



# A YEAR OF BOLD ADVOCACY

2025 Annual Report

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## ABOUT CAIR-GEORGIA

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The Georgia chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-Georgia) was founded in 2016. Over the years, CAIR-Georgia has worked to protect civil rights, conduct public outreach, and educate and empower American Muslims to participate in political and civic spheres.

CAIR is America's largest Muslim civil rights organization with chapters nationwide. Founded in 1994, CAIR continues to be the most prominent voice for American Muslims and is a reliable source for media, public officials, policy makers, civil rights advocates, and interfaith partners.

## OUR MISSION & VISION

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Our mission is to enhance the understanding of Islam, protect civil rights, promote justice, and empower Georgia Muslims.

Our vision is to be a leading advocate for justice and mutual understanding.





## WANT TO DOUBLE YOUR SUPPORT TO CAIR-GEORGIA?

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Donate through your employer's corporate matching program today and make your dollars go further. Your support empowers us to advocate for justice, fight discrimination, and build bridges.

### Microsoft

1:1 up to \$15k

### Google

1:1 up to \$10k

### Salesforce

1:1 up to \$5k

### Airbnb

1:1 up to \$1k

### Nvidia

1:1 up to \$15k

### Intuit

1:1 up to \$5k

### Mercedes

1:1 up to \$200

### State Farm

1:1 up to \$4.5k

### Southern Company

1:1 up to \$5k

### Home Depot

1:1 up to \$3k

### Delta

1:1 up to \$5k

### Verizon

1:1 up to \$6k

See if your employer has their own corporate matching program at [cairgeorgia.org/donate](https://cairgeorgia.org/donate)

P.O. Box 956263  
Duluth, GA 30095



# LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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**Assalamualaikum,**

As I complete my fifth year at CAIR-Georgia this September, my resolve to strengthen the critical work of CAIR-Georgia in this increasingly hostile climate only grows stronger.

In the past decade, CAIR-Georgia has grown from a small community chapter to one with a national footprint. We supported 130 students from several different states and prevented their illegal deportation by the Trump administration. We are part of coalitions, like the Atlanta Multifaith Coalition for Palestine, which are modeled across the country for their impact. We sued one of the largest private universities in the South this year. At home, we fought discrimination against Muslims across the state. Last December, we were awarded best chapter of the year in the entire CAIR network.

Our formidable and impactful work has also drawn the attention of our opposition. We are facing a national level lawfare campaign by Zionists to silence our voices. But let us be clear: we will not be deterred from the critical work that we do.

We refuse to cower because our caseload shows us that young Muslims are increasingly being targeted by bigots. Our children's religious rights at school, their ability to advocate for Palestine, and their access to safe and equal learning environments are all under threat. Anti-Muslim actors and organizations seek to quiet and intimidate Muslim youth.

Our team pours its heart and soul into CAIR-Georgia because we believe in giving our future generations equal rights and an equal chance at success. And as we seek accountability for individual instances of injustice against our children, we also strive to change the systems in our state that lead to anti-Muslim activity or protect intolerance.

We look toward a future where CAIR-Georgia's growth reflects the growing and undeniable impact of the Muslim community in Georgia. As we prepare for our tenth year of operations, we are engaged in strategic planning for every level of our organization. Our board and staff remain highly engaged and prepared to counter the ever-evolving challenges in this country and political landscape.

Despite the adversity—and perhaps because of it—our mission is more urgent than ever. Thank you for standing with us in the fight for dignity, equity, and justice for Georgia Muslims. We are proud to have you by our side.

**In solidarity,**  
**Azka Mahmood, Executive Director**



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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## LEGAL SERVICES & CIVIL RIGHTS

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### Emory Title VI Win

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Forced Emory University to change its protest policies, bias reporting mechanisms, and other anti-discrimination policies through the Title VI civil rights complaint CAIR-Georgia and Palestine Legal filed with the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights

### CAIR-Georgia's Immigration Impact

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Filed amicus brief with civil rights partners in lawsuit that successfully challenged the Trump Administration's termination of student visa statuses for over 130 international students nationwide

### Advocacy Letters

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Sent on behalf of Georgia Muslims to educate and inform universities, school districts, workplaces, prisons, and jails statewide this past year

### Student Discrimination Lawsuit Against Emory

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Filed with co-counsel against Emory University on behalf of suspended Palestinian-American medical student Umaymah Mohammad, after she faced discrimination and harassment for advocating for Palestinian rights

### 4 New Title VI Civil Rights Complaints

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Filed with the Department of Education to hold educational institutions accountable for discrimination against Muslim and anti-genocide students

### Incarceration Rights Victories

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Secured incarcerated women's right to wear hijab, and congregational prayer rights for Muslims, improving religious freedoms for hundreds of Muslims in jails and prisons.

## POLICY & LEGISLATIVE WORK

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### Unique Lobbying Presence

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Advocated with elected officials at state, county, and city level year-round as the only Muslim legal organization in Georgia with full-time lobbyists and a policy team

### Harmful Legislation Blocked

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Blocked four harmful bills from passing, in conjunction with partner organizations, through direct lobbying during the 2025 Georgia Legislative Session

**\$2.5**  
Million in free  
legal services

**FOR  
GEORGIA  
MUSLIMS  
THIS YEAR**

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**168**  
Cases  
advocated for  
**IN PAST  
YEAR**

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**255, 593**  
Emails sent to GA  
representatives

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**THROUGH  
CAIR-GA  
ACTION  
ALERTS**

## CIVIL RIGHTS CASES & LEGAL ADVOCACY

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**CAIR-Georgia is the only Muslim civil rights organization that provides free legal services to Georgia Muslims who face religious discrimination.**

We advocate for Georgia Muslims in the courtroom, at places of employment, at educational institutions, and in prisons year after year.

Our team provides legal support, legal counsel, and protective resources to each individual who calls for help or reports anti-Muslim activity.

# INTAKES AND CASES BY THE NUMBERS

**CAIR-Georgia received 168 requests for help for legal support from Georgia Muslims between October 2024 and August 2025.**

We recorded anti-Muslim incidents in schools and colleges, places of employment, prisons and jails, airports, and public spaces. Georgia Muslims reported discrimination in government settings, including courts. We also received reports of FBI harassment of community members.

**In the past year alone, our legal team provided \$2.5 million worth of free legal services to the Georgia Muslim community.** We employ three full-time attorneys and one paralegal.

