



CIVIL RIGHTS



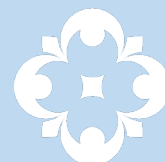
CAIR
WASHINGTON

**WE STAND
WITH OUR
MUSLIM
NEIGHBORS**

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

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CAIR
WASHINGTON



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A ssalamu Alaikum,

This has been a challenging year. Hate crimes continue to rise, attacks on and threats against Rep. Ilhan Omar and Rep. Rashida Tlaib by the President are an almost daily reminder of the Islamophobia that stalks our nation and the loss of 50 sisters and brothers in New Zealand was horrifying. But these heartbreaks also serve as a reminder of why our work is so crucial and how effectively we mobilize for our community. And that's the lesson we must take into the coming year--one that will be politically pivotal for Muslims and for the nation as a whole. We must build power so we can act in the moment and so we can strategize long term. We must defend and build.



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In the immediate wake of the New Zealand attack, CAIR-WA reached out to law enforcement and mosques throughout the state to ensure that extra security was provided wherever needed. From that, a larger coalition of religious leaders has emerged to work on **everyday safety at our mosques, schools, and community centers**.

In the days following the attack, CAIR-WA worked with Muslim organizations from around the region to organize a vigil and anti-Islamophobia workshop that drew over 2,000 attendees and hosted elected officials from around the state.

This momentum and the support we all feel for new Muslim leaders in politics helped energize Muslim Day at the Capitol. It was our first in five years and 60 Muslim leaders met with 56 representatives about religious accommodations in schools, hate crimes, and immigrant rights. **Governor Inslee and Lt. Governor Habib met with leaders and addressed some of our most urgent concerns**.

We also saw large audiences for our "Muslim Voices 2020" event. It was the **first in a series of community conversations with elected officials** and focused on 48th District legislators Sen. Kuderer, Rep. Walen and Rep. Slatter. We plan to host similar events across Washington in the coming year.

This was all in addition to our already scheduled programming including a trip to the Seattle Aquarium with Muslim youth (as a capstone to our **anti-Muslim bullying survey** of Washington state), bi-weekly **Bystander Intervention Trainings**, and 60 cases of legal representation and advocacy by our Legal Team.

Going forward, we are developing a **Youth Engagement Pipeline** including an end-of-summer youth conference that will focus on civic engagement, media literacy, and public speaking, and doubling down on our civic engagement work with **a voter registration campaign, townhalls, and legal clinics**.

This is the balancing act: How do you work to **serve** the community's everyday needs, **defend** when necessary, and **build power** to develop a long-term strategy? **It's not easy, but I think it's possible**, especially when we stand side by side in our commitment to change.

Your continued support is crucial in our collective efforts to serve our community, build power, and develop a long-term strategy for lasting impact. Invest in our community and our collective future today by donating to CAIR Washington.

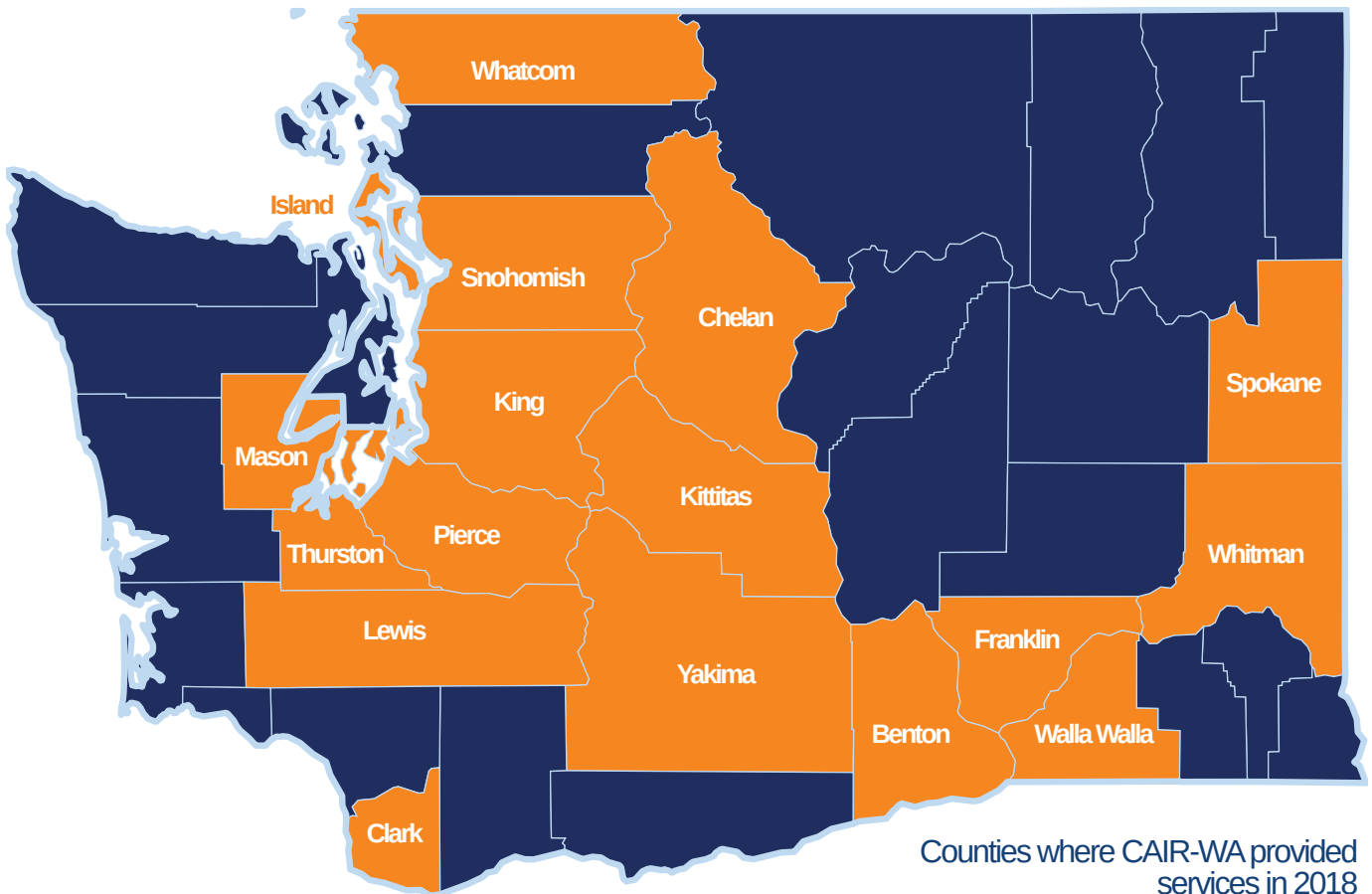
Thank you for your continued support.

