

# SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

## REGULAR MEETING ORANGE COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Thursday, February 14, 2019, 11:00 A.M.

COMMISSION ROOM, FIRST FLOOR  
333 W. Santa Ana Blvd.  
Santa Ana, California



**RABBI RICK STEINBERG**  
Chair

**DR. KERRY REYNOLDS**  
Vice Chair

**BEKELE DEMISSIE**  
Commissioner

**KIM TOAN DO**  
Commissioner

**M. FAREED FARUKHI**  
Commissioner

**MIKE HAMEL**  
Commissioner

**JANY LEE**  
Commissioner

**ADELINE NYAMATHI**  
Commissioner

**MICHAEL REYNOLDS**  
Commissioner

**MICHELE STEGGEL**  
Commissioner

**VACANT**  
Commissioner

ATTENDANCE: Commissioners Demissie, Farukhi, Hamel, K. Reynolds and Steinberg

ABSENT: Commissioners Do, Lee, Nyamathi, M. Reynolds and Steggell

PRESENT: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Joyce Sanchez, Senior Staff Member  
CLERK OF THE COMMISSION Jamie Ross, Deputy Clerk

*The Orange County Human Relations Commission is an independent advisory body, and our positions do not necessarily reflect the positions of the County of Orange Board of Supervisors.*

1. Call the Meeting to Order  
**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY CHAIR STEINBERG AT 11:00 A.M.**
2. Monthly Summary of Commission Activities  
**PRESENTED**

### **OPEN FORUM**

None

**ACTION ITEMS:** (None)

## SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

### HEARING/SPEAKER/PRESENTATION: (Items 3 – 4)

3. Police Community Reconciliation Program  
**PRESENTED BY CYNTHIA BROWN**
4. The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)  
**PRESENTED BY MARWA RIFAHIE, ESQ.**

### DISCUSSION ITEMS: (Items 5 – 6)

5. Discussion of County Events Calendar  
**CHAIR STEINBERG ASKED COMMISSIONERS TO EMAIL EVENTS TO JOYCE SANCHEZ FOR CONSIDERATION AT MARCH 14, 2018, REGULAR MEETING AND THANKED RENEE RAMIREZ AND GOLNAZ ZANDIEH THEIR EFFORTS**
6. Discussion of time of Commission meetings  
**CHAIR STEINBERG POLLED COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE REGARDING THEIR PREFERRED TIME OF DAY FOR COMMISSION MEETINGS AND ASKED JOYCE TO CONTACT ABSENT COMMISSIONERS REGARDING PREFERRED TIME**

### INFORMATION ITEMS: (Items 7 – 9)

7. Commission Staff Report:
  - a. Don Sedgwick resignation
  - b. Update on PCRCP position  
**PRESENTED**
8. Update from OC Chiefs and Sheriff  
**PRESENTED BY CHIEF HAMEL**
9. OCSD Interfaith Council update  
**PRESENTED BY CHAIR STEINBERG; SPECIAL EVENT ON MARCH 12, 2019 AT 6:00 P.M. AT SHERIFF REGIONAL TRAINING ACADEMY IN TUSTIN TO MEET NEWLY ELECTED SHERIFF BARNES**

### ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

**CHAIR STEINBERG INTRODUCED LISA ARMONY FROM JEWISH FEDERATION OF FAMILY SERVICES; VICE CHAIR K. REYNOLDS PROVIDED AN UPDATE ON THE GOODWILL RECOGNITION PROGRAM**

### AGENDA BUILDING

**CHAIR STEINBERG ENCOURAGED COMMISSIONERS TO PROVIDE IDEAS FOR FUTURE SPEAKERS; COMMISSIONER HAMEL SUGGESTED HAVING THE MENTAL HEALTH HOMELESS OUTREACH TEAM SPEAK AT A FUTURE MEETING**

**ADJOURNED:** 12:21 P.M.

# SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

\*\*\* KEY \*\*\*

## *Left Margin Notes*

1 Bekele Demissie	A = Abstained
2 Kim Toan Do	X = Excused
3 M. Fareed Farukhi	N = No
4 Mike Hamel	C.O. = Commission Order
5 Jany Lee	
6 Adeline Nyamathi	Reso = Resolution
7 Dr. Kerry Reynolds	Ord = Ordinance
8 Mike Reynolds	
9 Michele Steggell	
10 Rabbi Rick Steinberg	

*(1st number = Moved by; 2nd number = Seconded by)*

/s/

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**RABBI RICK STEINBERG**  
*Chair*

/s/

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*Jamie Ross, Deputy  
Clerk of the Commission*