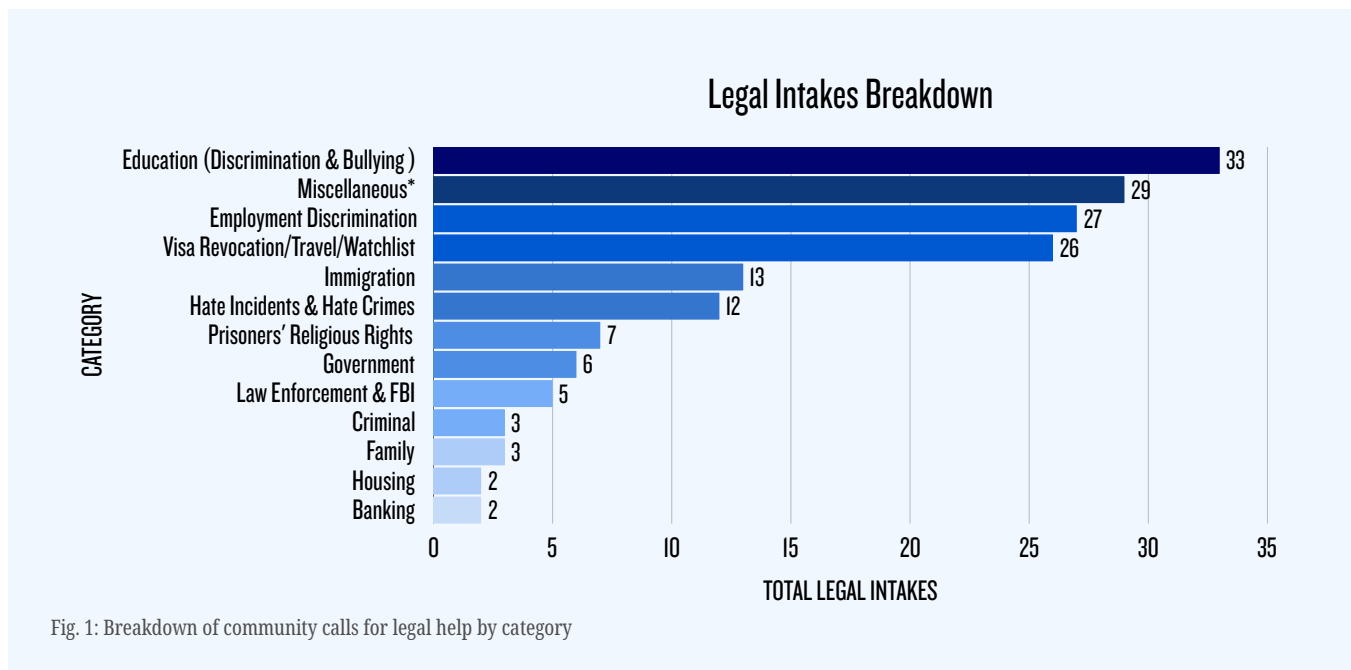
For the second consecutive year, we received **the highest number of reports of discrimination from students and educators** at schools and colleges. Incidents at educational institutions included bullying, bias, and free speech violations, showing broad mistreatment of both Muslim students and teachers.

**Workplace discrimination was the second most commonly reported form of civil rights violations.** Clients reported employers' refusal to accommodate prayer and Ramadan timings, among other issues.

We recorded a concerning **460% increase in travel and immigration issues** resulting from the Trump administration's immigration policies targeting our community.

### Legal Impact in 2024-2025

- Sent **185 advocacy letters** proactively on behalf of Georgia Muslims to inform universities, school districts, workplaces, prisons, and jails statewide about Ramadan and Eid accommodations, curriculum guidelines for 9/11, and First Amendment rights at graduation ceremonies.
- Filed **Four Title VI civil rights complaints** on behalf of Muslim students who faced discrimination.
- Advocated for Muslim students' rights in **eight school districts and five universities and colleges.**



## LEGAL ADVOCACY

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### American Muslims across the country face discrimination in workplaces, schools, and interactions with law enforcement.

Many Muslims hesitate to take legal action when faced with harassment or discrimination due to the high cost of legal fees. CAIR-Georgia ensures Muslims can pursue justice without financial barriers. Our legal advocacy provides immediate intervention when discrimination occurs.

CAIR-Georgia attorneys send advocacy and demand letters, negotiate with institutions, and pursue legal remedies to secure justice for clients. We advocate for:

- Religious rights in workplaces and schools
- Protection from anti-Muslim harassment and retaliation
- Constitutional rights during law enforcement interactions
- Policy changes to prevent future discrimination

### Legal advocacy win: Anti-Muslim Harassment by teacher addressed in Union City

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CAIR-Georgia provided legal advocacy and support for the family of a **6-year-old child in Union City**, after the child's Physical Education (P.E.) teacher made a series of anti-Muslim remarks and the mother's efforts to stop it resulted in retaliation by the Superintendent at her workplace. The P.E teacher had disparaged the student's Muslim faith and also stated that "Jesus is the only way to go to heaven." The child's mother had previously filed a discrimination complaint with the school district that went unaddressed.

CAIR-Georgia partnered with a volunteer attorney and former judge to intervene and provide legal support and advocacy to the family. **As a result of our collective legal efforts, the school district committed to uphold its nondiscrimination policies and confirmed that the offending P.E teacher will no longer teach the family's younger children.**

### Ongoing case: Muslim woman's forced hijab removal and strip search at county jail

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Our client had her hijab and undercap forcibly removed at a Georgia county jail after her arrest and was photographed without her head covering in front of multiple men. Despite her protests and explanation of Islam's modesty requirements, she was put in a cell, violently shoved to the ground, and stripped by male officers where they left her partially naked for five minutes. She was left without her hijab for eight hours in a clear violation of her religious and constitutional rights.

CAIR-Georgia has sent a legal letter to the Sheriff's Office, asking for the removal of all photos of our client from their database, a full investigation, and disciplinary action against all officers involved. **Our demands include monetary compensation for our client for her suffering and humiliation, as well as a change in written policies to allow religious accommodations for Muslim women who wear hijab.**

### Ongoing case: Muslim man fired for taking prayer breaks

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Our client was terminated from his employment for taking prayer breaks during his assigned break time. The employer falsely claimed that our client ran late on breaks. But in reality, the employer showed a pattern of anti-Muslim bias since the first week of our client's employment: the client was explicitly told the office was a workplace, not a "prayer place."

CAIR-Georgia has sent a legal letter to the employer demanding monetary compensation for our client and the establishment of clear policies banning religious discrimination.