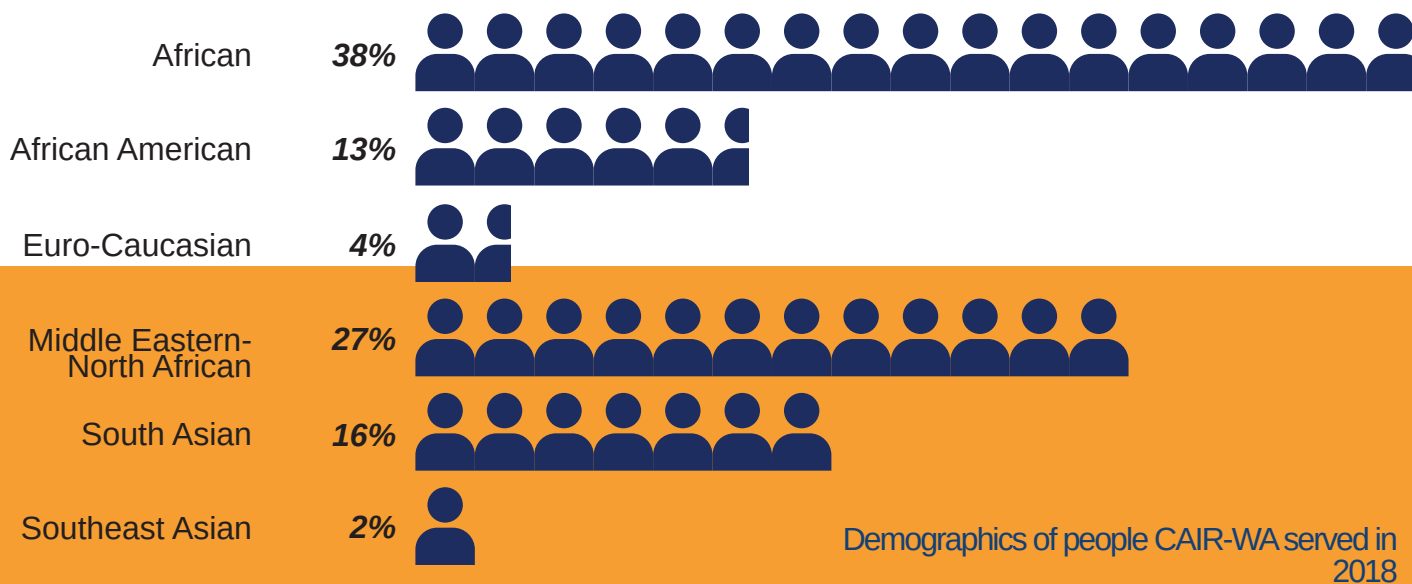
– Masih Fouladi
Executive Director, CAIR-WA

