials, travelers subjected to unfair restrictions, or our community subjected to false narratives of Islamophobia.

During 2019, we handled 388 civil rights cases, resolved 228 cases to the benefit of our clients including citizenship delay and employment discrimination cases. We continued with our landmark Prison Project advocating for the rights of over 300 Muslim inmates, and our Political Asylum Project, serving mostly Syrians escaping certain persecution.

2019 civil rights projects included the Anti-Bullying Project for schools, the Citizenship Project where we helped dozens of clients obtain relief after long delays or denials, and where we successfully filed suit against USCIS to obtain records showing delays in processing times for certain immigration applications based on country of origin.

They also included our Employment Discrimination Project where we assist Muslims who lost their jobs, or were denied jobs, due to simply being Muslim, through arbitration or litigation; and the FBI Project where we attend every FBI question to any Muslim who calls us to make sure that their rights are protected.

CAIR-Chicago’s TAP service (Traveler Assistance Project), the first of its kind, one stop service that connects at-risk travelers with attorneys through a streamlined front-end system, is the only one still fully operational nationwide, now implemented as an 24/7, emergency hotline and standalone website. In 2019, 280 travelers were helped by CAIR-Chicago attorneys. Since the first Muslim Ban, over 1,000 travelers have been assisted. Over 500 attorneys are registered in the TAP database ready to mobilize.

CAIR-Chicago is taking a leadership position both in terms of defending Muslims, but also within broad alliances of communities standing together in solidarity against marginalization, scapegoating and vilification. In 2019, we continued to ensure that Muslims had a seat at local and national alliances and coalitions that serve our civil rights defense agenda.

In 2019, CAIR-Chicago continued its wide outreach as a face of the Muslim community. Our staff gave guest lectures, keynote speeches, commencement speeches, and participated in panel discussions at dozens of universities and public schools, businesses, and community organizations throughout Illinois and the Midwest.

Our Know Your Rights workshops helped community members learn what rights they were entitled to and how to protect them, and our Cultural Sensitivity Training workshops helped government agencies, universities, and employers learn more about the nuances of Muslim culture and practices, and how to differentiate between fact and fiction.

In 2019, our representatives brought a Muslim perspective dozens of times to media networks including CNN, FOX News, MSNBC, WGN, ABC News, NBC, ABC, WTTW, TRT and NPR among other networks; as well as the Chicago Tribune and the Chicago Sun-Times, among other newspapers and websites. In each case, we sought to bring a lucid Muslim perspective on pressing issues putting out the raw facts on the American Muslim community and the values of our democracy. The chicagomonitor.com news site supported by CAIR-Chicago continues to provide alternative media coverage with community perspectives and a newly launched podcast service. We also launched a new in-house fully-functional multi-media studio that will help us generate original content.

In summary, CAIR-Chicago continues to be our community’s only institutional civil rights defense and advocacy organization, both in terms of shaping public opinion and providing free legal representation. Our headquarters, located in downtown Chicago, continues to serve as the home base of bustling Muslim activism serving this great city and state right at its heart.

Please continue to read through this annual report for a detailed review of our work in the year 2019, and a look at dozens of letters of support from our elected officials!

Remember to visit cairchicago.org for our full archives on 16 years of service. We hope that you will continue to support us!

Ahmed Rehab
Executive Director
CREDIBILITY
Gain the trust and respect of all involved.

CONSISTENCY
Our level of motivation and productivity should not waiver with time. Attention given to the various areas of our work should be even.

PROACTIVITY
Create programs that predict and pre-emptively challenge potential problems.

OMNIPRESENCE
Our presence and our programs should enjoy high exposure with members of the Muslim community, the general public, the media, and the government.

FOCUS
Well-defined problem areas and solutions.

TRANSPARENCY
What you see is what you get.

EFFICIENCY
No redundancies. Putting the right people in the right place at the right time.

EGALITARIANISM
Treat everyone equally with dignity and respect.

ACCESSIBILITY
Easy to find and reach whether by members of our community or members of the media.

SINCERITY
What fuels our work is not personal ego or a hidden agenda, but rather a genuine desire to affect positive change.

PROFESSIONALISM
Objective and presentable.
It was Fall of 2009. I was starting my second year of law school at DePaul University, having just returned from a summer learning about International Human Rights in Costa Rica and advocating for the rights of women in Egypt. I was 27, idealistic, and ready to change the world. I walked into the offices of CAIR-Chicago and have not looked back.

Over the past decade, I have worked in CAIR-Chicago’s Civil Rights, Development, and Executive Departments, met with Presidential candidates, Senators, and Congressmen, worked on several of our biggest legal cases, and oversaw all of our Muslim Ban initiatives (including our still running 24/7 hotline). I protested and marched, stood in solidarity with countless allies, held vigils to honor lives lost to hate and violence, and worked with amazing community partners to pass impactful pieces of legislation. I spoke on numerous panels discussing hate and collaborative advocacy, trained thousands of community members on their rights, and mentored numerous high school, college, and law students both within the walls of our office and in spaces around the greater Chicagoland area.

I have witnessed our transformation from a Muslim organization focused on fighting bigotry and promoting tolerance to a civil rights organization whose incredible team uses our Islamic values to combat hate facing all communities. From the days of scouring newspapers looking for anti-Muslim bias and fighting for seats at certain tables, we have grown to regularly being immersed in dialogue with academics and policy makers, influencing legislation, and leading city and statewide initiatives to protect the rights of travelers, immigrants, and marginalized communities. Our legal work has expanded from immigrant rights and employment discrimination to include anti-bullying movements, student advocacy, prisoner rights, and law enforcement/government agency profiling and discrimination. We created The Chicago Monitor, an independent news source that offers original perspectives on social and civil rights issues, and the Travelers Assistance Project, utilizing the passionate energy and skills of hundreds of attorneys and allies in protecting the rights of travelers affected by the Muslim Ban.

Most significantly, I have been blessed to call hundreds of the most remarkable civil rights activists - from all corners of the world - my friends and colleagues, and work alongside them to fight for the civil rights of my Muslim community. The dozens of staff and hundreds of interns who have committed a part of their professional and collegiate lives to CAIR-Chicago have gone on to create their own nonprofits, work in government, start businesses, produce films, save lives as doctors, become partners in law firms, and continue to be voices for marginalized communities. Our people have always been our strongest asset and we are so proud to all those who shared a part of their lives with us and who continue to honor CAIR-Chicago with their continued advocacy and support.

It is now 2020, and perhaps the most critical year of our existence. With hate on the rise and so many communities at risk, I look back to where we were and where we are headed, as an organization, as a community, and as a nation. It is time to take Action. If our growth, self-awareness, and ability to meet the civil rights needs of our community over the past decade are any prediction of our future, I am hopeful for the CAIR-Chicago to come.

Sufyan Sohel, Deputy Director
Community Support: CAIR-Chicago is 100% local and community-funded.
$781,491

Total income for 2019

Source of income

Direct Public Support | $735,844
Legal Proceeds | $45,575
Our Civil Rights Department handles cases that range from prejudiced gestures to full-blown discrimination. Our clients are Muslims, as well as members from other faith communities who have had Islam imputed on them. Law clerks and interns assist our attorneys in several projects that highlight distinct civil rights issues. Our work ranges from fighting citizenship delays to securing the rights of Muslims to practice freely in the public sphere, whether it be at schools, places of employment, prisons, or other institutions.
In 2019, CAIR-Chicago continued to represent Muslim travelers who were mis-treated during their air flights, either due to their religion or their national origin. The CRD helps travelers get their complaints heard by the airlines.

In addition to TAP, CAIR-Chicago attorneys assist Muslim travelers who have had issues of being detained and interrogated at airports and border checkpoints across the United States. The legal team helps them file complaints with TSA, Homeland Security, and Customs and Border Protection. The CRD is also preparing a further challenge to government watch-lists, such as the No-Fly list.

CAIR-Chicago’s lawyers are leading the way in effectively preserving the civil and human rights of Muslim travelers through its proposed Port of Entry Bill of Rights, which would affect travel globally by allowing travelers certain fundamental rights.

In 2019, CAIR-Chicago’s attorneys filed a case against the Illinois Secretary of State due to its proposed Port of Entry Bill of Rights. The CRD is also preparing a further challenge to government watch-lists, such as the No-Fly list.

Attorneys settled an employment discrimination case with G4S Security on behalf of a Muslim man who was forced to choose between attending Friday prayers or keeping the security job, salary, and position which he had for the past 13 years.

On behalf of a Muslim pharmacist who was discriminated at work due to his religion and Egyptian nationality, CAIR-Chicago lawyers brought an action in Federal Court in 2017 challenging his termination by a hospital. The case was appealed in 2019 and is now before the Seventh Circuit.