## SPOTLIGHT: DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TITLE VI COMPLAINTS

### TITLE VI WIN: Emory University Forced to Change Policies after Civil Rights Complaint by CAIR-Georgia and Palestine Legal

In 2024, CAIR-Georgia and Palestine Legal filed a Title VI Civil Rights complaint against Emory University for engaging in and encouraging pervasive anti-Muslim, anti-Palestinian, and anti-Arab discrimination. This included not only a failure to protect impacted students from harassment, doxing, and threats of physical violence, but Emory itself deploying state and local law enforcement on a peaceful student encampment, subjecting students and faculty to excessive and brutal militarized violence.

In investigating our complaint, the federal government expressed concerns that Emory's treatment of Muslim, Palestinian, and Arab students may have created a hostile educational environment for these students.

#### On January 16, 2025, Emory entered into a resolution agreement with the Office of Civil Rights due to our Title VI civil rights complaint.

This resolution agreement is a significant step toward accountability and justice for the impacted students and all future Muslim, Arab, and Palestinian students who attend Emory University.

Under this resolution agreement, Emory must now:

- Revise its free speech and nondiscrimination policies
- Create protest and protest response policy
- Improve bias reporting processes
- Submit all bias reports since 2023 for federal review

### What is Title VI?

Civil Rights Act of 1964: Federally funded institutions **cannot discriminate** based on race, color, national origin, or shared ancestry.

Protected Groups

Race

Color

National Origin

Shared Ancestry

Educational institutions that violate Title VI can lose federal funding.

During the last two years, CAIR-Georgia has sought accountability from educational institutions that discriminate against Arab, Muslim, Palestinian, and allied students by filing Title VI civil rights complaints with the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights.



Photo from Atlanta News First: Covers Emory University's resolution agreement with the Office of Civil Rights as a result of CAIR-Georgia's joint Title VI Complaint

In 2024-2025, we filed **four new Title VI civil rights complaints** with the Department of Education on behalf of Muslim and other students who faced discrimination at their educational institutions.

## Fulton County Schools

Palestinian, Arab, and Muslim students in Fulton County Schools (FCS) reported persistent harassment, cyber bullying, doxing and discrimination by their peers, parents of fellow students, and school administrators to CAIR-Georgia. The youngest impacted student was 5 years old.

Along with Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Atlanta, we filed a Title VI civil rights complaint against FCS to demand the district cease its pattern and practice of enabling discrimination of Palestinian, Arab, and Muslim students and their allies. Our complaint encompassed seventeen incidents across three schools in the district.

## City Schools of Decatur

CAIR-Georgia filed a Title VI civil rights complaint against City Schools of Decatur (CSD) after receiving reports of a months-long harassment campaign of a CSD employee for wearing a keffiyeh and the targeting of Black pro-Palestine students by faculty and staff.

Despite repeated attempts to address this discrimination, CSD did not respond. Our Title VI civil rights complaint urges CSD to immediately remove all Anti-Defamation League programming from schools and reject any attempts at banning expressions of Palestinian identity, amongst other changes.

City Schools of Decatur

A Cobb County High School

Fulton County Schools

A Georgia College



Photo via AAAJ:CAIR-Georgia and Asian Americans Advancing Justice Atlanta joint press conference with parents of children impacted in Fulton County

## Cobb County High School

CAIR-Georgia filed a Title VI civil rights complaint on behalf of a 17-year-old Black non-Muslim student after the student reported facing bias and discrimination by school staff based on his race and his perceived association with Islam. The student had created student government posters modeled on the movie “Dune” that administrators deemed as “promoting terrorism” due to the characters’ perceived “Muslim garb”.

CAIR-Georgia filed the complaint after meeting requests to the principal and the Cobb Superintendent went unanswered.

DECATUR — AVONDALE ESTATES — BROOKHAVEN — CLARKSTON — DECATUR — DEKALB — EAST LAKE/KIRKWOOD

**Dear Decaturish – ADL and CAIR weigh in on CSD’s investigation of equity coordinator**

Decaturish Covers CAIR-Georgia advocating for equity coordinator at CSD. Screenshot from Decaturish Publication.

## SPOTLIGHT: CAIR-GEORGIA AND PARTNERS' AMICUS BRIEF HELPS PREVENT ILLEGAL DEPORTATION OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

In April 2025, in the maelstrom of the Trump administration's campaign to target and deport international students nationwide, CAIR-Georgia, ACLU-Georgia and Asian Americans Advancing Justice–Atlanta filed a friend of the court brief in a nationally significant case that successfully blocked the Trump administration's purging of over 130 international students' immigration status.

The Trump administration arbitrarily and illegally terminated the immigration statuses of thousands of international students, leaving them in limbo in the midst of their academic programs. The 130 plaintiffs in this case were represented by the Kuck Baxter law firm. With a terminated status, these students faced possible arrest by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), detention, and deportation.

Our brief provided critical context to the court: it highlighted how several other courts in the country had already ruled against the administration in their districts and demonstrated how the government's actions were an unlawful escalation of the administration's anti-immigrant agenda.

On April 18, 2025, the court issued a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) to protect the students and cited to our brief as providing instrumental information in reaching its decision.

### Attorneys heading to federal court in Atlanta for international students whose visas were revoked



Attorneys headed to federal court in Atlanta on Thursday to defend international students whose visas were revoked unexpectedly by ICE.

By Madeline Montgomery  
Published: Apr. 16, 2025 at 11:30 PM EDT | Updated: Apr. 17, 2025 at 12:42 PM EDT

ATLANTA, Ga. (Atlanta News First) - Attorneys are preparing to head to federal court in Atlanta to defend international students whose visas were revoked unexpectedly by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

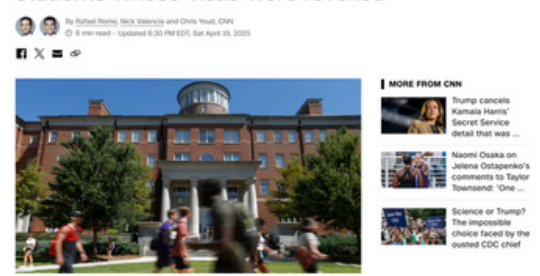
"They're not telling the students what they did that caused the termination of their registration for their student status. They're simply saying, 'You failed to maintain status,'" said attorney Charles Kuck.

Kuck is one of the attorneys going to bat for over 150 of these students, 30 of whom are studying in Georgia.