HIGHLIGHTS

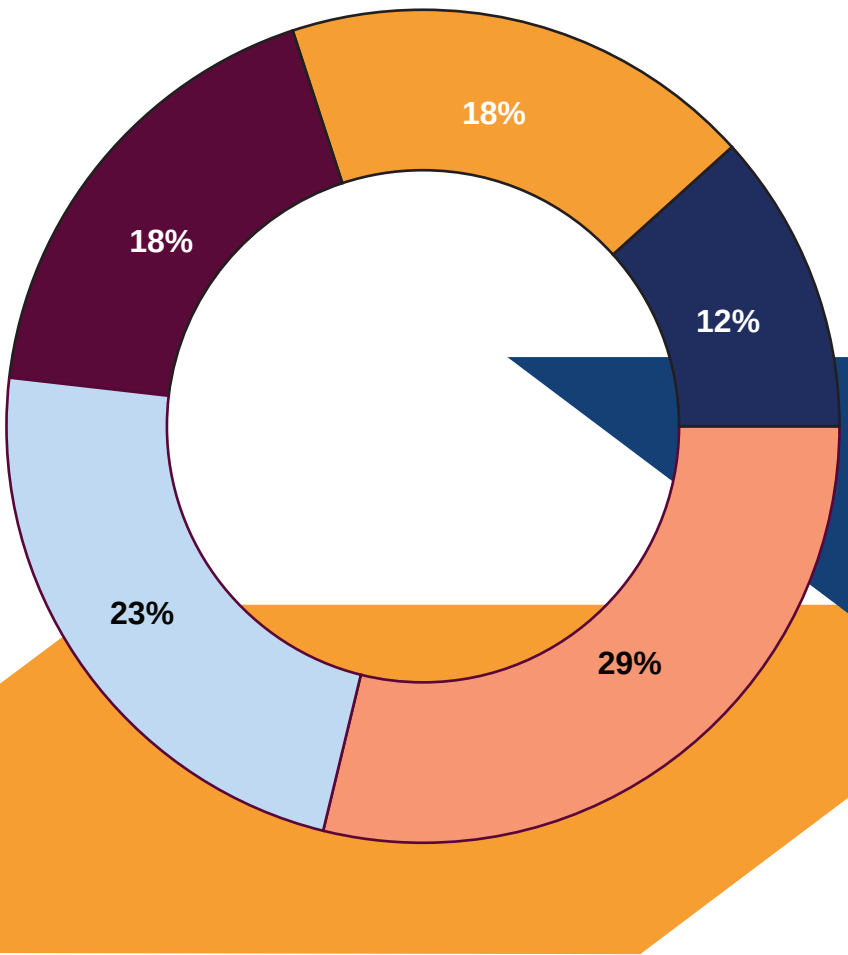
CAIR-WA serves anyone who is discriminated against for being Muslim

70% of reports to CAIR-WA came from King County
30% came from other counties throughout Washington





TYPES OF DISCRIMINATION



LEGAL AREA	PERCENTAGE %
Immigration and Travel	12%
Employment	18%
Hate Crimes & Incidents	18%
Government Surveillance	23%
Other	29%



INCIDENT DETAILS

IMMIGRATION AND TRAVEL	PERCENTAGE
Immigration Delays	30%
Muslim Ban & Waivers	27%
Asylum	7%
Citizenship & Green Card Applications	2%
ICE & Detention	7%
Other	27%

EMPLOYMENT	PERCENTAGE %
Failure to Accommodate	30%
Wrongful Termination	36%
Failure to Hire	7%
Hostile Environment	25%
Other	2%

HATE CRIME & INCIDENTS	PERCENTAGE %
Hate Incidents & Harassment	65%
Hate Crimes	23%
Other Islamophobic Incidents	11%

GOVERNMENT SURVEILLANCE	PERCENTAGE %
Incarceration/Detention	34%
Travel Delays/Secondary Screening	36%
FBI Surveillance	16%
Other	14%



MUSLIM BAN



MUSLIM BAN

“It is time for elected officials to listen to their constituents and repeal the discriminatory Muslim Ban.”

— Masih Fouladi

“The Muslim Ban separated me from my husband for almost a year.”

— Ubah Warsame-Aden

Two years ago, the Trump administration first issued an Executive Order that banned foreign nationals from seven predominantly Muslim countries from visiting the United States. In June 2018, the U.S. Supreme Court allowed the current iteration of Trump’s racist Muslim Ban to go into effect. Today, this ban is still separating families and hurting communities in Washington.

“The Muslim Ban separated me from my husband for almost a year,” said Ubah Warsame-Aden, community member. “I also know many other community members who are affected by the Muslim Ban. For two years now, families who should be together have been separated. This separation affects the health and well-being of so many people, and has a devastating impact on entire communities. The discriminatory Muslim Ban is simply immoral and wrong.”

“When the Muslim Ban was first signed by the President, we saw hundreds of thousands of Americans demonstrating at airports because it is a violation of fundamental American values to discriminate on the basis of religion,” said Masih Fouladi, Executive Director of CAIR-WA, “Those same people flooded the polls in 2018 and elected the most diverse congress we have ever seen. It is time for elected officials to listen to their constituents and repeal the discriminatory Muslim Ban.”



EVOLUTION OF THE MUSLIM BAN

JANUARY 27, 2017: MUSLIM BAN 1.0

President Donald Trump issues an executive order that bans foreign nationals from seven predominantly Muslim countries— nationals from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen- from visiting the country for 90 days, suspends entry to the country for all Syrian refugees indefinitely, and prohibits any other refugees from coming into the country for 120 days.