CAIR-Chicago often assists Muslim employees who have matters pending before the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the Illinois Department of Human Rights.

In 2019, CAIR-Chicago’s legal team brought a number of mandamus cases against the government in Federal Court on behalf of asylum applicants and other immigration petitioners, such as those seeking to bring their family members from other countries to the United States.

CAIR-Chicago continues to monitor conditions for Muslim inmates at many correctional institutions, and will intervene on behalf of those inmates if a civil rights violation is found. Currently, the CRD is looking at addressing the lack of halal food in Illinois prisons, and addressing the need for Qurans and other religious materials therein.

In 2019, CAIR-Chicago’s attorneys filed a case against the Illinois Secretary of State to enjoin its use of a form to be signed by all persons wearing religious head coverings. The form stated that if the applicant was granted asylum after CAIR-Chicago filed his application in 2015 and worked with him for four years to make sure that he received his interview and that his application was properly processed.

CAIR-Chicago took on an asylum case in 2019 that was referred to it from CAIR-California involving female genital mutilation / cutting, and has been working with the client to prepare her for her asylum interview and draft a legal memo to USCIS in support of her case.

A U-visa application was filed by CAIR-Chicago’s legal staff in 2019 on behalf of a Muslim man from Pakistan who helped State law enforcement apprehend narcotics dealers. His testimony was helpful in the prosecution of the case, which made him eligible for the U-visa.

CAIR-Chicago’s team filed a petition on behalf of a former Iraqi diplomat who arrived here on a G-2 visa in 2015 to participate in a course on behalf of the Iraqi government. The worsening conditions in Iraq prompted him to seek approval to stay in the United States.

CAIR-Chicago took on a case on behalf of a Muslim inmate who had been denied halal food for many years at multiple correctional facilities in Illinois, and had also been denied certain prayer and religious accommodations by the Illinois Department of Corrections.

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“CAIR-Chicago is an organization dedicated to fighting for the civil rights of Muslims in a country where people need champions to fight for their civil liberties.”

-Facebook review
CAIR-Chicago was seen in public not wearing the head covering, their driver’s license or State ID could be suspended.

In 2019, CAIR-Chicago settled a case against the Chicago Police Department and a number of its officers who attacked a Muslim woman while she was walking on a subway platform in Chicago. The client, who wears a niqab, was profiled and assaulted by the officers due to her religion.

CAIR-Chicago continues to act on behalf of clients who are approached by law enforcement (such as the FBI, DHS, or CBP) at their homes or offices and asked to answer questions about themselves or their friends or family members. The CRD works with clients to prepare them for the interview, and if requested, attends the interview with the client.

CAIR-Chicago attorneys advocated on behalf of a Muslim man who, during the course of a child custody hearing, was repeatedly accused of wanting to abduct his children based on antiquated understandings of Islamic law. The CRD helped him file a complaint against his ex-wife’s lawyer before the Illinois Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission.

CAIR-Chicago attorneys worked with a Muslim student in a police officer training course at the University of Illinois who was offended by some of the training scenarios used by the instructors. CAIR-Chicago lawyers worked with the student to bring a complaint to the attention of the school to address his concerns, resulting in greater cultural and religious sensitivity.

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GENERAL>> Through its partners around the State and around the country, CAIR-Chicago works as a catalyst for change at the legislative level as well, working to address matters such as the processing of mug shots for Muslim detainees and the abrupt closing of Muslim bank accounts.

CAIR-Chicago routinely handles cases involving hate crimes, whether they occur in public, at school, or in neighborhoods. Lawyers work with the police department, campus security, and local prosecutors and investigators to make sure such cases are prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law, including the bringing of hate crime charges if warranted.

“Faith and hope comes in all forms, and I know that I have faith in this organization to listen and help. Thank you again for making our family and our hearts whole!”

- Client testimonial

Above: Communications Coordinator Hannah Faris documenting the work of CAIR-Chicago in Winter 2019.

Below: Deputy Director Sufyan Sohel (far left) and Executive Director Ahmed Rehab (far right) pose with allies at the Share the Dream Together rally in August 2019.
**2019 CASE BREAKDOWN**

Only around 1/3 of hate crimes are reported to law enforcement officials.

- **Total Cases**: 448
- **Cases Closed**: 228
- **Pending Cases**: 160

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“There’s no denying a rise in discrimination, but that only drives us to be stronger and unwavering in our fight for justice.”

-Brian Huff, Staff Attorney

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**TOP 3 INTAKE CATEGORIES**

- **111 GENERAL**
- **108 IMMIGRATION**
- **79 TRAVEL**

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**RESIDUAL CATEGORIES**

- **Employment**: 52
- **School**: 19
- **Hate Crime**: 18
- **Assaults**: 17
- **Battery**: 3
- **FBI**: 12
- **Arrests**: 11
- **Accom**: 11
- **Gov’t**: 7

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Annual Report 2019
Five Year Wrap-Up

Take a look at our case distribution since 2015.

2015

- Government: 3.9%
- Immigration: 28.4%
- School: 5.7%
- Criminal: 6.3%
- Hate Crimes: 12.1%
- Travel: 3.9%
- Custody: 0.9%
- Accommodation: 3.9%
- Employment: 19.3%
- General/Misc: 0.9%

2016

- Government: 4.0%
- Immigration: 18.4%
- School: 4.5%
- Hate Crimes: 2.3%
- Travel: 10.1%
- Accommodation: 2.8%
- Employment: 16.4%
- General/Misc: 26.0%
- FBI: 8.6%
- Prison: 6.8%

2017

- Government: 6.5%
- Immigration: 16.1%
- School: 2.1%
- Criminal: 2.7%
- Hate Crimes: 3.6%
- Travel: 20.4%
- Employment: 16.6%
- General/Misc: 20.6%
- FBI: 5.1%
- Prison: 3.1%
- DMV: 0.9%
- Accommodation: 2.2%
2018 saw a spike in immigration cases; this surge immediately followed the Trump Administrations three Muslim Bans in 2017.

2017 was the year of the first Muslim Ban in January. It was also the year CAIR-Chicago launched the Travelers Assistance Project (TAP) to help with the growing surge in travel cases.
We go beyond our office walls. **We know activism isn’t only done at a desk.**

CAIR-Chicago’s Outreach Department aims to educate and build bridges between Muslims and diverse communities in the greater Chicago metro region, establish partnerships with other civil rights and advocacy organizations, and bolster CAIR-Chicago’s ability to serve its constituents in Chicago’s Muslim communities. To this end, the Outreach Department leads CAIR-Chicago’s youth leadership programs, internship and volunteer activist programs, interfaith and intercultural initiatives, and educational seminars.
CAIR-Chicago hosted or co-sponsored several events revealing the year’s most discussed socio-political issues, as well as forming stronger bonds with organizations and our communities.

CAIR-Chicago staff delivered Friday sermons (khutbahs) at some of largest mosques in Chicagoland in an effort to promote key civic and humanitarian ideals fostered in Islam’s teachings while bridging mosque audiences with the resources CAIR-Chicago offers. CAIR-Chicago celebrated hosting a milestone 11th annual Taste of Ramadan Iftar & Cook-off. Welcoming over 120 community members and supporters, the event hosted a record number of dishes, desserts, and beverages, reflecting cuisines from around the world.

CAIR-Chicago relaunched its youth development initiative, Muslim Youth Leadership Symposium (MYLS)-Chicago, at Universal School in Bridgeview. The 103 juniors and seniors participated in a special executive session, called “Set Your Own Tracks”, which drew insights from CAIR-Chicago’s 15 years of experience of civil rights activism and advocacy.

The core mission of MYLS-Chicago is to provide Muslim students in grades 8 through 12 with a proactive agenda for positive activism. The program empowers them to guide their communities from the margin to the mainstream and foster a healthy Muslim-American identity that fits comfortably within pluralistic American society.

CAIR-Chicago co-sponsored or participated in several community events that illuminated the diverse experiences and contributions of the Muslim community. One sponsorship was with the Scribe Video Center’s Muslim Voices of Chicago, a film festival showcasing films that portray the African-American Muslim experience. Muslim Voices of Chicago is a component of Muslim Voices, a nationwide project coordinated by Scribe Video Center in Philadelphia, PA and supported by the Building Bridges Program of the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art.

Along with Amnesty International, Loyola University Chicago School of Law, and the Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America, CAIR-Chicago welcomed noted immigration attorney Marty Rosenbluth. Rosenbluth spoke about his work providing legal counsel to undocumented migrants and asylum seekers held in one of the worst detention centers in the nation, Stewart Detention Facility.

Other advocacy events included One Human Family March for World Refugee Day, the inaugural On Devon Festival, and Town Hall Forum on Racism in Palos Township.
CAIR-Chicago is indebted to the interns, externs, fellows and volunteer activists (VAs) who assist our staff to empower, mobilize, and engage our communities, and have been doing so since 2004.