**Commissioners**

Rabbi Rick Steinberg, Chair  
Dr. Kerry Reynolds, Vice Chair  
Bekele Demissie  
Dr. Adey Nayamathi  
Fareed Farukhi  
Jany Lee  
Kim Toan Do  
Michael Reynolds  
Michele Steggell  
Chief Mike Hamel

**DATE:** Thursday, February 14, 2019

**LOCATION:** 333 W. Santa Ana Blvd., Santa Ana, 92701 (Commission Room – First Floor) **TIME:** 11:00 AM

**AGENDA**

- |   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| 1. Call the Meeting to Order                            | Rabbi Rick Steinberg |
| 2. Overview of Monthly Summary of Commission Activities | Jany Lee             |

**OPEN FORUM:** *Members of the Public may address the Commission on human relations issues*

**ACTION ITEMS**

None

**HEARING/SPEAKER/PRESENTATION**

- |   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| 3. Police Community Reconciliation Program          | Cynthia L. Brown |
| 4. The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) | Marwa Rifahei    |

**DISCUSSION**

- |                                |                      |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| 5. County Events Calendar      | Rabbi Rick Steinberg |
| 6. Time of Commission Meetings | Rabbi Rick Steinberg |

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

- |  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| 7. Commission Staff Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Don Sedgwick Resignation</li><li>b. Update on PCRCP position</li></ul> | Alison Edwards       |
| 8. Update from OC Chiefs and Sheriff   | Chief Mike Hamel     |
| 9. OCSD Interfaith Council Update  | Rabbi Rick Steinberg |
| 10. Announcements from Commissioners   | All Commissioners    |
| 11. Adjourn Commission Meeting   | Rabbi Rick Steinberg |

**MISSION:** *Seek out the causes of tension and conflict, discrimination and intolerance, and eliminate those causes.*



# Orange County Human Relations Commission

MISSION: Seek out the causes of tension and conflict, discrimination and intolerance, and eliminate those causes

## MONTHLY SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES: January 2019

<b>FY JUL 18 - JUN 19 Commission Activities Matrix</b>			
<b>CONTRACT ACTIVITY</b>	<b>Goal</b>	<b>To-Date</b>	<b>% Reach</b>
A. Monthly HRC meetings	12	6	50%
B. HRC Annual Report	1	1	100%
C. Police-Community Reconciliation cases	20	7	35%
D. Community-Police Meetings	4	6	150%
E. Chief's Advisory Boards & Sherriff's Interfaith Council	8	7	88%
F. Community Outreach & Relationship Building meetings	40	39	98%
G. Police/Diverse Community Dialogues	2	2	100%
H. Hate Crime Report & Network Meeting	1	3	300%
I. Support to hate crime victims	8	15	188%
J. Outreach efforts (speeches, presentations, etc.)	10	10	100%
K. Community training on intergroup relations topics	4	4	100%
L. Annual Awards program	1	0	0%
M. Participate in community-based/outreach symposiums	2	1	50%

### Police-Community Relations

- **Sheriffs Academy Training:** Staff trained on Culture diversity had 63 recruits.
- **Tustin PD:** Staff attended Swearing of new Chief.
- **Presentation:** Staff presented at the OC Chiefs meeting on Police Community Reconciliation Program and Hate Crimes.

### Intergroup Relations & Relationship Building

- **Hate Crime Presentation:** Staff Presented at Huntington Beach High School to 1,000 students.
- **Commission Bylaws review meetings:** Staff attended meeting with Commission Chair, Commissioner M. Reynolds and OCCR staff to discuss modifications to commission bylaws.

### Staff development

- Commission staff attended UCI's "Civil Discourse Today" presentation.



# Islamophobia & Its Impact

**A General Overview**

***Marwa Rifahie, Esq.***

***CAIR-LA Civil Rights Department***

# WHAT IS CAIR?



# DEFINING ISLAMOPHOBIA

- ◆ **Islamophobia** is close-minded prejudice against or hatred of Islam and Muslims.
  - ◆ **Private Islamophobia** is the fear, suspicion, and violent targeting of Muslims (and perceived Muslims) by individuals and private actors.
  - ◆ **Structural Islamophobia** is the fear and suspicion of Muslims on the part of institutions—most notably, government agencies—that is manifested through the enactment and advancement of expansion of formal surveillance, profiling, and immigration policy.
  - ◆ **Dialectical Islamophobia** is the process by which state policies endorse ingrained and popular tropes of Muslims as lien, inassimilable, and prone to extremism. It emboldens the private animus of Muslims. The broader polity absorbs the presumptive suspicion the state assigns to Muslims by way of discriminatory policies.