FEBRUARY 7, 2017: LAWSUITS FILED

ACLU-WA files a class-action lawsuit in federal court in the Western District of Washington challenging the Muslim Ban on behalf of refugees and visa-holders. CAIR-WA joins the lawsuit as an organizational plaintiff and argues that its efforts to provide legal services to the Muslim and refugee community has been impeded by the ban.

MARCH 6, 2017: MUSLIM BAN 2.0

Trump issues a new executive order that revises the Muslim Ban. Muslim Ban 2.0 targets only six countries and exempts green card-holders.

SEPTEMBER 24, 2017: MUSLIM BAN 3.0

Trump issues his third iteration of the ban. Nationals from the following countries are included in the ban indefinitely: Iran, Libya, Somalia, Syria, Yemen, Chad, North Korea and Venezuela.

JUNE 26, 2018: THE SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS MUSLIM BAN 3.0

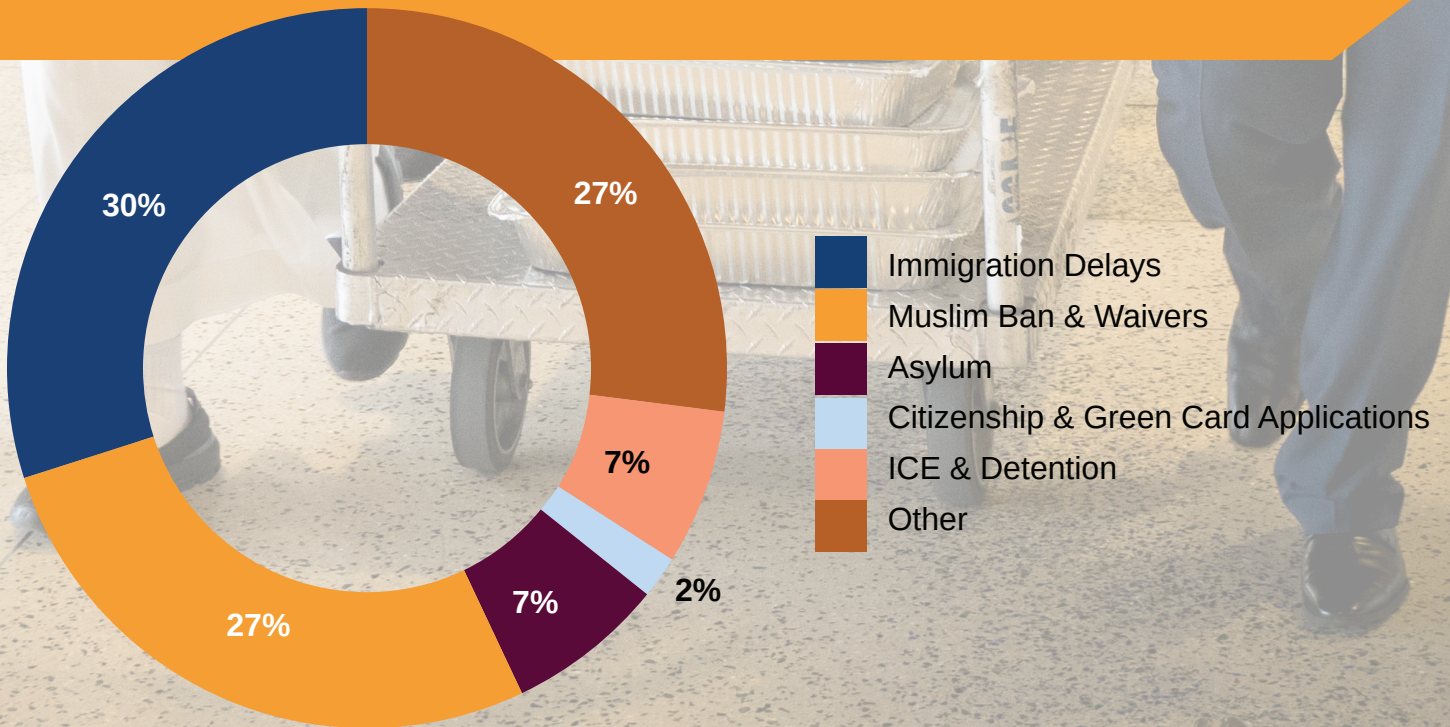
In a 5-4 ruling, the Supreme Court upholds Muslim Ban 3.0 indefinitely. The ACLU-WA's case is allowed to move forward in Washington state.



IMMIGRATION & TRAVEL



C AIR-WA's legal department has expanded its scope to encompass immigration legal services. This empowers our attorneys to respond to increasing requests for legal services related to immigration delays, citizenship applications, and Muslim Ban waiver cases.



AHMED

“After almost three years, they had still not received their green cards and had not heard from USCIS.”

Ahmed and his wife, Bayan, are Canadian citizens that have lived and worked in the U.S. for several years. Ahmed and Bayan filed for legal permanent resident status, or their green cards, in August 2016. After almost three years, they had still not received their green cards and had not heard from USCIS. Neither had been scheduled for the required interview by the government agency.