"Our lead plaintiff is a student athlete at Kennesaw State and she was arrested because of a fight with her boyfriend," said Kuck.

Screenshot from ANF Website: CAIR-Georgia team members stand outside Federal court with Immigration Attorney Kuck Baxter after a temporary restraining order was filed against the Trump administration

### Judge issues temporary restraining order against deportation of more than 100 international students whose visas were revoked



Atlanta (CNN) — A judge on Friday issued a temporary restraining order in the case of more than 100 international students in the United States whose visas were revoked by the federal government court documents show.

The order by US District Court Judge Victoria Calvert temporarily prevents the deportation of 133 foreign students from at least five countries who filed a lawsuit seeking to stop the revocation of visas to international students, the order, which is valid until May 2, says. Attorneys for the students asked Calvert on Thursday to temporarily block the government from changing their immigration status.

The decision also means the students' legal status must be reinstated under Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) used by the Department of Homeland Security to maintain information mainly regarding international students and their status in the country.

Photo from CNN Website: CNN Covers news of the Temporary Restraining Order being granted

## SPOTLIGHT: SECURING RELIGIOUS RIGHTS IN JAILS & PRISONS

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**Each year, tens of thousands of people in the U.S. convert to Islam while incarcerated.**

In Georgia, there is a significant population of incarcerated Muslims.

Discriminatory attitudes and ignorance about Islam mean that Muslims face hurdles in their religious practice and fulfilling their **fard**, like fasting and praying while detained. Muslims have reported being put into solitary confinement, punished by prison staff, and attacked by other incarcerated simply for practicing Islam.

This year, CAIR-Georgia held multiple Georgia prisons to account for their unconstitutional treatment of Muslims and advocated for:

- Congregational prayer
- The rights of incarcerated Muslim women to wear hijabs
- Halal or kosher meal accommodations
- Access to a Muslim Chaplain
- Suhoor and Iftar meal time accommodations

### Autry State Prison

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Incarcerated Muslims reported being denied the ability to offer any prayers in congregation, including Friday prayers.

Unlike other faith groups in the prison, they did not have access to a Muslim chaplain.

CAIR-Georgia reminded the prison of its constitutional obligations and the religious rights of those who are incarcerated. **Our legal advocacy resulted in the establishment of congregational Friday prayers and access to a volunteer Muslim chaplain for dozens of Muslims at the prison.**

### Valdosta State Prison (Ongoing)

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Muslims reported the absence of halal meals and shared that replacement vegan meals were provided inconsistently and lacked nutrition. The prison denied meal accommodations during Ramadan for suhoor and iftar, leading Muslims to go without food.

**Our ongoing legal advocacy demands adequate daily and Ramadan meals in accordance with Islamic guidelines and nutritional needs.**

### Polaski State Prison

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Incarcerated Muslim women reported that prison staff were preventing them from wearing the hijab, citing safety and security concerns.

CAIR-Georgia sent a legal advocacy letter to the prison citing federal law that accommodates religious practices. **Our team then worked directly with the warden and prison staff to identify prison compliant hijabs. Muslim women are now able to wear hijabs and fulfill their Islamic obligation.**

### Wilcox State Prison (Ongoing)

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Muslims reported they are unable to pray salah in congregation, including Friday prayers. They were also not provided meal accommodations for Ramadan, leading to missed suhoor and iftar.

**CAIR-Georgia is actively advocating at Wilcox State Prison to secure religious accommodations for Muslims.**

## LEGAL FOCUS: CAIR-GEORGIA AND CO-COUNSEL SUE EMORY UNIVERSITY

On August 4, 2025, CAIR-Georgia and co-counsel Jonathan Wallace filed a lawsuit against Emory University on behalf of Palestinian-American MD/PhD student Umaymah Mohammad, who was suspended from Emory's medical school for her anti-genocide advocacy.

CAIR-Georgia filed this lawsuit because Emory University violated federal civil rights law when it suspended Umaymah Mohammad for advocating for Palestinian human rights and speaking out against campus discrimination. In suspending Umaymah, Emory also violated its own open expression policies.

### Federal Civil Rights Case Details

CAIR-Georgia and co-counsel Jonathan Wallace seek redress for violations of Mohammad's civil rights under federal and state law, including:

Intentional discrimination and retaliation in violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

Breach of contract

Denial of procedural due process

Intentional infliction of emotional distress under Georgia law

The university's selective enforcement of disciplinary policies against Mohammad based on her Palestinian identity and viewpoints constitutes illegal discrimination under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Examples of the violations cited in our complaint include Emory pressuring Mohammad to admit guilt, attempting to alter charges against her, manipulating deadlines to accommodate her accusers, disregarding institutional policies, and imposing retaliatory and disproportionate sanctions.

This lawsuit is the first step in holding Emory accountable for its discriminatory treatment of Umaymah.

The screenshot shows the Middle East Eye (MEE) website. The navigation bar includes 'Live', 'News', 'Trending', 'Opinion', 'Video', and 'Explainers'. The main headline reads: "Medical student suing Emory University for discrimination says her suspension is 'professional death sentence'". Below the headline, a sub-headline states: "Umaymah Mohammad says she filed the lawsuit as a means of resistance against the institution's crackdown on pro-Palestine activism". A photograph of Umaymah Mohammad, wearing a patterned headscarf, is visible. A blue banner at the bottom of the screenshot contains the text: "Middle East Eye Publication covers CAIR-Georgia and co-counsel suing Emory on behalf of Umaymah. Screenshot of MEE Website."

