

ICNA Council for Social Justice (ICNA CSJ)

Report (January – October 2016)

www.icnacsj.org



ICNA COUNCIL FOR
SOCIAL JUSTICE
ADVOCATING JUSTICE FOR ALL

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

- *We have already sent Our messengers with clear evidences and sent down with them the Scripture and the balance that the people may maintain [their affairs] in justice (Qur'an 57:25)*
- *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)*

Our Four Dimensions of Work

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

Focus Areas

- Structural Racism
 - Prison-industrial complex, mass incarceration, Native-Americans issues, etc.
- Poverty/inequality/hunger
 - Includes student debt, raising minimum wage, etc.
- Family issues
- Immigration Reforms
- Islamophobia
- Gun Control
- Climate change

Board of Directors & Staff

- **BOD**

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

- **Staff:**

- Dr. Zahid Bukhari: Executive Director
- Rameez Abid: Communications Director

Local Chapter Representatives

- **Chicago** – Arif 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)
- Coalition of Indigenous Muslims
- Muslim Arc
- Muslims for Social Justice
- Imam Jamil Action Network
- Black Workers for Justice
- The Movement to End Racism and Islamophobia (MERI)
- Jewish Voice for Peace

CSJ Marketing & Promotion

- Monthly e-newsletter for CSJ
 - Six sent out
- Website, Facebook, Twitter
 - All are regularly updated and growing
- Set up a booth at the 2016 Annual Convention w/ volunteers
- Representing ICNA CSJ as a steering committee member for the **April 2016 Muslim Advocacy Day** in Washington, D.C.
- Worked with three interns to do reports and collect data for Muslim contact database. Assigned them to write short summaries on prison industrial complex, student debt, and immigration reform.
- Partnered up with MoveOn.org to do petitions

Administration

- Obtained Tax Exempt status for ICNA Foundation for Social Justice

Brainstorming Session for CSJ Work

- A brainstorming session was held on May 23, 2016 to discuss future of CSJ work. Decided on working against structural racism, islamophobia, poverty/inequality/hunger. etc.
- BOD members were invited
- About 10 people were present in the meeting
- Notes and minutes from the meeting were sent to everyone present and BOD

Social Media

- Facebook
 - 1457 Likes
 - Top post reached 270k+
- Twitter
 - 183 Followers
 - 907 Tweets
- Youtube
 - Sharing w/ ICNA - 38,896 subscribers
 - 51 Videos

Interfaith

- Participated as a speaker at The World Alliance of Religions for Peace program entitled The Components of Holy Scripture at American University in Washington, D.C. – April 30, 2016
- Participated in the 2016 DC Interfaith Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C. – February 7, 2016
- Participated as a speaker at The World Alliance of Religions for Peace program entitled The Origins of One's Religion at American University in Washington, D.C. – February 27, 2016
- Participated in the Jewish-Muslim Stoop Storytelling Workshop in Baltimore, MD – April 10, 2016
- Participated in the NRCAT Interfaith Gathering: Growing the Movement to End Torture in Arlington, VA – April 15, 2016
- Participated in the annual ISNA Interfaith Dinner in Arlington, VA – April 15, 2016

Anti-Torture

- Participated in the Witness Against Torture's close Guantanamo rally in front of the White House. – January 11, 2016
- Partnered up with NRCAT, an anti-torture organization, to bring virtual reality solitary confinement experience to the ICNA convention – May 28-30, 2016

Civil Rights

- Participated in Free Aafia rally in D.C. in front of Department of Justice, organized by The Aafia Foundation. – March 2016
- #BlackLivesMatter
 - Attended Black Lives Matter meeting in Washington, D.C. – July 2016
 - Help prepare #BlackLivesMatter billboard campaign of ICNA CSJ with WhyIslam team – July 2016
 - Imam Khalid did a talk on BLM and why Muslims must get involved. It was recorded and uploaded to ICNA Youtube page
- Provide bookkeeping services to NCPCF (National Coalition to Protect Civil Freedoms)
- Imam Khalid Griggs wrote three pieces on civil rights issues and were uploaded to the CSJ website
- Imam Khalid participated in the North Dakota pipeline protest. We held a meeting with indigenous Muslims and agreed to support the campaign against the pipeline and work with them.