They made numerous inquiries to USCIS and other government agencies for over two years, but were repeatedly informed by USCIS that their applications required “additional review.” No further explanation or answers were provided.

CAIR-WA and Nimer Law, LLC partnered to file a complaint against USCIS, the FBI, and the Department of Homeland Security, claiming that the government’s inaction on their immigration petitions was unreasonable and unlawful. CAIR-WA demanded that the government process Ahmed and Bayan’s green card applications within 21 days. The complaint, known as a *writ of mandamus*, was filed in December 2018. Immediately after filing, USCIS began processing Ahmed and Bayan’s petitions. They received their green cards in May of 2019 and Bayan was able to travel with her daughter to visit her relatives for the first time.



Photo is for illustration purposes.
Individuals referenced not depicted.



Mahad and his wife have been separated for 7 years.

UBAH



Ubah arrived in the U.S. as a refugee in 2015. Ubah and her husband, Mahad, were separated in 2010 due to the war in Somalia, and for many years had no means of communication. Although they tried to reunite in Egypt before Ubah resettled in the U.S., they were unsuccessful in reaching each other in time. After she received her green card, in 2016, Ubah filed an I-730 Refugee/Asylee Relative petition for her husband to join her in the U.S.

For over two years, Mahad's application had not been processed and Ubah and Mahad

have remained separated. They have not seen each other in over 7 years. Ubah tried to obtain a travel document to see Mahad, but it was denied.

CAIR-WA and Nimer Law, LLC filed a complained claiming the government's inaction is unreasonable and unlawful. Our lawsuit demands that the immigration application be processed immediately. Since filing in January 2019, the Embassy in Cairo has begun to process Mahad's application.

LITIGATION

A woman wearing a pink hijab and a black jacket is the central focus. She is holding a stack of papers and looking towards the camera. The background shows a set of stone steps and several other people, some in traditional Islamic attire, in what appears to be a public or institutional setting. The image is overlaid with a large orange triangle in the top right and a blue triangle in the bottom right.

CAIR-WA's civil rights advocacy has expanded to include impact litigation. These types of lawsuits enable us to target discriminatory policies that impact large segments of the Muslim

PRISONERS' RIGHTS LITIGATION



In May 2018, CAIR-WA and the CAIR Legal Defense Fund filed an emergency lawsuit against the Washington Department of Corrections (DOC) because officials were starving Muslim inmates observing Ramadan. Within hours of filing, a judge issued an order requiring DOC officials to feed and accommodate all fasting Muslim inmates. This legal victory was possible because, as the leading civil rights organization for Muslims in Washington state, CAIR-WA was the first call made by inmates directly impacted by this inhumane policy.

The facility had been refusing to feed Muslim inmates who were fasting during Ramadan post-sunset. As a result, four Muslims experienced severe weight loss, losing more than 20 pounds, on average, as well as showing other symptoms of starvation. When one of the Muslim inmates continued to fast and adhere to his religious beliefs, prison officials threatened to force feed him and send him to solitary confinement. This is just one example of CAIR-WA's impact litigation.





“The facility had been refusing to feed Muslim inmates who were fasting during Ramadan post-sunset.”

This lawsuit challenges the DOC’s problematic Ramadan meal program and policies on the First, Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments to the Constitution, as well as the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act of 2000 (“RLUIPA”), and 42 U.S.C. § 1983.

If the remaining issues are not resolved, this case is expected to go to court in the fall. CAIR-WA is committed to ensuring that all Muslims have the right to practice their faith freely.

WATCHLIST LITIGATION

In August 2018, CAIR-WA, in partnership with CAIR chapters across the country, sued the federal government for their unconstitutional Terrorist Watchlist and No Fly Lists. In the complaint, CAIR-WA alleges that the government added individuals to a federal terrorist watchlist without notice nor due process. This policy targets American Muslims and seriously restricts their ability to travel. Such restrictions are imposed indefinitely and often without recourse.

The lawsuit challenges the watchlist on the basis of the Fifth Amendment and argues that adding Muslims to a watchlist and imposing the stigmatizing label of “known and suspected terrorists,” as well as disseminating this label to state and local law enforcement, other local authorities, and private companies without a constitutionally legal mechanism is arbitrary and unlawful. The lawsuit was filed in the District Court of Maryland on behalf of over twenty Muslims and Muslim Americans, and challenges the Terrorist Screening Database and No Fly List, a database overseen by the FBI and Department of Homeland Security.

Any American, children included, may be listed on the Terrorist Screening Database based on mere speculation, or simply based on race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, or the exercise of their constitutional rights of free speech, advocacy, and expression. Moreover, travel to Muslim-majority countries—travel that American Muslims are most likely to engage in—is also basis for watchlist placement.

CAIR-WA represents Imam Farid Sulayman as a plaintiff in the lawsuit. Imam Farid is a U.S. citizen,

and an Imam who teaches at various mosques in the greater Seattle area. Since 2005, Imam Farid’s passport has been stamped with “SSSS,” and he waits an additional hour to receive his boarding pass from the ticketing counter. Imam Farid often has his cellphone confiscated at the border and has to wait for over four hours while he is subjected to additional searches and questioning regarding his travels, religion, and community. In May 2018, Imam Farid was handcuffed and detained by agents at Joint Base Lewis-McChord while waiting to pick up an Uber customer.