## LEGAL FOCUS: ACCOUNTABILITY FOR JUDGE HYDRICK'S ANTI-PALESTINIAN REMARKS

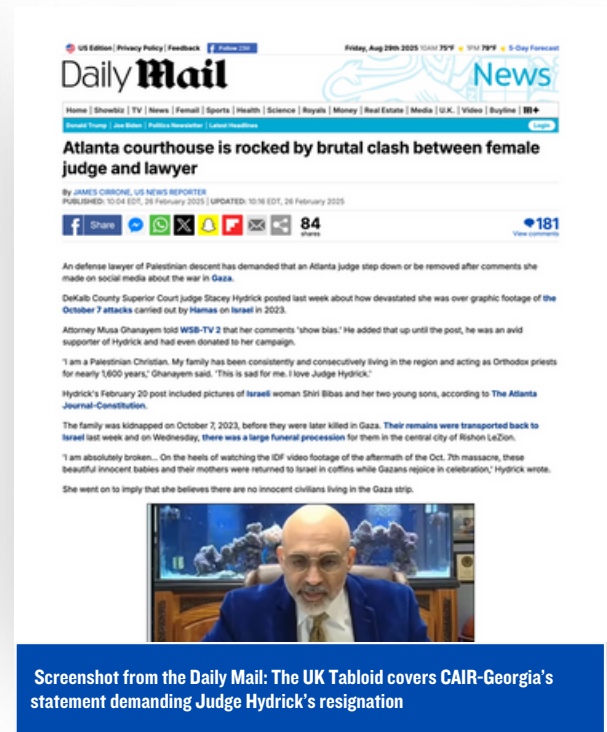
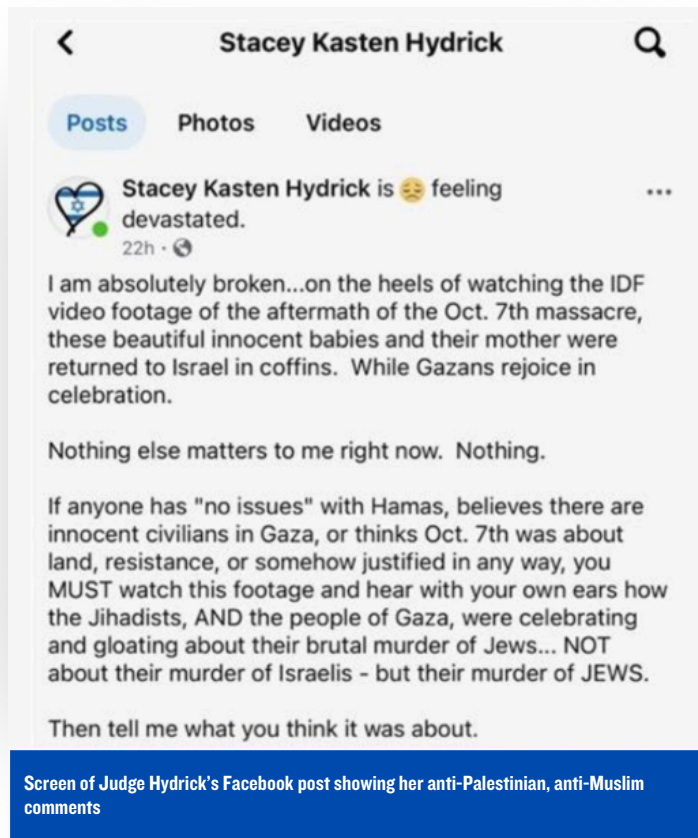
On February 20, 2025 CAIR-Georgia was alerted to disturbing social media posts made by sitting DeKalb County Judge and chair of the Georgia Judicial Qualifications Commission, Stacey Hydrick.

On her public Facebook page, Judge Stacey Hydrick stated that there are 'no innocent Palestinians in Gaza' and called innocent civilians 'Jihadists'.

As chair of Georgia's Judicial Qualifications Commission, the body that conducts investigations into complaints of ethical misconduct by Georgia judges, Judge Hydrick's biased comments were even more shocking.

CAIR-Georgia immediately investigated the incident, found that Judge Hydrick had violated Canon 2 (Impartiality) of the Georgia Code of Judicial Conduct, and issued a public statement calling for her resignation.

We then led a public media campaign and galvanized the community to send **7,500 emails** of concern to the Judicial Qualifications Commission.



### Media Pressure Matters

CAIR-Georgia led an intense media campaign to hold Judge Stacey Hydrick accountable for her remarks.

Community sent over 7,500 emails of concern

Press release calling for resignation

Wide ranging news coverage

Viral social media content

With the invaluable contributions of volunteer Habeeb Al Aidroos who provided tech support, the community, and prominent Muslim and Palestinian attorneys, Judge Hydrick stepped down from her role as chief investigator on February 27, 2025—within seven days of her discriminatory public comments.

## Why This Case Matters

Judge Hydrick's resignation from the Judicial Qualifications Commission is an example of a **successful community campaign** that demonstrates our collective power and the far-reaching impact in holding powerful individuals to account.

## Outcome and Longterm Implications

Since our public campaign, six Muslims reported that Judge Hydrick made disturbing anti-Muslim comments when presiding over their cases and asked for legal support to remove her from their case.

Examples of Judge Hydrick's bias in the courtroom include:

- Asking a defendant to remove his kufi during a trial
- Stating 'We don't need Islamist stuff here' after a defendant said Bismillah at the beginning of a hearing
- Not allowing a defendant to take a prayer break during trial

CAIR-Georgia successfully helped one defendant ask for a recusal where Judge Hydrick was forced to remove herself from the case. Each recusal of a biased judge ensures that Muslims have greater access to due process in accordance with state and federal law.

DEKALB COUNTY  
**DeKalb judge resigns from judicial oversight panel after comments on Gaza conflict**

By **WSBTv.com News Staff**  
February 27, 2025 at 4:11 pm EST

Screenshot from the WSBTV 2 Website: WSB-TV covers Judge Hydrick's resignation after CAIR-Georgia's public statement and campaign

AJC News  
DeKalb judge faces calls to resign over posts about Gaza

Judges are human beings," Stacey Hydrick says amid calls to step down

By Shaddi Abusaid  
Feb 24, 2025

A DeKalb County Superior Court judge is facing calls to resign after a social media post in which she said it is "hard to believe" there are any innocent civilians in Gaza.

Stacey Hydrick, who also chairs the investigative panel for Georgia's judicial watchdog agency, made the comment last week in a now-deleted Facebook post, according to the Georgia branch of the Council on American-Soviet Relations.

Screenshot of AJC Website: Covers Judge Hydrick's resignation from the Judicial Qualifications Commission

WSB-TV ATLANTA 2  
yahoo!news  
ATLANTA CIVIC CIRCLE  
ANF ATLANTA NEWS FIRST  
Daily Mail  
TRUTHLYTICS BEYOND THE HEADLINES  
msn  
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution  
LAW360 Pulse  
RAIR Foundation USA  
FOX 5 ATLANTA

At least 11 news organizations covered Judge Hydrick's resignation

# COMMUNITY ADVOCACY & IMPACT

## Harassment of Muslim Women in Alpharetta

On April 1, 2025, three Muslim women contacted CAIR-Georgia for help after they faced harassment in an Avalon shopping center in Alpharetta. They had been praying in a near-empty parking lot when an individual started to harass them using abusive and anti-Muslim language and slurs. The women caught part of his anti-Muslim attack on video and also shared it on social media, where it quickly began to gain traction.