CSJ Billboard Campaign



- This post reached over 270k people with lots of support for the campaign
- Billboard put up in Baltimore on the side of the highway



**ONE AMERICA
CAMPAIGN**



www.oneamericacampaign.org

- Prepared, designed, and maintained website, newsletter, marketing materials, booth at ICNA National Convention, media communication to help promote USCMO's One America Campaign
- Held Muslim Town Hall Meeting at the ICNA National Convention 2016
- Held a voter registration drive at the ICNA VA Mosque in Alexandria, VA before and after Friday prayers
- Had intensive media coverage over the voter registration campaign.
 - Politico, WSJ, Al-Jazeera, Huffington, Reuters, NY Times, Voice of America, BBC, Dunya TV

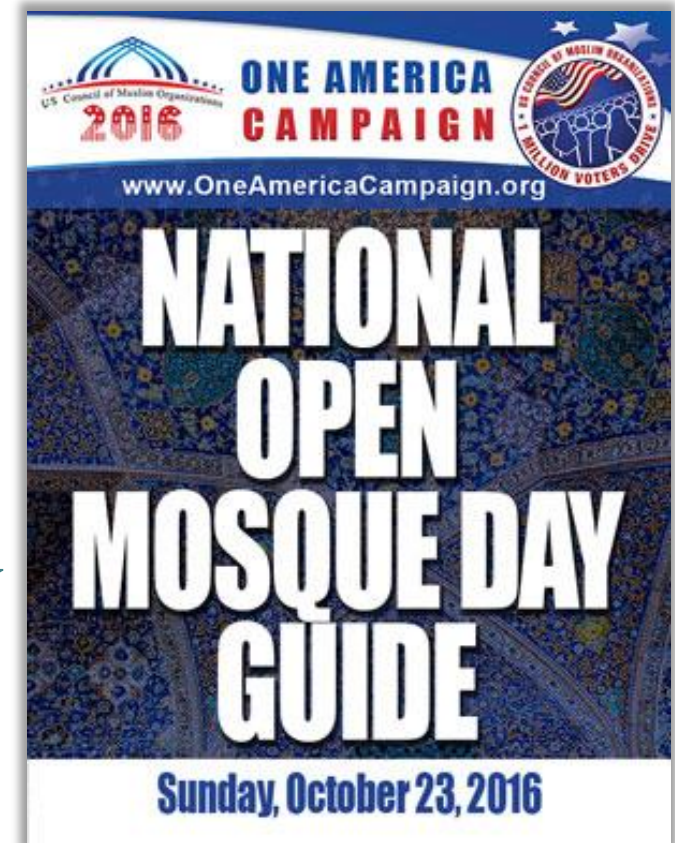
AJ+ Report on OAC Voter Campaign

- AJ+ video reached over 2 million views
- <https://www.facebook.com/ajplusenglish/videos/765193810288795/>

National Open Mosque Day

October 23, 2016

- Mobilized more than 40 mosques around the country to participate in the program
- Prepared A to Z e-guide on how to do a successful open mosque day
- It was covered in the media
 - Chicago Tribune, Ventura County Star, Naperville Community Television, The Daily Breeze, Tulsa World, and many others



Other Works / New Experiments

- Partnered up with Young Leaders Institute and sponsored 25 young Muslims in the DMV area to go to Capitol Hill and advocate elected officials for gun reform laws. It was a mixture of middle school, high school, and college students – July 2016
- Started a petition for gun reform to be delivered to the United States House of Representatives and The United States Senate. We collected over a thousand signatures – July 2016
- Helped with coordinating and assisting in the 1st International Conference of Muslim Councils in the West hosted by U.S. Council of Muslim Organizations – February 2016
- Participated and coordinated the annual Muslim Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill – April 18, 2016
- Shaykh Abdool Rahman Khan wrote an article on importance of parents from an Islamic perspective. It was uploaded to CSJ website.
- Worked with Amazon to create a commercial emphasizing solidarity and mutual respect between Muslims and non-Muslims
- Started a social justice platform

May Allah Bless our Efforts

The End