In 2019, the office graduated 68 interns, externs, fellows, and volunteer activists from across the United States, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Eritrea, and Canada. CAIR-Chicago garnered special hosting opportunities to host individuals in special university and federal civic professional programs, such as the Mandela Washington Fellowship Program, by the U.S. State Department, and the Master’s in Social Work program in the University of Chicago’s School of Social Administration. Such unique roles made our programs more coveted and seasoned in welcoming talented emerging leaders from near and far.
CAIR-CHICAGO ENJOYS A THRIVING PARTNERSHIP WITH OVER 770 NATIONAL UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES THROUGHOUT CHICAGOLAND AND THE NATION TO OFFER THEIR STUDENTS INTERNSHIP AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES YEAR-ROUND.

**INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS ARE AVAILABLE THROUGH:**
- American Islamic College (AIC)
- Benedictine University
- Columbia College
- Columbia University
- Dartmouth College
- DePaul University
- DeVry University
- Elmhurst College
- Emory University
- Flashpoint Chicago—Columbia College Hollywood
- Georgetown University
- Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT)
- Lake Forest College
- Loyola University Chicago (LUC)
- Northwestern University
- School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC)
- Trinity College (Connecticut)
- Tufts University
- The University of Chicago
- University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC)
- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- University of Vermont
- University of Wisconsin at Whitewater
- York University (Toronto)

**EXTERNSHIP PROGRAMS ARE AVAILABLE THROUGH:**
- Chicago-Kent College of Law, Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT)
- DePaul College of Law
- The John Marshall Law School
- LUC School of Law
- Northwestern University School of Law
- University of Chicago Law School
- University of Illinois College of Law
- University of Notre Dame Law School
- Valparaiso University Law School

“*My experience as a CAIR-Chicago intern has been exceptionally fulfilling. I got to take charge of my own projects and actually see the difference I was making in the community.*”

- Outreach Intern
Since 2011, CAIR-Chicago has led civic engagement efforts in order to educate and mobilize community members to respond appropriately to policies that affect all Americans.

CAIR-Chicago renewed its call for Illinois congressional members to support legislation that would reinforce civil liberties. Once again, Gerald Hankerson led an Illinois delegation to meet with congressional officials on legislative issues on Capitol Hill. The office continued working with local coalition efforts to extend voting access, cease the federal government from separating families, and to voice dissent on the Muslim Ban.

CAIR-Chicago hosted two members of the Illinois General Assembly: a town hall with State Representative Yehiel M. Kalish of the 16th District and meeting with 39th District Representative Will Guzzardi. As a member organization and partner with the Illinois Muslim Civic Coalition (ILMCC), CAIR-Chicago met with several mayoral candidates for the City of Chicago.

With various coalitions, CAIR-Chicago continued planning for effective Census 2020 outreach in the Muslim community. As of 2019, CAIR-Chicago is now a member of state, county, and municipal commissioned groups to assess how to mobilize communities for the upcoming 2020 Census. With this, CAIR-Chicago was also invited to join partner organizations and present to community members why the census is important, what to expect, and how they should participate in this federally mandated civic duty.

**In 2019, CAIR-Chicago advocated to elected federal, state, and local officials to act on the following issues:**

**Supporting the National Origin-Based Anti-discrimination for Non-Immigrants (NO BAN) Act (H.R. 2214/S. 1123) in Congress,** a comprehensive bill repealing the Muslim Ban

**Supporting the American Dream and Promise Act of 2019 (H.R. 6)** in the U.S. Congress, helps create an easier path to permanent resident status for undocumented community members

**Ending family separation at the U.S. Border through the Alternatives to Detention Act of 2019 (H.R. 532)**

**Support the Uighur Human Rights Policy Act of 2019 (S. 178/H.R. 649)** proposed in both chambers of the U.S. Congress

**Pressing the U.S. Senate to introduce a companion bill to the Uighur Intervention and Global Humanitarian Unified Response (UIGHUR) Act of 2019 (H.R. 1025)**

**Support resolution calling for safe return of Rohingya and calls out Myanmar for its military’s ethnic cleansing (S.Res. 34)**
An Outreach & Government Intern alum from Summer 2019, Nevarez Azdar is a senior double major in Political Science and Spanish at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). In his new role, he works with CAIR-Chicago and the Illinois Muslim Civic Coalition on 2020 Census related matters, namely building community awareness through workshops, presentations and events. Nevarez Azdar will have a particular outreach focus on college students and building strategic partnerships with similar peer civic engagement organizations.

“\textit{We need to be accurately represented. The fear of government surveillance through the census is one that, while valid, works to harm us in the long run.}”

- Chris Nevarez Azdar

\textbf{The Importance of the Census}

Census data is used to determine how much federal funding is given to efforts that benefit local communities.

Meet \textbf{Chris!}: CAIR-Chicago’s 2020 Census Fellow
CAIR-Chicago worked with coalition partners and other individuals in ongoing local and national grassroots activism against the federal law enforcement initiative Terrorism Prevention Partnerships (TPP), formerly known as Counter Violent Extremism (CVE). The #STOPCVE Coalition in Chicago released its first report on its fight to remove CVE's presence in Illinois. This included the continued co-sponsoring film screenings for one of CAIR-Chicago's very own internship alumni's focus on CVE's effects in the southwest suburb of Bridgeview—director Assia Boudaoui’s documentary, *The Feeling of Being Watched*. The film chillingly reveals how Bridgeview’s Muslim community was surveilled since the 1990s, reminding us that CVE was being sowed long before to curtail a community’s exercising of its civil rights and peace of mind due to fear and mistrust.

Conversations on fighting CVE were also featured with several delegations from nearly 20 nations. The national summit, “Resilient Youth for Cohesive communities,” was sponsored by the U.S. Embassy in North Macedonia. The summit and meetings highlighted building resilient communities and promoting inter-ethnic harmony between Albanian and Macedonian populations along the western border of North Macedonia.

CAIR-Chicago staff members from all departments were invited to speak at or host groups prominent educational institutions that included American Islamic College, Columbia College Chicago, Cornell College (IA), DePaul College Preparatory High School, DePaul University, Georgetown University, Lake Forest College, Loyola University Chicago, Moraine Valley College, Northwestern University, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Stanford University, Telpochcalli Elementary School, Universal School, The University of Chicago, University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), and Wright College.

The topics ranged from basic educational seminars to more nuanced issues such as Muslim demographics and current sociopolitical issues in the U.S., curtailling law enforcement abuses, and identity politics.

“One of the best ways to fight for our civil rights is to educate. CAIR-Chicago is tirelessly working in institutions both local and abroad to make sure the plights of Muslims are heard.”

-Muhammad Tauseef Akbar, Research Coordinator
In 2019, CAIR-Chicago’s Research Department continued with its groundbreaking work regarding: trends within the US Islamophobia Network, media representation of Muslims/Islam, and best practices to counter hate crimes. Through its seminal Lantern Project, CAIR-Chicago broadened its scope and focus to include investigations of links between homegrown Islamophobes to foreign funders and actors within the global anti-Muslim movement; strengthening the organization’s knowledge base and increasing community awareness of how Islamophobia operates not only locally and nationally but globally.

CAIR-Chicago also completed and published an important comparative study that analyzed recently published quantitative survey data on Muslim attitudes to a number of issues regarding faith and politics. The study found that Muslim Americans are a unique example among faith groups in the United States in reconciling faith with American civic values. The full report can be accessed on our website under the “Special Projects” header. Elsewhere, research staff took part in outreach with the community, speaking about its work at mosques, community centers and at interfaith gatherings throughout the Chicago land area.

Above: CAIR-Chicago’s new anti-hate website, The Lantern Project, is the largest online database exposing insidious Islamophobia networks.

Opposite: A young student poses for the camera during the Muslim Youth Leadership Symposium in November 2019.

Left: Research Coordinator Muhammad Tauseef Akbar at a seminar in May 2019.

Right: Interns read primary documents to learn about the history of civil rights in Chicago in July 2019.
Communications Coordinator Saadia Pervaiz taking interns on a behind-the-scenes look of various civil rights exhibits at The Chicago History Museum in July 2019.
The Communications Department at CAIR-Chicago is the first line of contact between the office and the greater local, national, and international community. It organizes and holds press conferences; drafts and issues press releases to local and national media; connects with thousands within the community through newsletters; maintains and updates the CAIR-Chicago website; manages and contributes journalistic articles to a variety of news media throughout the world; engages a variety of constituents through social media initiatives; and uses audio and visual development to inform the greater public about the Muslim-American community.