**CAIR-Georgia immediately issued a public statement drawing media attention to the incident and called on Alpharetta police to investigate it.**

Within hours of issuing our official statement, our communications team conducted a media blitz alongside the three women to draw attention to the harassment.



The very next day, Attorney Ali Awad, founder of the CEO Lawyer firm, announced that he had taken on the victims' civil case pro bono. Attorney Awad's involvement and the resulting increase in the virality of the incident led to the perpetrator, Perry Greene, to contact Mr. Awad and seek a resolution to the issue.

CAIR-Georgia and the CEO Lawyer firm worked together to sustain media and public pressure, and organized a press conference at Masjid Jafar, the women's local mosque in John's Creek, Georgia. Due to the CEO Lawyer firm, Perry Greene offered a rare public apology to the three women at Masjid Jafar and paid a \$75,000 settlement for his anti-Muslim outburst. The women chose to donate the settlement to Masjid Jafar.

The story went viral globally and was shared by over 50 local, national, and international news outlets, including major publications like the Huffington Post and CNN.

### Why This Case Matters

This community victory sends a clear message to anti-Muslim bigots: peddling anti-Muslim hate has social and financial consequences.



## POLICY & LOBBYING

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**CAIR-Georgia is the only Muslim organization in the state that has full-time lobbyists on staff to advance Georgia Muslims' concerns and engage with elected officials year-round.**

During the Georgia Legislative Session, our team is at the Georgia State Capitol every day to challenge legislation that may harm our communities. Throughout the year, our policy team trains hundreds of community members to advocate for themselves.

In 2025, through direct lobbying and collaborative efforts, we advocated against harmful bills and **contributed to blocking four proposed laws that would have negatively impacted our communities.**

# POLICY ADVOCACY

## How a Bill Becomes Law

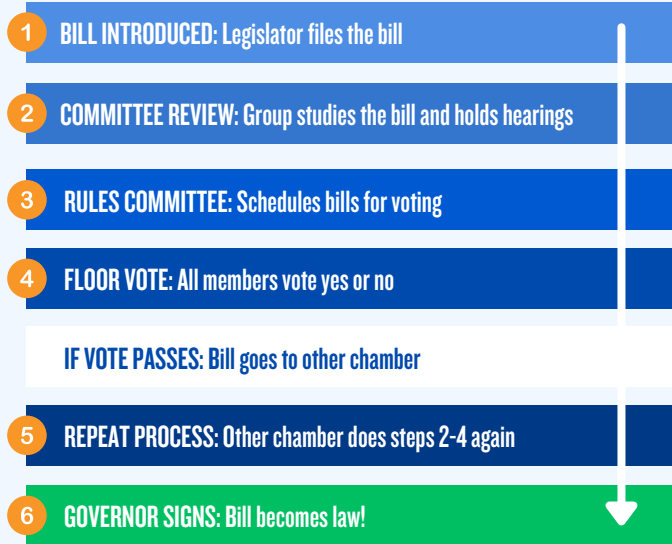
**What is a Bill?** A proposed law that needs approval to become real law.

**Why Create Bills?** To fix problems, update old laws, and address citizen concerns

**What are "Chambers"?** Georgia has 2 chambers (groups) that make laws:

- House: 180 members, 2-year terms
- Senate: 56 members, 2-year terms

Bills can start in either chamber, but **both chambers must approve the same exact bill before it can become the law.**



**Note:** Most bills fail at committee stage. Governor can veto (reject) bills. Process takes months or years

Every year since 2016, CAIR-Georgia has been a consistent voice at the Georgia capitol, making sure that the Muslim community’s needs and interests are represented and heard. We are the only Muslim organization with two full-time lobbyists, sharing and amplifying our community’s stories, perspectives, and demands with elected officials year-round. Our policy and lobbying work are important in creating more inclusive and equitable policies, making sure that our community is able to practice Islam freely, and engage in protected speech and protest activities like other Americans.

The CAIR-Georgia team prepares for legislative session several months in advance. Each year, we concentrate on bills that would have the most direct and serious impact on Georgia Muslims.

In 2025, we worked with partner organizations and coalitions to analyze bills and determine effective strategies. Our team identified and prepared community members to testify at hearings and connected interest groups from the Muslim community with key committee members to lobby against harmful bills.

We mobilized the community through click and send action alerts and provided phone numbers and call scripts to send emails, sign petitions, and make calls to their representatives to oppose harmful bills. We empowered the community through education, lobbying trainings, and toolkits.

Our staff provide quarterly updates on anti-Muslim and anti-Palestinian activity and repression to the entire Georgia legislature to inform their policy decisions at the local and federal level.

### 2025 Policy Focus Areas

First Amendment rights with emphasis on Palestine advocacy and protests

Protection of Muslim organizations and Palestine advocates

Immigrants' rights and immigration

Religious rights

## 2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION BY THE NUMBERS

**255, 593**

EMAILS SENT

TO GEORGIA REPRESENTATIVES  
THROUGH CAIR-GEORGIA ACTION ALERTS

**133+**  
MEETINGS

WITH ELECTED  
OFFICIALS

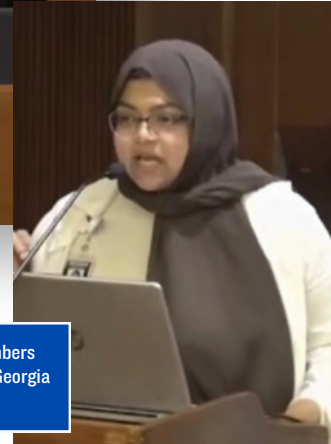
**50+**  
MEETINGS  
WITH COALITIONS

**113+**  
RESOURCES

LOBBYING & ADVOCACY  
RESOURCES SHARED

**4**  
BILLS  
BLOCKED

VIA COLLABORATIVE  
EFFORTS



CAIR-Georgia Team members testify during the 2025 Georgia Legislative Session



## 2025 BILLS BLOCKED OR DEFEATED

CAIR-Georgia identified dangerous bills that threatened the rights of Georgia Muslims, and those that targeted students and immigrants. Through our collective efforts, we managed to block:

### HB 602

An **anti-free speech bill** that would have punished student advocates by terminating their state financial aid for college.

### SB 177

An **anti-Palestine bill**, which would have created extreme monitoring of Palestine advocates, and would have had negative consequences for most social justice non-profits.

### HB 127

An **anti-DEI bill** that would have banned Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion programs in education with implications for religious and cultural student clubs like MSAs in K-12 schools and colleges.

