



ICNA COUNCIL FOR
SOCIAL JUSTICE
ADVOCATING JUSTICE FOR ALL

ICNA Council for Social Justice

Annual Report 2015

www.icnacsj.org

Mission

- Systematically facilitate assertive Muslim involvement in the field of human struggle for the rights of the poor and oppressed in the United States.

Our Divine Inspirations

- *O you who have believed, be persistently standing firm in justice (Qur'an 4:135)*
- *And cooperate in righteousness and piety, but do not cooperate in sin and aggression. And fear Allah; indeed, Allah is severe in penalty (Qur'an 5:2)*
- *“Whoever among you sees an evil, let him change it with his hand; if he cannot, then with his tongue; if he cannot, then with his heart- and that is the weakest of Faith.” (An-Nasa'i)*

What We Do

- **Interfaith** – We routinely meet with other religious leaders to discuss and share our faiths in order to better understand and learn from each other.
- **Partnership coalitions** – We proudly and consistently work with both Muslim and Non-Muslim organizations around social justice issues. Some of these names include Helping Hand, National Religious Campaign Against Torture, Interfaith Workers Justice, Religions for Peace-USA, and others.
- **Public advocacy** – We participate in constructive protests/rallies and other forms of advocacy to bring about awareness surrounding issues of injustice in our society.
- **Publish materials** – We publish materials related to social justice issues (booklets, brochures, pamphlets, CDs, DVDs, etc.)

Board of Directors

- Imam Khalid Griggs (Chair), Farrukh Raza, Mahmood Aijazi, Arif Mannan, Dr. Shahid Rafiq and Salman Syed

Local Chapter Representatives

- **Chicago** – Mahmood Khan
- **Texas** - Haider Imam & Dallas ICNA Sisters
- **Southern California** – Waqas Syed

Our Partners

- Helping Hand for Relief and Development (HHRD)
- ICNA Relief USA (IRUSA)
- National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT)
- Interfaith Peace-Builders (IFPB)
- Interfaith Workers Justice (IWJ)
- Religions for Peace – USA (RFP-USA)
- United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)
- National Coalition to Protect Civil Freedoms (NCPCF)

Interfaith

- Participated in the Nostra Aetate: Celebrating Fifty Years of the Catholic Church's Dialogue with Jews and Muslims at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.
- Participated in the ISNA Interfaith Forum & Dinner Banquet in Arlington, VA
- Helped organize and plan interfaith dialogue in collaboration with Islamic Leadership Institute of America (ILIA) at the 2015 ICNA-MAS Convention in Baltimore, MD. Theme was entitled: American Values: Diversity and Freedom
- Participated as a speaker at The World Alliance of Religions for Peace program entitled The Origins of Peace and Religion.
- Participated in the young leader's Interfaith Meeting in D.C. through the Interfaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington.

Workers' Justice

- Participated in Faith Leaders For One Fair Wage and Workers' Rights Potluck and Meeting hosted by Restaurant Opportunities Centers (ROC) United.
- Participated in the OUR Walmart Movement to bring awareness to issue of low wages and bad scheduling of timings at Walmart.
 - Campaigned through social media to encourage others to join and participate to show solidarity with Walmart workers.
 - Participated in the Black Friday rally

Anti-Torture

- Participated in NRCAT's launch of two new films on torture in Washington, D.C.
- Participated with NRCAT to bring a replica solitary confinement cell for people to experience at the 2015 ICNA-MAS convention in order to bring awareness about this acceptable form of torture in our nation.
- Participated in NRCAT's **Emerging Local and National Strategies to End Torture** interfaith gathering.

Civil Rights

- Participated in the Sign-On Letter to DOJ Seeking Response to U.S. Retailer “Muslim-Free Zone” Bans
- Helped set up a panel discussion on the anti-racism Bilal Initiative lead by Dr. Jimmy Jones at the ICNA-MAS convention in Baltimore.
- Participated in the Free Aafia Rally held in front of the Federal Bureau of Prisons in D.C.
- National Coalition to Protect Civil Freedoms (NCPCF) Steering Committee meeting held at CSJ office.
- Signed “Say No to Faithwashing: Boycott Muslim Leadership Initiative” with U.S. Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation.
- Participated in the U.S. Council of Muslim Organizations’ (USCMO) meeting held in Arlington, VA with U.S. government representatives on the negative aspects of the CVE (Countering Violent Extremism) program.
- Br. Rameez continues to serve as a treasurer for NCPCF

Immigration Reform

- Signed letter with NNIRR (National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights) to oppose McCaul Border Militarization Bill, HR 399
- Had Skype meeting with the community outreach representative for the Washington Immigration Festival (GWIFF) for some possible joint projects.

Annual Events

- Led the Interfaith Dinner at the 2015 ICNA National Convention
 - Invited leaders from various faiths
- Annual fundraiser for ICNA CSJ
 - Invited NAACP leader Rev. Barber II as the keynote speaker

CSJ Marketing & Promotion

- Monthly e-newsletter for CSJ
- Website, Facebook, Twitter
 - All are regularly updated and growing
- Set up a booth at the 2015 Annual Convention w/ volunteers
 - We received numerous e-mails and volunteer sign ups
- Representing ICNA CSJ as a steering committee member for the **2015 Muslim Advocacy Day** in Washington, D.C.
- Published Audio CD **Social Justice: An Islamic Perspective** by Tariq Ramadan
 - Has been received very well

Administration

- Currently working with lawyer to obtain Tax Exempt status for Foundation for Social Justice.
- Have regular ICNA CSJ meetings on a periodical basis.

Other Works

- Participated in Conf. Call w/ Michelle Obama on Affordable Care Act: Faith Weekend of Action
- Co-Sponsored Youth Awareness Night at Dar Taqwa to speak about the Chapel Hill Shootings in NC
- Coordinated and Participated in the **Advocacy Day** on Capital Hill
- Hosted research proposal meeting and discussion for CIPP to study the contribution of the Islamic tools in eradicating extreme poverty, achieving sustainable development and establishing a just society
- Participated in the Climate Action Workshop hosted by Congressman John Delaney in MD

CSJ in Action



The End

The background of the slide is an abstract composition of flowing, curved lines in various shades of green, ranging from light lime to deep forest green. The lines are smooth and fluid, creating a sense of movement and depth. The overall effect is clean, modern, and visually appealing.