CAIR-Chicago’s communications staff saw monumental, unprecedented growth throughout the 2019 calendar year. With a veteran coordinator and a newly-joined videographer, CAIR-Chicago made leaps in bounds in media relations, content creation, art curation, event coverage, and journalism.

Social media engagement skyrocketed in 2019, with an influx of followers on CAIR-Chicago’s Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook accounts. In addition to social media engagement, CAIR-Chicago’s Communications Department launched a new design for The Chicago Monitor, creating a stream-lined, clean, and easy to navigate platform for the community to reference for articles, podcasts, and videos. As a result, CAIR-Chicago saw an increase in readership for the third year in a row among all platforms, with a high of 350,000 page views and nearly 20,000 followers.

This past year, CAIR-Chicago’s Communications Department moved to a more grassroots and youth-focused position to activism and civic engagement. A priority of that focus was ensuring a clear path to media and content creation. Teaming up with the CAIR-Chicago’s Executive Department, communications staff curated and built an in-house studio for original podcasts, videos, and animations. In it are state of the art microphones, cameras, and lighting equipment.

CAIR-Chicago’s Communications Department still remained steadfast in its effort to hold the media accountable. It was sure to timely present information on cases, lawsuits, and incidents in reports both locally and nationally. It formed catalytic partnerships with media bases, ensuring the Muslim community’s voices and stories were heard.

“You’ll hear us; we’re loud and we’re not going to stop.”

-Saadia Pervaiz, Communications Coordinator
Intern Abigail Simmons is interviewed about her experience as a Civil Rights clerk in a mini-doc about CAIR-Chicago’s internship program.

During the summer of 2019, CAIR-Chicago’s Communications Department curated a state-of-the-art studio space for media production.

The idea was born out of a need for Muslim-Americans to have a stronger voice in content creation, from vlogs to podcasts.

Coordinators Saadia Pervaiz and Hannah Faris worked together with interns to compile the necessary equipment—microphones, lights, green screens, and stands—to create a space where Muslim-Americans can create content and directly distribute it to the public.

The studio opened in the Fall of 2019, and since then, CAIR-Chicago has been busy producing videos and other digital media for Muslims, by Muslims.

Content, and how we absorb it, shapes our worldview. In a world where social media is always buzzing with news, users swipe past pictures and video faster and faster each day.

The Communications Department stepped up to the challenge. It streamlined its engagement tactics and started putting work into A/V interactions with CAIR-Chicago’s constituency.

CAIR-Chicago knows that Muslims are under-represented in the various channels of media: in journalism, on Instagram, on YouTube, and, as always, entertainment.

The first step to rectify this gap in representation was by revamping CAIR-Chicago’s digital editorial newspaper, The Chicago Monitor.

Then, the Communications Department took a chance and built its own studio.

Communications Intern Greg Guillen working with equipment in CAIR-Chicago’s newly designed studio.
Born out of a need for Muslims to be represented in journalism and other creative writing publications, The Chicago Monitor is an outlet unlike any other.

In 2019, the digital-only publication saw a revamp in both its design and editorial process. The editorial team worked to bring poignant, powerful perspectives in easily consumed ways to the public eye.

The website’s re-launch included new space for podcasts, videos, political cartoons, comics, and editorials. CAIR-Chicago also launched a new in-house multi-media studio.

**Media Mentions:**

- **20.3k**
- **1.8k**

CAIR-Chicago’s national and local media mentions reached an all time high of 20.3k total mentions, with 1.8k of those mentions made in 2019.

**Website Engagement**

- **450k**
- **4.8k**

CAIR-Chicago’s website has reached a total of 450k page views to date. We also were keen to fill you in on our news; we reached 4.8k web posts in 2019.

**Social Media:**

- **23+k**
- **10k | 7.7k | 1.2k**

CAIR-Chicago’s social media following grew in 2019, with all social media platforms reaching a total of over 23k followers combined. CAIR-Chicago has 10k followers on Facebook, 7.7k followers on Twitter, and 1.2k Instagram followers.
February 8, 2020

Council on American Islamic Relations – Chicago
17 North State Street, Suite 1500
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Greetings!

As governor of the State of Illinois, I am pleased to welcome everyone to the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) Chicago’s 16th Annual Banquet.

Through initiatives centering on Muslim civil rights, CAIR has dedicated itself to the protection of Islamic heritage and religious freedom throughout the United States for over 26 years. Illinoisans have cultural roots that stem from every corner of the earth, and I’m proud to serve a state that can celebrate so much diversity. The work of the CAIR-Chicago gives people of the Muslim community a protected space to embrace their traditions right here in our state – and offers other Illinoisans the opportunity to learn more about Islam, too. I’m grateful for your organization and all of the groups across our state that seek to build bridges between communities and give Illinoisans a deeper appreciation of our world.

As this year’s theme Action 2020 suggests, we are all stronger when we join together to advocate for a more just and equitable society. I commend CAIR-Chicago for all its hard work and continued efforts in pursuing cross-cultural exchange and understanding in our communities.

I’m confident that CAIR-Chicago will continue to be an unyielding defender of civil rights and justice for years to come. Alongside your efforts, I pledge to continue to protect the rights of all, lifting up the voices and values of every Illinoisan.

On behalf of the people of Illinois, I offer my best wishes for an enjoyable and memorable event.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Dear Friends:

On behalf of the City of Chicago, I am honored to welcome all those gathered for the Council on American-Islamic Relations-Chicago’s 16th Annual Banquet.

Since its establishment in 1994, the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) has worked to protect and promote civil rights and liberties of Muslim Americans while also creating important cultural exchange. Through a comprehensive array of invaluable services to the Muslim American Community, CAIR has handled over 5,000 civil rights complaints, worked to educate and empower the Muslim community, graduated over 800 interns, coordinated countless interfaith and intercultural initiatives, led workshops, and hosted international delegations from every continent since 2005.

This year’s event, themed “ACTION 2020,” presents the opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of the past year while also encouraging us all to continue this important work. Chicago is proud to be home to a vibrant and historic Muslim American community and I commend the Council on American-Islamic Relations-Chicago for its ongoing commitment to the Muslim American community, Chicago, and beyond.

I hope your event is memorable and enjoyable. Best wishes for continued success.

Sincerely,

LORI E. LIGHTFOOT
Mayor
Dear Friends:

It gives me great pleasure to welcome all of you to CAIR-Chicago’s 16th Annual Banquet. This gathering is a special opportunity to recognize the great work of the CAIR-Chicago.

For years, CAIR-Chicago has advocated for better representation of the Islamic community in Chicago. You provide an invaluable service by advocating and providing legal assistance to those seeking asylum. Diversity is Illinois’ strength, and I commend you for fighting against bigotry, defending civil rights, and promoting tolerance in the Chicago area.

Again, I would like to extend my warmest wishes to today’s attendees for your dedication to CAIR-Chicago. Congratulations on all your work and achievements, and I wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]
Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator
February 8, 2020

Asalam Alikum Sisters & Brothers,

Congratulations to the members and staff of CAIR Chicago on another year of hard work, advocacy, and service.

This past year, CAIR Chicago reaffirmed its devotion to service and its commitment to the fight for justice and immigrant rights. I am proud of its work to combat hate in every form, and I am proud to see our Muslim community act and be a force for change against anti-immigrant sentiments, racism, and bigotry.

I wish you many more years of growth and effective advocacy.

Sincerely,

Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress
MI-13

January 23, 2020

Dear Friends,

I am with great pleasure that I congratulate the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) Chicago chapter for its six years of excellence and community service as you hit your 2020 Annual Banquet.

I applaud the council for continuing this great tradition of bringing together community leaders, scholars, and activists to celebrate CAIR's work defending civil liberties. On this milestone anniversary, you have much to look back on and be proud of.

Illinois has a diverse Muslim population which has been vital to the state's growth over the past decades. Unfortunately, we have witnessed an unprecedented nationwide spike in anti-Muslim bigotry and bias incidents since 2014, with an additional increase following President Donald Trump's Muslim Ban. Thankfully, CAIR and its Chicago chapter over the past several years have fought back against this rising tide of anti-Muslim hate and empowered the Muslim community and others to fully participate in American civil life.

The council's public campaigns to raise and denounce the Islamophobia. Network and work to build bridges with other communities to empower each other and push back against all types of hate have played an instrumental role in helping move America forward.

Our democracy requires the active participation of informed citizens. I commend your work in non-partisan voter registration, get-out-the-vote and voter education activities, which support the very principles of civic engagement on which our nation was founded. CAIR's work is essential to making democracy work for everyone.

Once again, best of luck. May this year's banquet be a wonderful experience for everyone in attendance and help renew your commitments to promoting civil rights and ensuring equality and justice for all.