# Private Islamophobia



CAIR National recorded 144 anti-mosque incidents in 2017 across the US

- Hate crimes at a mosque accounted for 57 incidents
- Intimidation accounted for 42 incidents
- Harassment made up 24 incidents

In 2017, CAIR-CA's four offices reported a combined total of 197 matters classified either as hate crimes or hate incidents.

# Private Islamophobia-Case Study Intimidation at Mosques



**Abdallah Jadallah**

February 9 at 8:19 PM · 🧑🏿

Yesterday around 11:00pm a group of guys came to the Perris Islamic Center wearing bulletproof vests and body cameras. They were holding camcorders and stood outside recording everyone. Our community was startled and reactions varied from members leaving home early, some wanted to call 911, and some wanted to fight these strangers. Fortunately we quickly determined that these guys were not a threat but were clearly misinformed about Islam...just like many other people in America. A group from our community spoke to the strangers and a productive dialogue occurred. We spoke at lengths about Islam and was able to better inform the recorders. What started off as a tense stand-off ended very well with nice hugs and hand shakes. However, it made me realize that a plan should be developed in case of an emergency.



# Structural Islamophobia

- **Muslim Ban**

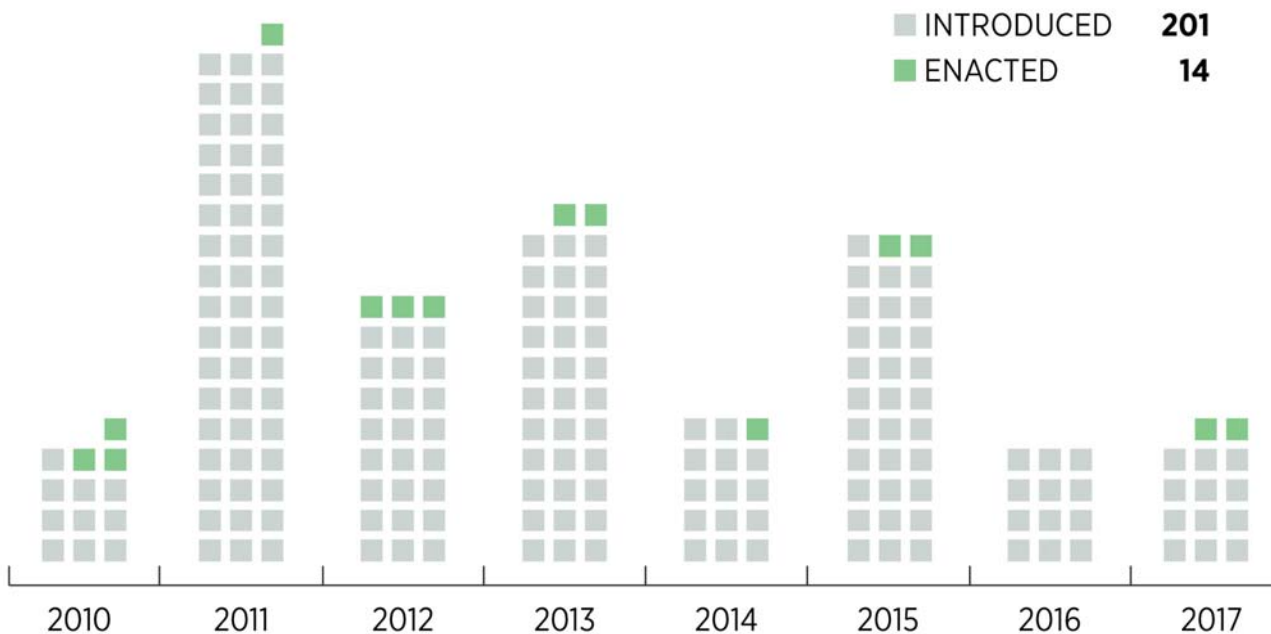
- Campaign and then election of President Trump, who demonized Muslims during the campaign calling for a “complete and total shutdown” of Muslims entering the US. He moved quickly to pass a ban on immigrants and refugees from Muslim-majority countries once in office. Trump’s endorsement of hate ideas and bigotry against Muslims both in the campaign and since he took office fueled Islamophobia.

- **PATRIOT ACT, National Security Entry Exit Registration System (NSEERS), and CVE/PVE**

- While a number of modern government policies fit within the structural Islamophobia classification, the PATRIOT Act (and accompanying immigration legislation) and emergent counter-radicalization (or CVE) policing are the two most salient examples. These policies are built upon the presumption that Muslim identity is associated with a national security threat, and while they are usually framed in a facially neutral fashion, such policies disproportionately target Muslim subjects and disparately jeopardize, chill, and curtail their civil liberties.