“It is humiliating to be taken aside in front of the other passengers, every time I travel,” said Imam Farid. “I often travel with members of my community and family in my role as an imam. Now, community members and family are afraid to travel with me because they also fear being singled out because of the God we pray to. I wouldn’t wish this type of blatant discrimination on anyone.”

CAIR-WA civil rights attorney, Amanda Misasi, says Imam Farid isn’t alone in his experience: “The ongoing profiling of our client is not only unlawful, it is part of a larger campaign to intimidate and harass American Muslims,” said Misasi. “Arbitrarily adding people to a watchlist based on nothing but their religion and ethnicity violates their Constitutional rights to due process and equal protection under the fifth Amendment. Americans like Farid have a right to live and move about freely without being targeted and persecuted by the government because of their faith.”

Victims of the watchlist are often denied the ability to travel by air, are subjected to interrogations, have their electronics seized, and have their bank accounts closed. As Judge Anthony J. Trenga describes, the watchlist “transfor[ms] a person into a second-class citizen, or worse.”

Imam Farid joins more than a dozen Muslim-American plaintiffs from Washington DC, Florida, Michigan, Oregon, Kansas, and New Jersey.



Many Americans...may be listed on the Terrorist Screening Database based on mere speculation, or simply based on ethnicity, national origin, religion or the exercise of their constitutional rights of speech, advocacy, and expression.



CIVIL RIGHTS VIOLATIONS



1. Employment Discrimination
2. Hate Crimes & Hate Incidents
3. Government Surveillance

EMPLOYMENT

CAIR-WA advocates for Muslim employees to freely exercise and express their religion in the workplace.

Washington state and federal laws prohibit employers from discriminating on the basis of religion, race or ethnicity. Employees have the right to be safe from harassment in the workplace, as well as have accommodations for their religious practices.

CAIR-WA advocates for Muslim employees to freely exercise and express their religion in the workplace by addressing complaints of discrimination and requesting reasonable accommodations on behalf of employees.

In September 2018, CAIR represented 138 Somali-

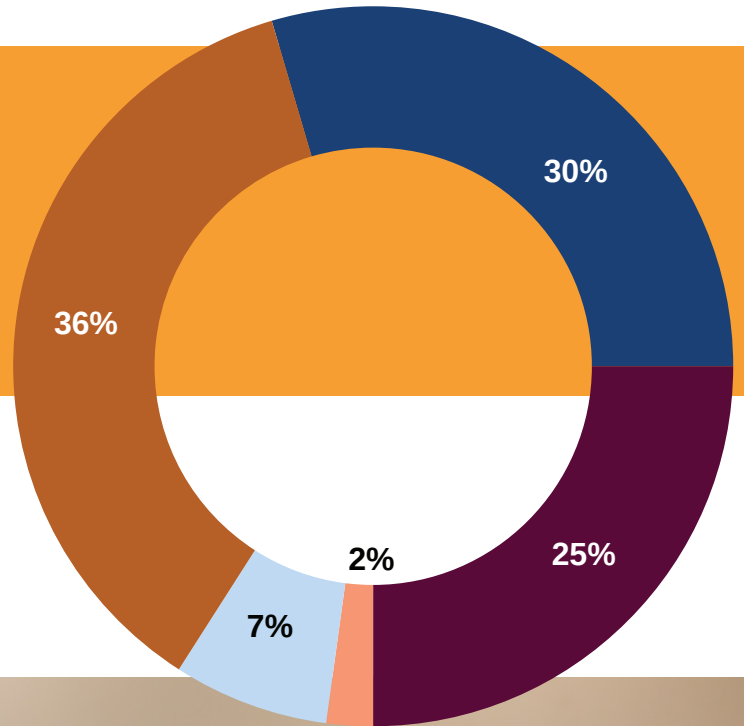
American Muslim workers in an EEOC complaint against Cargill Meat Solutions.

The Somali-American workers alleged wrongful termination after their requests for prayer breaks were denied. After several months of legal procedures, Cargill settled the case with CAIR. The settlement agreement provided \$1,500,000 for the 138 terminated employees. It also ensured that Cargill will provide Muslim workers with breaks to perform their obligatory prayers in the future. This is just one example of CAIR's commitment to fighting for religious accommodations for Muslims in workplaces across the country.