Sincerely,

Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress
February 8, 2020

Aslame-Aliakbar:

It is my pleasure to welcome you to CAIR-Chicago’s 16th Annual Banquet. I extend my gratitude to CAIR for its continued advocacy for justice and mutual understanding.

As you enjoy this evening, I encourage you to reflect on this year’s theme – Action 2020. In a presidential election year, all citizens must be vigilant and engaged, and this is especially true for our Muslim and minority communities in this particular election. The political climate still fosters a climate of mistrust, fear, and hatred, but we must continue to show up and reclaim the narrative by sharing our faiths and beliefs through positive action. I strongly believe it is our duty to make our voices heard—through democratic processes, advocacy education in our communities as well as all levels of government. As each of you organizes in your respective spheres of influence, I will continue to work in Congress to ensure all Americans are respected and represented.

On behalf of the 7th Congressional District of Indiana, I wish you a wonderful evening filled with networking and inspiration for the work ahead.

Sincerely,

Andrei Carson
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

January 16, 2020

Ahmed M. Rebhi
Executive Director
Council on American-Islamic Relations - Chicago Chapter
17 North State Street - Suite 1500
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Dear Director Rebhi:

Thank you for offering this opportunity to greet and welcome attendees at the CAIR-Chicago 16th Annual Banquet Saturday, February 8, 2020 at the Drake Hotel Banquet Hall in Oak Brook Terrace. I understand that this year’s theme will be “Action 2020.” This year’s event comes at a time when our nation’s values and our democracy continue to remain under relentless attack. Over the past three years you have sounded a clarion call warning of the scope of the attack and the urgency of a robust response. It is critical that we, as a nation, continue to respond effectively and robustly to new provocations of intimidation, harassment, and violence, and ongoing anti-Muslim rhetoric.

If the practice of our democracy is to live up to our vision of democracy we should remind all Americans that we live in a multi-cultural nation and that, in the final analysis, the security and strength of our nation lies in our diversity and our unity. Our mutual commitment to those rights and responsibilities are set forth in our constitution, and they have been strengthened, reaffirmed and respected every time we as an encompass every American. These are the true core principles of our democracy and these principles have been ratified at great cost so many times over our history.

I salute CAIR-Chicago for the work you have done over the past year and your unyielding commitment to justice and equality for Muslim Americans, and all Americans. CAIR understands that in defending Muslim Americans against employment discrimination, police abuse, hate crimes and citizenship delays, they are also defending our American values for every American.

Once again, welcome attendees. I am certain you are in for a timely event, and a unique opportunity to networking with community members, leaders and activists from every sector of the Muslim American community in the highest traditions of our grassroots based and driven democracy.

Sincerely,

Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress
DDK12
February 8, 2020

Dear Members of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR):

Congratulations on 26 years of working to ensure justice for American Muslim communities and fostering understanding throughout greater Chicago and Illinois.

This year’s Annual Banquet theme, “Action 2020,” kicks into high gear CAIR’s ongoing campaign of civic engagement. Our democracy requires the active participation of informed citizens. I commend CAIR for its non-partisan voter registration, get-out-the-vote, and voter education activities, which support the very principles of civic engagement on which our nation was founded. Indeed, your work is essential in making democracy work for everyone.

Once again, I wish you the best of luck. May this year’s banquet be a magnificent experience for everyone in attendance and help renew your commitment to civil rights, equal treatment under the law, and civic engagement.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Kelly
Member of Congress

Bobby L. Rush

February 8, 2020

Council on American-Islamic Relations
17 N. State St., Ste. 1500
Chicago, IL 60602

Greetings to CAIR-Chicago & Friends:

For over a decade, your annual banquet has provided community members and elected officials with a wonderful opportunity to celebrate CAIR-Chicago’s mission and achievements. Please accept my best wishes on this special occasion.

Your organization continues to educate and empower members of the Muslim community and promote engagement with the larger community of Chicago. This work is particularly meaningful at a time in our nation’s history when tolerance for diversity is under attack. By fostering understanding and ensuring civil rights are respected, CAIR-Chicago is making a tremendous impact on our city, state, and nation.

Thank you for your hard work and dedication to making a difference in the lives of individuals and families.

Best wishes,

Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress
February 8, 2020

Mr. Ahmed M. Rehab
Executive Director
CAIR Chicago
17 N. State Street, Suite 1500
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Dear Friends,

I wish to extend my greetings to everyone attending CAIR Chicago’s 16th Annual Banquet.

Immigrants are an important part of the history of the United States, and we should celebrate their contributions to our society and culture. I believe our diversity is part of our country’s strength and by working together, we can provide better lives for all.

CAIR’s focus on advocating for civil rights, peace, justice, and respect for all, provides opportunities for our city, state, and nation to stand united and promote equal opportunity for and normalize the image of Muslims in America not only enhancing the Muslim community but also expanding productive dialogue between cultures.

Best wishes for a successful event.

Sincerely,

Mike Quigley
Member of Congress

January 16, 2020

Mr. Ahmed M. Rehab
Executive Director
17 N. State Street Suite 1500
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Dear Members and Leaders of CAIR-Chicago:

I am honored to welcome all of those who have gathered for the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) Chicago Chapter’s 16th Annual Banquet. Congratulations on another successful year of work.

“Action 2020” is an appropriate theme for this year’s banquet. CAIR-Chicago’s continued commitment to advocacy, solidarity, facts, dialogue, and equality for all is extremely admirable and necessary for the community to thrive. The work of CAIR-Chicago has also promoted principles of tolerance, religious freedom, trust and safety throughout the community. I applaud your efforts in the preservation of core American values, to uphold civil and human rights.

Again, I would like to congratulate you on your 16th Anniversary. My best wishes for your continued success.

Sincerely,

Cheri Bustian
Member of Congress
February 8, 2020

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Council on American-Islamic Relations
Chicago Office & Illinois Chapter
17 North State Street, Suite 1500
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Friends,

It brings me great pleasure to extend my congratulations and best wishes to the Chicago chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAR-Chicago) on its 16th Annual Banquet. Tonight’s event is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate your steadfast and important advocacy for the preservation of civil liberties and the right of all of our citizens to pursue the American Dream, regardless of their faith or country of origin.

CAR-Chicago’s efforts have helped educate and empower our diverse Muslim community in Illinois. Through your efforts, CAR-Chicago has consistently demonstrated its commitment to fighting discrimination by providing legal representation, holding your registration drives, and leading community workshops on political activism.

Thank you for all the work that you do, and best wishes for a terrific event this evening!

Warm regards,

Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress

February 6, 2020

GREETINGS

As the Speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives, it is my pleasure to welcome those who have gathered for the Chicago chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations’ 16th Annual Banquet.

Through the years, CAR-Chicago has fought for the advancement of civil rights, embraced community outreach to create greater understanding between Muslims and non-Muslims, and battled intolerance.

Over the course of our nation’s history, challenges have been met by brave men and women who stood up and called on our nation to hold true to the principle of freedom and liberty. A land where all are welcome to practice their religion, speak their mind, and pursue their dreams. With this year’s banquet theme of “Action 2020,” CAR-Chicago urges us this year to once again stand together and demand that American dreams.

Thank you for your efforts. Please accept my best wishes for a wonderful event and for much continued success.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,

Michael J. Madigan
Speaker of the House

Michael J. Madigan
Speaker of the House

February 6, 2020

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATE OF ILLINOIS
FOUNDED
SHOW HIO
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706

ANNUAL REPORT 2019 35
Greetings,

It is my pleasure to welcome everyone to the 16th Annual Banquet for the Council on American-Islamic Relations – Chicago Chapter (CAIR-Chicago).

Since 2005, CAIR-Chicago has worked diligently to protect the civil liberties of Muslim Americans throughout the state. This annual banquet is an opportunity to recognize the achievements and contributions of people who have worked to empower individuals through internships, informative workshops, interfaith events and events with international delegations. It is pertinent to have organizations such as CAIR-Chicago available to address issues including hate crimes, employment discrimination, citizenship challenges, and abuse of incarcerated people. I salute this organization's dedicated leadership and staff.

On behalf of the people of Illinois, I am honored to congratulate the team at CAIR-Chicago on 16 years of civic duty, public service and human rights advocacy.

Best wishes for a successful event and a bright tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Jesse White
Secretary of State

February 8, 2020

Council on American-Islamic Relations
Chicago Chapter
17 N. State Street
Suite 1500
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Friends,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 16th Annual Banquet of the Council on American-Islamic Relations – Chicago.

Founded in 2005, CAIR-Chicago has worked diligently to create a more equitable society that reflects the true values of our great state and country. CAIR-Chicago continues to fight for Muslim Americans to ensure their rights, voices and values are upheld and empowered.