# Structural Islamophobia

**Anti-Sharia Law Bills in the United States** Introduced and Enacted



## Anti-Sharia Legislation

By 2017, according to the Haas Institute at the University of California at Berkeley, the total number of such legislative efforts added up to 217 bills in 43 states. A handful of states, including Texas and Arkansas, have made the bills law.

# Dialectical Islamophobia

Like other forms of bigotry, the shape of Islamophobia is contingent upon mass-media representations, political rhetoric and messaging, and most crucially, government programming and policy. It emboldens the private animus of Muslims.

## How?

-Hate crimes targeting U.S. Muslims rose 15 percent in 2017 , which includes 300 incidents

-The 300 hate crimes were a slice of the 2,599 incidents CAIR logged as representing anti-Muslim bias in 2017, a figure that was up 17 percent from 2016.

-More than one-third of the incidents involved federal agencies, representing an almost unprecedented level of government hostility toward a religious minority within the U.S.



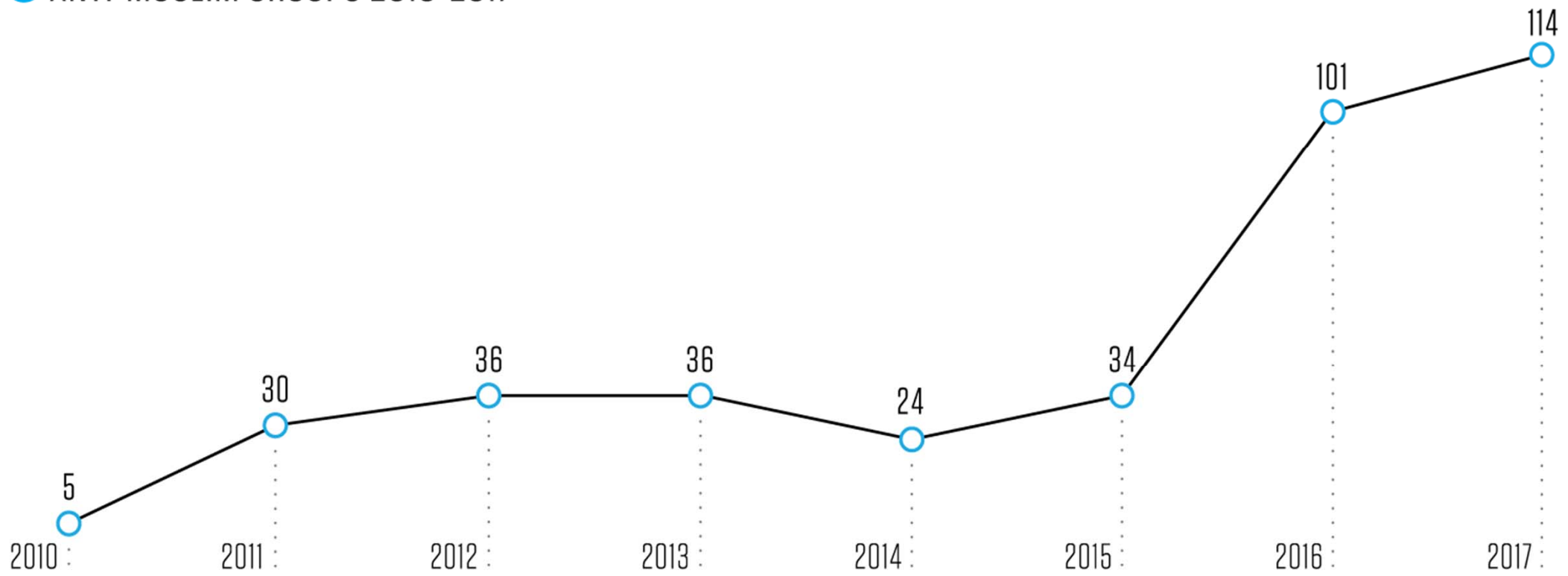
# Anti-Muslim Hate Groups

Mass activism against Muslims didn't really develop until 2010, in the wake of the battle over the so-called "Ground Zero" mosque (for Muslims known as Park51 or Cordoba House), purposely labeled in this incendiary way by its Muslim-bashing opponents.