### SB 21

An **anti-immigrant bill** which targeted sanctuary cities and would have resulted in penalties for cities protecting immigrants from deportations without due process.

## POLICY FOCUS: How CAIR-Georgia Helped Defeat HB 602

### 1 Pre-Legislative Session Preparation

In 2024, our team monitored legislative developments in other states with similar political dynamics to anticipate what might happen in Georgia. We noticed anti-protest bills in Arizona and Florida and prepared for their potential introduction in our state. **In the fall of 2024, we readied talking points and materials relating to anti-protest bills in advance of the 2025 Georgia legislative session.**

### 2 Bill Analysis

Our team diligently tracked new bills and read the paper version of HB 602 as soon as it was introduced. **We identified that it was anti-free speech and would punish anti-genocide students in particular** by taking away state financial aid from college students who engaged in campus protest, including protests for Palestine.

### 3 Strategy

Alongside partners, we analyzed HB 602 for specific First Amendment violations and established links between HB 602 and students' rights and the Civil Rights Movement. Some of the social justice partners and coalitions we worked with to oppose HB 602 included United Against Repression, the Georgia Coalition for the People's Agenda, the ACLU of Georgia, and Voices of Muslims.

### 4 Mobilizing Key Players

Our team directly lobbied legislators invested in the First Amendment to alert them to HB 602 and its encroachment on free speech. We spoke with key committee members, educated them about the bill, and sparked internal discussions about the harms of the bill. Our lobbyist met with Speaker Burns' Policy Counsel and Republican representatives to raise constitutional concerns about HB 602 and urge that the bill not be called for a vote.

### 5 Advocacy Impact

HB 602 was not called up for a vote in the House of Representatives and failed to cross over to the Senate for a vote.

### 6 Community Engagement

CAIR-Georgia recruited our clients, who were impacted in campus protests - students and college faculty members -, and civil rights activists to testify in committee hearings in debates about HB 602. Simultaneously, we shared coalition action alerts in large community groups to mobilize the community, which resulted in over 42,000 emails sent to legislators urging them to vote no on HB 602.

### 7 Preparing for the Bill's Possible Return

After crossover day, we kept a close watch for attempts to revive HB 602 through "zombie bills", but none occurred this year. **Our team is prepared to oppose this bill if it is reintroduced in the 2026 legislative session.**



CAIR-Georgia Policy Associate Iman Emdad testifies at the Georgia State Capitol.

## Spotlight: Leading and Collaborating for Legislative Change

### Lobbying Training for the Georgia Immigrant Rights Alliance

During the 2025 legislative session, we partnered with members of the Georgia Immigrant Rights Alliance, including Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Atlanta and Georgia Familias Unidas, to host a lobbying training for the coalition on how to advocate for immigrant rights. The presentation included information on how to track a bill, how to navigate the General Assembly website, and how to lobby state elected officials.

### Muslim Advocacy Day 2025

In February 2025, CAIR-Georgia co-hosted Muslim Advocacy Day at the Georgia State Capitol with Georgia Muslim Voter Project and connected over a hundred community members with their elected officials. CAIR-Georgia created lobbying guides and led lobbying training for the attendees.

### National Muslim Advocacy Day 2025

In April 2025, CAIR-Georgia led the Georgia delegation to the U.S. Council of Muslim Organizations' (USCMO) National Muslim Advocacy Day in Washington, D.C. We prepared a 16 person strong delegation with talking points and meeting etiquette, and arranged for Georgia Muslims to meet with their elected officials, including Rep. Sanford Bishop, Rep. Hank Johnson, Sen. Raphael Warnock as well as staff for Reps. Austin Scott, David Scott, Nikema Williams, and Sen. Jon Ossoff. We pushed for votes to defend non-profits and activists, to condition military aid to Israel, for an end to the genocide in Gaza, China, Burma and Sudan, and to oppose another Muslim ban.

### Preparing for the 2026 Legislative Session

CAIR-Georgia plans to host the Muslim Policy Priorities Convening in October 2025 to prepare for the upcoming legislative session in 2026. A convening of local organizations that serve Muslim and immigrant communities with deep knowledge about the community's needs and expertise in legislation, this planning session will enable an effective collective response to upcoming legislative challenges in Georgia.



CAIR-Georgia Policy Director Megan Gordon providing lobbying training at Muslim Advocacy Day 2025



Some of the attendees at CAIR-Georgia's 2024 legislative preparation convening



Muslim Advocacy Day 2025

# MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS & PRESS COVERAGE

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**1.5 MILLION**

IMPRESSIONS  
ACROSS ALL SOCIAL  
MEDIA CHANNELS

**158+**

MENTIONS  
IN NEWS FEATURES  
AND ARTICLES

**22+**

APPEARANCES  
ON TELEVISION  
NEWS CHANNELS

**21**

EVENTS  
PRESS CONFERENCES & PRESS  
RELEASES SHARED WITH THE MEDIA

# COMMUNITY IMPACT

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**1070**

INDIVIDUALS  
TRAINED STATEWIDE

**57**

COMMUNITY VISITS  
ACROSS GEORGIA

**23**

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS  
TRAININGS HELD

CAIR-Georgia Managing Attorney Aaron Butler speaks at a press conference for student visa revocations outside the Federal Courthouse in Atlanta