The theme of this year’s banquet, “Action 2020,” encourages all to work towards a future free of hatred and injustice. We must continue to celebrate our differences and stand united against civil injustices. We are stronger when we stand as one. We must protect the principles on which our society is built: respect, inclusion, and justice.

The New Year has greeted us with challenges we cannot afford to ignore. Together we will look forward and achieve our vision of a vibrant and inclusive Illinois.

Welcome to this wonderful celebration and thank you for your service to the people of our great state. I wish you many years of progress.

Sincerely,

Michael W. Frerichs
Illinois State Treasurer

February 8, 2020

As President of the Cook County Board of Commissioners, and on behalf of the residents of Cook County, I offer warm greetings to the members and friends of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) Chicago Chapter, as you gather for the 16th Annual Banquet, themed Action 2020.

I wish to commend everyone at CAIR Chicago Chapter for the crucial work you’ve done and continue to do on behalf of the Muslim American community of Cook County. Since 2005, CAIR Chicago Chapter has acted on over 2,000 civil rights complaints that ranged from employment discrimination and citizenship delay to prison abuse and hate crimes.

The advocacy and civic engagement CAIR Chicago Chapter provides educates and empowers the Muslim American communities throughout Cook County and beyond.

Furthermore, I applaud CAIR Chicago Chapter for fostering awareness, appreciation and understanding of Muslims Americans and Muslim American culture among the residents of Cook County. Our rights, our voices, and our values are currently at the center of the fear tactics that threaten our nation. Now more than ever, dialogue amongst our residents helps foster peace and unity in the County and nation.

Please accept my appreciation for the work you do and for the contributions you bring to the lives of all residents of Cook County. I wish everyone an enjoyable and memorable event, and I wish CAIR Chicago Chapter continued success.

Sincerely,

Tom Cross
President

February 8, 2020
Mr. Ahmed M. Rabab
Executive Director
Council on American-Islamic Relations
17 North State Street
Suite 1500
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Dear Mr. Rabab,

On behalf of the Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office, I congratulate the Council on American-Islamic Relations, Chicago Chapter (CAIR-Chicago) as you commemorate your 10th Annual Banquet.

The work of your organization is crucial as we continue to face discrimination and inequities in our society. Through meaningful civic engagement and collaborative partnerships, your efforts have resulted in vital community mobilization while providing significant resources to support those directly impacted by bias and injustice.

I commend CAIR-Chicago for its unyielding commitment to promoting tolerance, advocating for justice, raising awareness and upholding civil and human rights in Chicago and across Illinois.

Best wishes for continued success and progress!

Sincerely,

Kimberly M. Foxx
Cook County State’s Attorney

January 11, 2020

Council on American-Islamic Relations
Chicago Office & Illinois Chapter
17 W. Monroe, Suite 1500
Chicago, Illinois 60603

Greetings,

Congratulations to the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)—Chicago office on your 10th Annual Banquet. This year’s theme—“Action 2020”—is certainly in line with the spirit of the Cook County Assessor’s Office as we seek to make transformative change that brings fairness, transparency, and predictability to the property tax system.

I’m very happy to celebrate your success and recognize your important work in fostering community and enriching the cultural tapestry of Chicago by working with the Muslim community and advocating for human rights and dignity. Your commitment to building cultural bridges with us as a community, I commend you for this essential work that makes Chicago’s neighborhoods truly special.

Thanks for your valuable service and again, congratulations.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Dart
Sheriff of Cook County

January 16, 2020

Mr. Ahmed M. Rabab
Executive Director
Council on American-Islamic Relations
Chicago Chapter
17 N. State St., Suite 1700
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Dear Director Rabab,

As Sheriff of Cook County, it is my honor to extend my support and congratulations to the Council on American-Islamic Relations-Chicago Chapter, as you celebrate your 10th Annual Banquet. I personally appreciate CAIR-Chicago’s continued commitment to fighting for justice in our communities. I commend the work that CAIR-Chicago has always done in regard to upholding civil and human rights.

Again, congratulations on celebrating another year and best of luck in your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Dart
Sheriff of Cook County
February 8, 2020

Mr. Ahsan M. Redah
Executive Director
Council on American-Islamic Relations, Chicago Office
17 N. State St., Ste. 1550
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Mr. Redah:

Greetings to you and everyone attending the 16th Annual Banquet of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) Chicago Chapter. In honor of your “Action 2020” theme this year, I recognize the 16 years of dedicated action CAIR has extended to “defending civil rights, fighting bigotry, and promoting tolerance.” I personally support all efforts that work to ensure equal rights for all people, and commend CAIR-Chicago for demanding fair treatment through advocacy as well as resistance.

I applaud CAIR-Chicago for its commitment to ending practices of ethnic defamation and discrimination in our community, and its efforts to unite individuals from various backgrounds in support of its mission to ensure justice for all. It is commendable that the CAIR organization works tirelessly to educate and empower the Muslim community of Chicago, while also promoting understanding across racial, religious, and cultural lines throughout the city.

For its dedication to inclusiveness, civic responsibility, and human rights, I extend best wishes for continued success to the Chicago Chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Brown
Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County

January 23, 2020

Counsel on American-Islamic Relations
Chicago Chapter
17 N. State Street, Suite 1700
Chicago, IL 60601

Dear CAIR-Chicago,

I am pleased to congratulate Council on American-Islamic Relations-Chicago Chapter (CAIR) on another year of accomplishments in upholding the civil rights of the Muslim community in the Chicago area.

I congratulate CAIR-Chicago for their dedication to education and empowerment that has elevated civic engagement in the Muslim community and look forward to being a partner in your future success.

Best wishes,

Alma E. Anaya
Cook County Commissioner, 7th District

January 21, 2020

Mr. Ahsan M. Redah
Executive Director
Council on American-Islamic Relations-Chicago Chapter
17 N. State St., Suite 1700
Chicago, IL 60601

Dear Mr. Redah,

Congratulations to the Council on American-Islamic Relations-Chicago Chapter on its 16th Anniversary. The Council’s hard work in advancing mutual respect for differing ideas, beliefs, and experiences is greatly appreciated. I applaud the council for this great tradition of gathering community leaders to celebrate the protection of civil rights.

Thank you for all that you have done and continue to do in promoting tolerance and peace. I wish you and all the individuals your organization serves continued success.

Sincerely,

John P. Daley
Cook County Commissioner
January 21, 2020

Council on American–Islamic Relations
17 North State Street, Suite 1300
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Members of CAIR-Chicago, Friends and Supporters,

Welcome to the 58th Annual Banquet of the Council on American–Islamic Relations.

This year we will celebrate the unity CAIR-Chicago helps to promote. CAIR-Chicago has made incredible achievements working to foster understanding and ensure justice for the entire community. It is the work of CAIR-Chicago that will bring a brighter future for generations to come.

I am proud to welcome everyone in attendance tonight. Together we will celebrate our diversity. Enjoy your evening to celebrate together.

Sincerely,

David Koehler
Assistant Majority Leader
63rd District

February 8, 2020

Council on American-Islamic Relations
17 North State Street, Suite 1300
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear friends,

As the Illinois State Senator in the 46th District, I am pleased to welcome everyone gathered at CAIR-Chicago’s 58th Annual Banquet.

CAIR-Chicago provides a vital service to our city by educating and mobilizing our large Muslim community. In a time full of uncertainty and fear for minorities in our country, the work you do to promote understanding and diversity is especially important.

I am proud to be a supporter of CAIR-Chicago and am equally proud of the contributions Muslims make in Chicago and throughout Illinois each and every day.

Congratulations on your successes in 2019 and best wishes for the future.

Sincerely,

Iris Y. Martinez
State Senator, 46th Senate District

January 16, 2020

Mr. Ahmed Rehab
Executive Director
CAIR-Chicago
17 N. State Street, Suite 1300
Chicago, IL 60602
Dear Mr. Rehab,

Congratulations to the Council on American Islamic Relations, Chicago Chapter’s 58th Annual Banquet and on another successful year in your work to promote equality and civil liberties for all.

Over the last 15 years, CAIR has worked to create a more accepting and tolerant society through a deeper understanding of Islam. As a diverse state, we are at our best when we embrace our differences and work together. You have put this ideal into action repeatedly, as an organization that advocates for comprehensive immigration reform and in your dedication to religious freedom in the military.

This year’s theme of “Action 2020” shows your understanding that our connections with communities, schools, government, community organizations, and our actions must go beyond simple feelings of unity and good will. We must all work together through advocacy, solidarity, and healthy dialogue in order to reach the goal we recognize, spreading understanding throughout our nation. Thank you for your continued fight to our nation’s quest to ensure civil, and human rights for all and to helping shape a future that will help our communities come together to respect and appreciate one another’s ideas, voices and experiences both here and throughout the world.