Credit: SPLC

## ANTI-MUSLIM GROUPS 2010-2017



# Islamophobia Industry

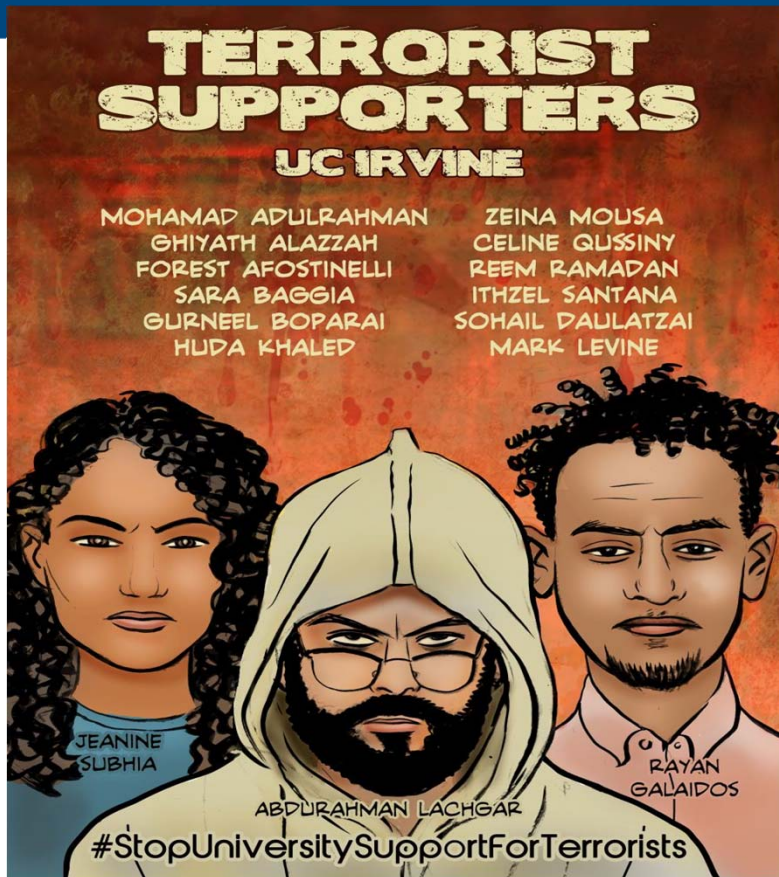
- Inciting hate toward American Muslims and Islam has become a multimillion-dollar business. A report released by CAIR and University of California Berkeley's Center for Race and Gender, the report names 74 groups it says contribute in some way to Islamophobia in the US. Of those groups, it says, the primary purpose of 33 "is to promote prejudice against, or hatred of, Islam and Muslims".
- The core group, which includes the Abstraction Fund, Clarion Project, David Horowitz Freedom Center, Middle East Forum, American Freedom Law Center, Center for Security Policy, Investigative Project on Terrorism, Jihad Watch and Act! for America, had access to almost \$206 million of funding between 2008 and 2013.



# Islamophobia: The Anti-Semitism Stereotype



How these hate groups cynical use of anti-Semitism is intended to smear, isolate, destroy careers, and to blacklist individuals.



# Islamophobia: The Anti-Semitism Stereotype

- **Canary Mission** is a website dedicated to profiling Muslim students and Palestinian human rights activists. Its profiles are filled with falsehoods, misrepresentations and errors. Its inflammatory accusations that those it targets are guilty of anti-Semitism, support for terrorism and/or hatred of the United States are particularly dangerous in the present political climate.
- By producing what is in effect a blacklist, reminiscent of McCarthyism, Canary Mission seeks to silence vulnerable students – especially Muslims, people of Middle Eastern origin and people of color – so as to dissuade them, and others, from advocating publicly on matters of social and racial justice.
- Canary Mission contends that any criticism of Israeli policy, any form of support for Palestinian human rights and any criticism of U.S. policy in the Middle East are all tantamount to anti-Semitism and support for terrorism.

# How is CAIR Combating Islamophobia?

- **Educating & Empowering the Muslim Community**

- People who are not familiar with their rights cannot easily defend their rights. CAIR and other civil rights organizations have therefore delivered dozens of Know Your Rights seminars at mosques in recent years so that the community has the knowledge and confidence to protect itself.

- **Engaging With People of Different Backgrounds & Building Coalitions**

- Education is without doubt the best vaccine against discrimination. For that reason, “enhancing understanding of Islam” has been part of CAIR’s mission since its founding. For over 20 years, CAIR’s mission statement has called for the organization to “build coalitions that promote justice and mutual understanding.”

- **Countering Anti-Muslim Hate Groups**

- Even as American Muslims dialogue with our neighbors and collaborate with other civil rights groups, we must also confront anti-Muslim extremists who seek to spread the disease of bigotry. CAIR’s national office long ago established a Department to Monitor & Combat Islamophobia, which tracks the complex web of Islamophobic groups operating across the U.S.



QUESTIONS?





**CAIR**  
CALIFORNIA

Greater Los Angeles Area Chapter