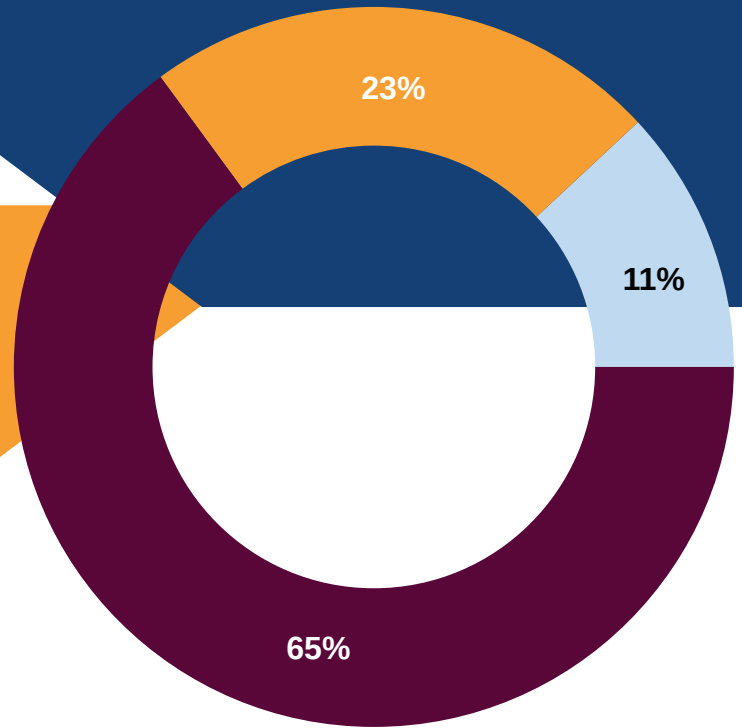
DISCRIMINATION

- Failure to Accommodate
- Wrongful Termination
- Failure to Hire
- Hostile Environment
- Other



HATE CRIMES &

42% increase in hate crimes in Washington state in 2018



-  Hate Incidents & Harassment
-  Hate Crimes
-  Other Islamophobic Incidents

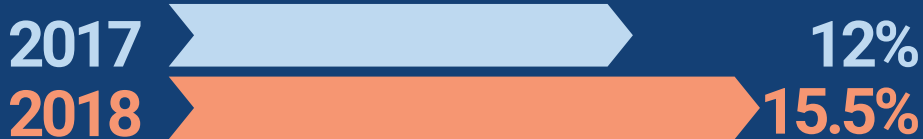


Unfortunately, hate crimes and incidents against Muslim Americans are up across the nation and our region is no exception. Islamophobic rhetoric is promoted from the highest political offices and negative media portrayals of Muslims and Islam (roughly 80% of all media portrayals) fuel dangerous stereotypes and bigotry.

At the CAIR-WA offices we are reminded of this challenging reality daily when community members call us with stories of a father and son told to get out of their own neighborhood, or a group of friends praying at Alki who were insulted by a passerby. We hear of shop owners enduring slurs from their customers, Lyft drivers assaulted by passengers and even one woman who had gasoline poured on her by a man who yelled “get out of this country.”

HATE INCIDENTS

% of CAIR-WA cases that were hate crimes & incidents



Public transportation is one of the most common settings where these instances of discrimination and prejudice occur. Jemaya was commuting to work on the King County Metro when another woman followed her to her seat, grabbed her and ripped off her hijab. King County Metro Transit Police officers responded and helped recover Jemaya’s hijab. Jemaya was uncertain if the woman was arrested or if charges were filed, and she was not given an incident number. CAIR-WA assisted Jemaya in contacting King County Metro Police and ensuring an investigation was underway and that assault charges were being brought against her attacker. CAIR-WA helped ensure that a 5-year no contact order was in place so that Jemaya could be safe on her morning bus route.



CAIR-WA also reported the incident to King County Metro and worked with King County Metro to investigate and review their passenger and driver safety policies. As a result, CAIR-WA and King County Metro have partnered to conduct better trainings, and implement safer policies for bus riders and drivers alike.

Additionally, CAIR-WA is partnering with organizations and institutions throughout the region (including King County Metro) to provide “Bystander Intervention Trainings.” The goal of these trainings is to teach allies and neighbors how to support one another, and how to safely and effectively intervene when they witness harassment in public.



GOVERNMENT

Travel Delays/Secondary Screening

Detention/Incarceration

FBI Surveillance

Other

Most of government surveillance occurs while Muslims are traveling. Thirty percent (30%) of client discrimination complaints are against Customs and Border Patrol at the border or at the airport.

For years, CAIR-WA has represented innocent Muslims – people who have not been charged, arrested, nor convicted of a violent offense – who have been targeted by the watchlisting system. Some have lost jobs, been separated from their families, and all have been stigmatized by being treated as a “terrorist” by their own government.

“The government’s watchlisting system is not only broken; it is discriminatory and dangerous,” said Executive Director Masih Fouladi. “The watchlist has unfairly targeted religious leaders and communities from Muslim majority countries.”

“We have suspected all along that the FBI was offering private entities access to the watchlist” said Civil Rights Attorney Amanda Misasi.

“People added to the watchlist are done so without due process, providing the watchlist to private entities further extends the damaging consequences of the watchlist on the lives of too many Muslims and American Muslims.”