Sincerely,

Cger Hekmat
Representative 63rd District

February 8, 2020

Council on American-Islamic Relations
17 North State Street, Suite 1300
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Members of CAIR-Chicago, Friends and Supporters:

Congratulations and welcome to the 58th Annual Banquet of the Council on American-Islamic Relations celebrating your great successes of 2019.

This year’s theme “Action 2020” is designed to empower and is indicative of your willingness not only to confront major challenges but to play the critical role of being very difficult and challenging times. I commend everyone gathered tonight in celebration of CAIR’s commitment to a better tomorrow for everyone.

On behalf of the 63rd Legislative District, I give my support and my sincere well wishes to CAIR-Chicago as we celebrate your success this evening.

Enjoy!

Sincerely,

Iris Y. Martinez
State Senator, 46th Senate District

February 8, 2020

Council on American-Islamic Relations
17 North State Street, Suite 1300
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Members of CAIR-Chicago, Friends and Supporters:

Congratulations and welcome to the 58th Annual Banquet of the Council on American-Islamic Relations celebrating your great successes of 2019.

This year’s theme “Action 2020” is designed to empower and is indicative of your willingness not only to confront major challenges but to play the critical role of being very difficult and challenging times. I commend everyone gathered tonight in celebration of CAIR’s commitment to a better tomorrow for everyone.

On behalf of the 63rd Legislative District, I give my support and my sincere well wishes to CAIR-Chicago as we celebrate your success this evening.

Enjoy!

Sincerely,

Iris Y. Martinez
State Senator, 46th Senate District
Dear Friends,

I want to congratulate the Council on American-Islamic Relations’ Chicago chapter on the occasion of its 16th Annual Banquet for all of the incredible work its members have done and continue to do to ensure a peaceful and prosperous place for the Muslim community in American society.

The Illinois Muslim community’s efforts to create a dialogue and ease fears, help give a platform to those whose voices have been silenced, defend civil rights and promote peaceful understanding are nothing short of the state’s profound tradition of activism for equality, and those efforts are needed now more than ever. I enthusiastically applaud this commitment and offer my support as a lawmaker and a member of the community.

Tonight, I wish to again extend my most sincere regards and congratulations. I wish you much success in the year ahead.

Sincerely,

Senator Linda Holmes
Majority Caucus Whip
42nd District

January 22, 2020

CAIR-Chicago
17 N. State St., Suite 1500
Chicago, IL 60602-3296

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January 9, 2019

Mr. Ahmad W. Rahab
Executive Director
CAIR-Chicago
17 N. State Road, Suite 1500
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Dear Members and Guests,

I want to sincerely welcome you all to the Council on American-Islamic Relations, Chicago Chapter’s 16th Annual Banquet. Congratulations to you on another year of serving the Muslim Community in Chicago. Throughout the years, CAIR-Chicago’s promotion of tolerance, understanding, and civil rights and liberties has been vital to the stability and well-being of our neighbors in this city.

CAIR-Chicago continues to lead the way in communications between different cultures and religions. Their efforts encourage equality, enhancing civil liberties, and promoting justice are both admirable and necessary. The work that CAIR-Chicago does for the city and across the nation not only enriches the Muslim community but also expands productive dialogue between cultures.

I thank them for their efforts.

I wish you a successful and enjoyable dinner as you celebrate your efforts. Your dedication to the betterment of Chicago is second to none. Again, congratulations on yet another successful year of serving the Muslim Community and best wishes for a memorable evening.

Sincerely,

Jason A. Barickman
State Senator

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January, 2020

Dear Friends,

Congratulations to the Council on American Islamic Relations – Chicago on their 16th Annual Banquet. This event celebrates another year of CAIR-Chicago advocating for civil rights and civil liberties of the American Muslim community.

CAIR-Chicago’s work has fostered understanding and tolerance within our communities and has underscored our commitment to promoting peaceful and productive dialogues that serve as a model for others. CAIR-Chicago’s work reminds us that society should never tolerate discrimination.

Please accept my best wishes for a wonderful event and continued success in the future.

Sincerely,

Heather Steans
State Senator – 9th District

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Senator Robert Peters
State Senator | 13th District

Council on American-Islamic Relations
Chicago Office & Illinois Chapter
17 N. State St., Suite 1500
Chicago, IL 60602-2319

Dear Friends,

As I write this letter of recognition and support for the Council of American Islamic Relations, Chicago, I would like to congratulate you on your efforts to promote understanding and respect for all faiths and cultures in our society.

I am proud of the work that CAIR-Chicago has done and continues to do, and I am grateful for your continued commitment to promoting civil rights and liberties for all Americans.

Sincerely,

Robert Peters
State Senator | 13th District
January 10, 2020

Council on American-Islamic Relations: Chicago Chapter
29 East Jackson Blvd, 4170
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Friends:

I am honored to congratulate CAIR-Chicago and offer my support to your great work in all of our communities and for being leading advocates for Justice and mutual understanding.

I applaud all your great work throughout greater Chicagoland and Illinois and wish you a very successful event. I salute you for celebrating CAIR-Chicago’s 16th anniversary.

On behalf of my constituents of Illinois State 22nd District, please accept my best wishes for the event's continued success.

Sincerely yours,

Cristina Castro
State Senator – 22nd District

February 8, 2019

Council on American-Islamic Relations: Chicago Chapter
17 N. State St, Suite 1900
Chicago, IL 60602

Laura Murphy
State Senator – 25th District

January 2020

Mr. Gerald Henderson
Outreach Coordinator
Council on American-Islamic Relations
17 North State Street
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Mr. Henderson,

Congratulations to you and the members of the Council on American-Islamic Relations as you celebrate your 16th Annual Banquet on February 8, 2020.

Thank you for leading CAIR-Chicago’s efforts to ensure justice through fostering dialogue and understanding in the greater Chicagoland area. Your ongoing focus on healing relationships broken by fear and misunderstanding is to be applauded.

Best wishes for continued success as you advocate for human rights and fight injustice along with all those who seek peace and understanding.

Sincerely,

Julie A. Morrison
State Senator – 25th District

January 14, 2020

Pat McGuire
State Senator, District 41
February 2009

Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to offer this letter congratulating the Chicago chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-Chicago) on another successful year of brave defending civil rights, fighting bigotry, and promoting tolerance.

As the largest organization committed to protecting and promoting the civil rights and liberties of Muslims Americans, CAIR-Chicago has made great strides in engaging all communities to build mutual understanding and trust, and is an exemplar that will be a model for all the world. Since the creation of CAIR in 2010, the legal team has handled more than 500 civil rights complaints, educated and empowered the Muslim community through civic engagements, conducted over 1,000 interfaith candlelight observances, and produced over 100 workshops, including conferences and cultural exhibits, for educational purposes. The organization has expanded its scope of influence from one continent to another.

I am honored to be able to offer my support to CAIR-Chicago and am excited to meet the challenges of ensuring freedom and justice for all. It is my hope that CAIR-Chicago will continue to be a beacon of light in the community and beyond.

I commend CAIR-Chicago on its ongoing efforts and for its commitment to the community. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of your organization.

Sincerely,

John C. D'Amico
State Representative

CAIR-CHICAGO

January 23, 2020

Ms. Ahmed M. Rehab,
Executive Director
Council on American-Islamic Relations
17 North State Street, Suite 1500
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Ms. Rehab,

Congratulations to the Council on American-Islamic Relations for another year of dedicated service to the community. Your organization continues to be a shining example of how to work towards justice and equality for all.

The United States finds strength in our diversity, and our shared ideals and values are an essential part of our identity. CAIR-Chicago's work is crucial in promoting these ideals and values, and I am proud to support your organization in its efforts.

Your organization's work on behalf of the Muslim community is highly appreciated. Keep up the great work for another successful year.

Sincerely,

Marco M. P. McDermott
State Representative
13th Legislative District
Illinois State Representative

STATE OF ILLINOIS

JAMES CAPPLEMAN

Alderman, 40th Ward

January 24, 2020

Council on American-Islamic Relations
Chicago Chapter
120 N. State Street Suite 1500
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Alderman,

Congratulations to the Council on American Islamic Relations for another productive year. Your leadership and dedication to advocating for the rights of all individuals are commendable. Your tireless efforts in promoting understanding and respect for our diverse community are deeply appreciated.

As we honor this exceptional work, our city and our country are reminded of the importance of fostering a culture of inclusiveness and unity. Your commitment to championing the cause of justice and equality is truly inspiring.

I commend CAIR-Chicago and its members for their unwavering dedication to improving the community. Your work is a testament to the power of collaboration and the resilience of our community.