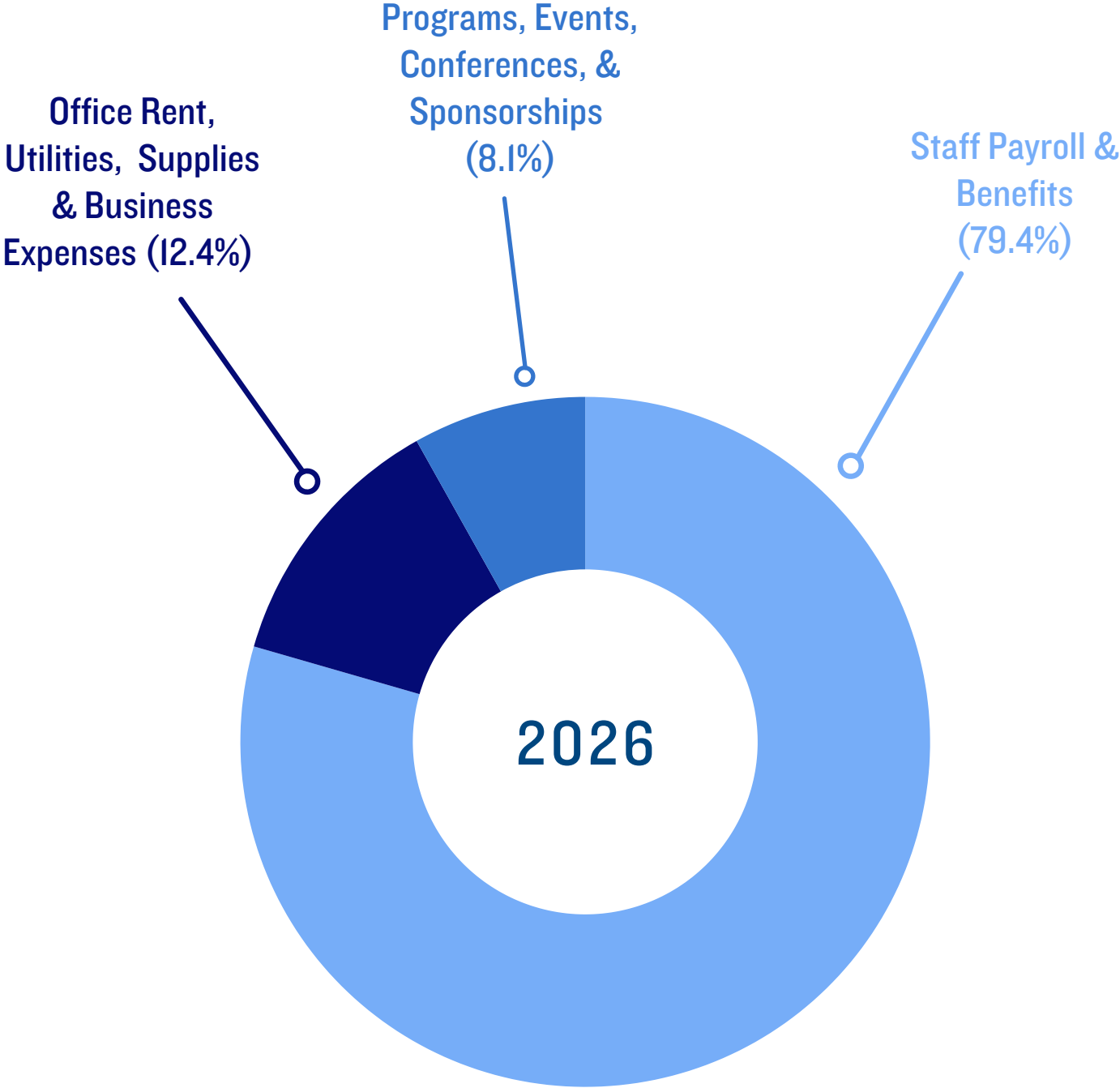


# FINANCIAL BUDGET

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**\$1,082,250**

**2026 PROJECTED OPERATING BUDGET**



# A CAMPAIGN TO SILENCE US

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## CAIR-Georgia Fights Zionist Lawfare

How pro-Israel groups are using frivolous lawsuits to intimidate Palestine advocates across Georgia—**and why we're fighting back stronger than ever.**

On May 20, 2025, a two-time Israel Defense Forces (IDF) volunteer and an Emory medical school professor filed a lawsuit against CAIR-Georgia and other Palestine advocates because of our anti-genocide advocacy. The IDF volunteer is represented by the National Jewish Advocacy Center and pro-Israel Zionist lawyers from Georgia, including a sitting state House Representative.

This lawsuit came after a medical student at Emory highlighted in an interview Emory School of Medicine's discriminatory treatment of advocates: it allowed a professor who served in the IDF to return to teach medical students while punishing students who spoke against the IDF's atrocities. The IDF volunteer remained unnamed in the interview.

The IDF volunteer is alleging that in calling out Emory's discrimination, CAIR-Georgia and the other defendants defamed him. These attacks against us and others are mere lawfare—designed to intimidate us and those who fight for Palestinian rights.

CAIR-Georgia has retained a legal team of First Amendment experts and responded to this frivolous lawsuit by filing a motion to dismiss.

The National Jewish Advocacy Center and other pro-Israel groups are filing lawsuits against anti-genocide activists across the country to deplete our community's limited resources. This tactic isn't new, and we are prepared to fight them.

Pro-genocide Zionists thought this lawsuit would silence us. They thought it would shut down Georgia's only Muslim legal civil rights organization, leaving our community unprotected and vulnerable. But instead, we are standing stronger, prouder, and more united than ever before. **This lawsuit has only strengthened our belief that CAIR-Georgia's work is urgent, necessary, and effective.**

Your support at this critical juncture is essential. Your investment in CAIR-Georgia is a shield for vulnerable Muslim community members and a message to those who seek to subdue Muslims. InshaAllah, CAIR-Georgia will prevail and continue to serve our future generations for a long time to come.



# MEET OUR TEAM

## Staff



**Azka Mahmood**  
Executive Director



**Javeria Jamil**  
Deputy Director



**Megan Gordon**  
Policy Director



**Keon Grant**  
Staff Attorney



**Urussa Ali**  
Paralegal



**Aaron Butler**  
Staff Attorney



**Nazia Khanzada**  
Communications Manager



**Ollicia Richard**  
Office Administrator



**Iman Emdad**  
Policy Associate



**Hadiyah Saeed**  
Outreach Coordinator  
(Part-time)



**Jayda Ahmad**  
Outreach Associate  
(Part-time)

## Board Members



**Yusof Burke**



**Khalid Siddiq**



**Saadia Memon**



**Urooj Zaidi**



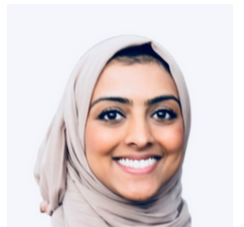
**Shuaib Hanief**



**Ryan Kelley**



**Saeed Siddiqi**



**Anum Hanif**



# DONATE NOW

We're Still Here. Still Fighting.

And we are not going anywhere insha'Allah (God willing).

We showed up—every day—to protect our Muslim community.  
To make sure no Georgia Muslim stands alone or helpless.  
The work isn't over. So we keep going.

With your support, we'll keep advocating and pushing for change.  
For our rights. For the future that our communities deserve.  
**That our Muslim children deserve.**

Please stand with us.

Our critical work in schools, prisons, places of employment, and  
in the Georgia State Capitol relies on your financial support.



[cairgeorgia.org/donate](https://cairgeorgia.org/donate)