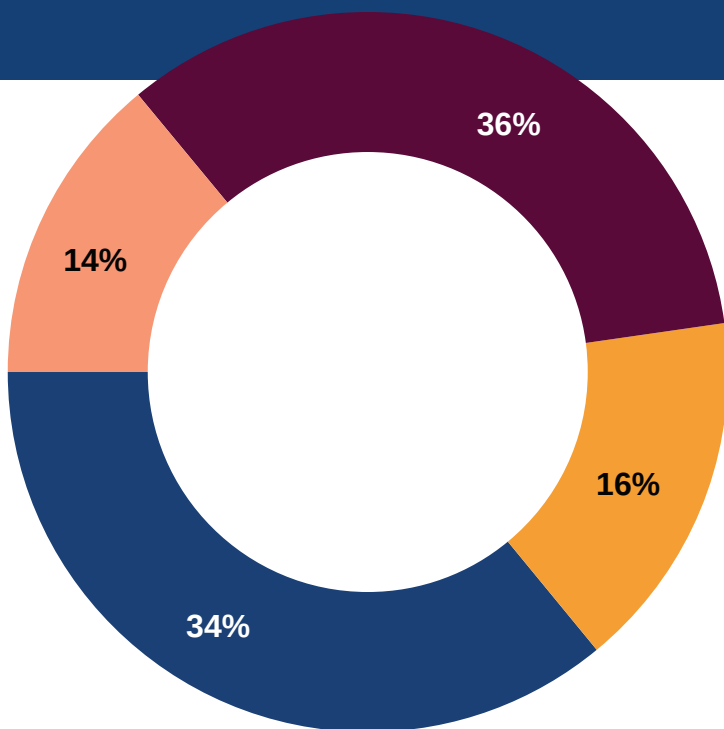
Often, individuals do not learn of their placement on the watchlist until they are subjected to extra screenings at airports or find “SSSS” printed on their boarding passes. Some others have learned



SURVEILLANCE

“A top CAIR-WA priority is overturning government surveillance practices that impact Muslims in their travels, especially the implementation of facial recognition software.”

— Masih Fouladi



of their placement when their bank account is closed by their financial institution.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Traveler Redress Inquiry Program (TRIP) allows individuals who have been denied entry or boarding, subjected to additional screening, or who otherwise suspect that they may be on the watchlist, to seek redress by submitting an inquiry to the program. CAIR-WA has assisted several community members in successfully submitting a DHS TRIP application and receiving their redress number.

CAIR-WA is also a member of the Community Surveillance Coalition to fight government abuse and demand community oversight of new surveillance technologies. CAIR-WA has presented at meetings with companies like Amazon and Microsoft to discuss the real consequences of surveillance technologies without oversight, and the technologies discriminatory use by local police, FBI and federal law enforcement agents, CBP, and Immigration Control and Enforcement (ICE) agents. CAIR-WA and its partners have demanded that large tech companies rescind contracts with government agencies and place a moratorium on facial recognition technology.



ABOUT CAIR WASHINGTON

WHO WE ARE

The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3), grassroots civil rights and advocacy group. CAIR is America's largest Islamic civil liberties group, with regional offices nationwide. As a chapter, CAIR-WA works hard every day challenging anti-Muslim hate, defending the rights of Muslims, empowering Muslim families, youth, children and elders to use their voice through mainstream media and lobbying, and building results-focused relationships with leaders in business, academia, labor, faith, and government.

MISSION STATEMENT

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

OUR HISTORY

The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) is an American organization, founded in 1994 to defend American Muslims' civil rights.

Since its establishment in 1994, CAIR has worked to promote a positive image of Islam and American Muslims. Through media relations, government relations, education and advocacy, CAIR puts forth an Islamic perspective to ensure the American Muslim voice is represented. In offering this perspective, CAIR seeks to empower the American Muslims and encourage their participation in political and social activism.

CAIR Washington was established in 2002 by Seattle-area activists who saw a need for a center for professional American Muslim activism in Washington State.

DEFENDING AMERICAN MUSLIM CIVIL RIGHTS

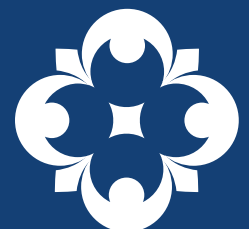
Freedom of religion is a Constitutional right. CAIR-WA ensures that Muslims are protected from discrimination at work, at school, and in society. CAIR-WA documents complaints of discrimination from local Muslims. Our responses to these complaints vary from diversity training to lawsuits against offending parties. In over a decade of service we have resolved over 500 local Muslim civil rights cases, always at zero cost to our clients. Learn how to report a case. Contact us at cairwa.org/reportdiscrimination.

POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT

CAIR-WA holds policy, advocacy, and organizing trainings to build Muslim civic engagement and participation throughout Washington. We train and mobilize individuals to represent their communities and to hold their elected officials accountable.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT WHAT WE DO

For more information about what we do, go to cairwa.org/about-us.





REPORT AN INCIDENT

Call CAIR-WA at (206)624-0506, email us at info@cairwa.org, or fill out our online Incident Report Form at www.cairwa.org

MEDIA INQUIRIES

Contact Sarah Stuteville, our Media and Outreach Director, at [sstuteville@cair.com](mailto:ssuteville@cair.com)

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Become a "Shareholder" of CAIR-WA with any monthly donation <http://cairwa.org/Shareholder>

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