Sincerely,

James Cappelman
Alderman, 40th Ward

CAIR-CHICAGO

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January 24, 2019

Ahmad Rahim, Executive Director
Council on American-Islamic Relations
1700 State Street, Suite 1500
Chicago, IL 60610

Dear Ahmad, 

I wanted to extend my congratulations to you and the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) for your continued work on behalf of the Illinois Muslim community. Your work on civil liberties, justice, and communityunsettling disabilities for all Illinoisans.

This year’s theme, “Action 2020,” emphasizes the importance of civic participation and making sure that our voices are heard. As we work towards that goal, I am proud to support the work of CAIR and its dedicated volunteers.

Sincerely,

Brian Hopkins
Alderman, 3rd Ward

January 23, 2019

Council on American-Islamic Relations
1700 State Street, Suite 1500
Chicago, IL 60610

To: Brian Hopkins

Re: Letter of Support

Dear Brian,

I would like to extend my congratulations to the Chicago Chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) on your 10th year successfully advocating on behalf of the Illinois Muslim community, and for your efforts advancing justice, compassion, and mutual understanding for all Illinoisans.

This year’s theme, “Action 2020,” emphasizes the importance of civic participation and making sure that our voices are heard. As we work towards that goal, I am proud to support the work of CAIR and its dedicated volunteers.

My best wishes for another successful banquet, and another successful year defending civil rights, fighting bigotry, and promoting tolerance.

Sincerely,

Ahmad Rahim
Council on American-Islamic Relations

January 22, 2020

Council on American-Islamic Relations
1700 State Street, Suite 1500
Chicago, IL 60610

To: Ahmad Rahim

Re: Letter of Support

Dear Ahmad,

I am pleased to support CAIR-Chicago in its 10th year of service to the Muslim community in Illinois. I am very proud of your accomplishments and commitment to engage all communities in building mutual understanding and trust.

Your work has a special importance in this challenging time, as we work to protect the rights of all residents of Chicago and Illinois.

Sincerely,

Brian Hopkins
Alderman, 3rd Ward
January 23, 2020

Council on American-Islamic Relations
Chicago Chapter
31 North State Street, Suite 1500
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Dear Friends,

On behalf of myself, and the constituents of the 44th Ward of Chicago, I would like to extend sincere congratulations to the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) for its continued work as a leading advocate for justice and mutual understanding.

I am proud to support the work of CAIR, protecting and advancing civil rights, promoting cultural exchange, and highlighting the differences of all people, making America the diverse country we are proud to live in. These are the values that have made Chicago and the 44th Ward strong for decades and we work together to bring those shared values to the larger community.

Wishing success at the 10th Annual Banquet and continued achievements as vital community partners in Chicago.

Sincerely,

Thomas Tunney
44th Ward Alderman

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January 14, 2020

Council on American-Islamic Relations
Chicago Office
17 North State Street, Suite 1500
Chicago, Illinois 60602-5249

Dear Friends:

Please accept my best wishes for your 10th Annual Banquet themed “Action 2020” celebrating yet another successful year fulfilling your mission to defend civil rights, fight bigotry and promote tolerance.

The event will celebrate another phenomenal year of working to ensure justice for the embattled in the community, and to foster understanding throughout the area. CAIR-Chicago’s work and advocacy is helping to preserve civil rights for Americans Muslims and working to eliminate discrimination while also empowering individuals and institutions in this community. Your commitment to your mission is to be commended. The best weapons against hate and bigotry are communication and education.

I wish you continued success in your mission and offer my assistance in approaching your members to the Rogers community.

Sincerely,

Derek J. Kaptain
Mayor, City of Rogers

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Stephen H. Hagerty
Mayor

January 14, 2020

Office of the Mayor
City of Evanston
2100 Ridge Avenue
Evanston, Illinois 60202

Dear Mayor Hagerty,

Thank you for the opportunity to write a letter of support for your work to ensure justice and foster understanding. More than ever, diverse communities like Evanston rely on CAIR-Chicago to advocate for the marginalized, protest civil liberties, and ensure that all citizens in our community are treated fairly, hostility and respected. We know how to support everyone who is working to ensure that the 10th Annual CAIR-Chicago banquet in support of your organization’s outstanding efforts.

On behalf of the City of Evanston, congratulations on a phenomenal past year and best wishes for the future. You are helping the entire Chicago area with what I am sure will be a successful event and another memorable year working towards peace and progress.

Sincerely,

Thomas H. Nagy
Mayor

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January 2020

Hoffman Estates
Office of the Mayor

William D. McCreadie
Mayor

January 2020

To the members, guests, family & friends of the Council on American-Islamic Relations:

Please accept my congratulations to the members of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, Chicago Chapter (CAIR) on your 7th Annual Banquet celebrating your success in ensuring justice for the embattled in our communities and in fostering understanding throughout the greater Chicago area and Illinois. Your theme, “Action 2020” is wonderfully timed and perfectly poised for a future emboldened with understanding and acceptance.

I am pleased to see the CAIR-Chicago community continue to educate the masses through peaceful and thoughtful events that invite people of all races and religious affiliations to the table. On-going conversations about tough issues are critical and I applaud you for the work you are doing to bring others together.

Thank you again for your exemplary efforts to make a difference in all of our communities and best wishes for many more years of successful service!

Sincerely,

William D. McCreadie
Mayor
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
VILLAGE OF OAK BROOK

GOPAL G. MADHANAN M.D., M.B.A.
PRESIDENT

Mr. Ahmed M. Rabab, Executive Director
Council on American-Islamic Relations
Chicago Chapter
17 N. State St., Suite 1500
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Mr. Rabab:

As President of this organization, it is my pleasure to welcome the members of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), Chicago Chapter to the Oak Brook area.

Congratulations on another remarkable year. The work your organization does for the Muslim community is commendable and the strides taken to bridge the gap between different cultures is something to be proud of. CAIR’s efforts, by example, strengthen the fabric of our society. To build a sense of common purpose and to work towards a better future, it is important that we all come together.

Thank you for your support and for helping to make this possible.

Sincerely,

Gopal C. Madhavan, M.D., M.B.A.
Village President

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Village of Oak Brook
From the Office of Village Clerk Lisa L. Sculley

January 16, 2020

Ahmed M. Rabab
Executive Director
Council on American-Islamic Relations - Chicago Chapter
17 North State Street, Suite 1500
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Dear Mr. Rabab:

Thank you for your invitation to the CAIR-Chicago 2019 Annual Banquet on February 8, 2020 at the Grand Ballroom Renaissance Hotel. I look forward to attending and supporting the Council on American-Islamic Relations. I am honored to be a part of the organization and its mission.

Sincerely,

Lisa L. Sculley
Village Clerk

Village of Oak Brook
From the Office of Village Trustee Shaneem Shalahan

February 8, 2020

Council on American-Islamic Relations - Chicago
17 North State Street, Suite 1500
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Shaneem Shalahan
Village Trustee

Village of Hanover Park
From the Office of Village Clerk Eshia L. Sculley

Hanover Park
From the Office of Village Trustee Shaneem Shalahan

February 8, 2020

Council on American-Islamic Relations - Chicago
17 North State Street, Suite 1500
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Shaneem Shalahan
Village Trustee

Village of Hanover Park
From the Office of Village Clerk Eshia L. Sculley

Hanover Park
From the Office of Village Trustee Shaneem Shalahan

February 8, 2020

Council on American-Islamic Relations - Chicago
17 North State Street, Suite 1500
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Shaneem Shalahan
Village Trustee
We all have something valuable to learn from and inspire within each other, and InshAllah (God willing), we continue to be granted the opportunity to do so. CAIR-Chicago thanks all the volunteers, interns and staff who have given their time and effort to the advancement of the Muslim Community, CAIR-Chicago, and social justice. We welcome and encourage continued involvement in the years to come.

Support Our Work

CAIR-Chicago is an eligible recipient of Zakat. As always, your donations to CAIR-Chicago are tax deductible.

- Sign up for CAIR-Chicago's Dollar-A-Day program at [www.cairchicago.org/dollar-a-day](http://www.cairchicago.org/dollar-a-day)
- Make a general donation at [www.cairchicago.org/donate](http://www.cairchicago.org/donate)
- Check to see if your employer has a gift matching program
- Designate CAIR-Chicago as a beneficiary in your will (planned giving)
- Donate stocks, bonds or financial instruments to CAIR-Chicago
- Participate in our Amazon Smile program. Go to [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com)

Join Us

- Apply for an internship/externship/law clerkship at [www.cairchicago.org/intern-center](http://www.cairchicago.org/intern-center)
- Volunteer with us at [www.cairchicago.org/volunteer-center](http://www.cairchicago.org/volunteer-center)
- Participate in one of our many events, rallies, workshops and Annual Banquet
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Executive Director

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Deputy Director & Counsel

PHIL ROBERTSON, ESQ.
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PROF. M. CHERIF BASSIOUNI
Memorial Chair

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