



## **About the Council on American-Islamic Relations-Texas, Houston Chapter**

CAIR-TX is a chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), America's largest Islamic civil liberties group with chapters nationwide. The national headquarters is located on Capitol Hill in Washington D.C.

CAIR's mission is to enhance understanding of Islam, encourage dialogue, protect civil liberties, empower American Muslims, and build coalitions that promote justice and mutual understanding.

The chapter is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization which formed in Houston in December 2002. Our vision is to be a leading advocate for justice and mutual understanding.

### **Protecting Civil Rights**

Civil rights advocacy is at the heart of what CAIR-TX does. We counsel, mediate and advocate on dozens of cases of discrimination in the workplace, in schools, at airports, and with government agencies. We protect the civil rights of all Americans regardless of faith.



Through legal and political campaigns we challenge threats to civil liberties and promote justice.



We educate the community in basic civil rights and how to identify discrimination.

Our "Know Your Rights" campaign reinforces rights when talking with law enforcement.

The annual Civil Rights Conference, organized by CAIR-TX, trains activists in a range of civil rights-oriented skills and encourages other to outreach to conference attendees.

### **Empowering American Muslims**



CAIR-TX establishes and maintains working relationships with local, state, and federal representatives. We garner support for important bills and keep the community up to date on legislation that affects them.

CAIR-TX helps the Muslim community understand their rights as Americans and facilitate their involvement in government and grass roots activities.

We teach young people leadership, activism and service skills through training programs such as the Muslim Youth Leadership Symposium (MYLS).

A highlight of our political activism is the Texas Muslim Capitol Day, a visit to Austin where Muslims make their voices heard and see the legislative process up close.

### **Building Coalitions and Encouraging Dialogue**



CAIR-TX, Houston builds coalitions with community groups to promote social justice and interfaith friendship.

We establish and maintain solid relationships with the greater Houston community via schools, places of worship, youth organizations, and other community-based organizations which share common values with us.

CAIR-TX is a catalyst for community dialogue, participating in activities such as film workshops, panel discussions, press conferences, vigils and rallies.

We offer internships, both academic and non, that develop professional skills and gain insight into the workings of a non-profit civil rights organization.

Our “We CAIR” program improves lives throughout the community through activities such as community clean-ups.



### **Enhancing Understanding of Islam**

CAIR-TX, Houston ensures an accurate public perception of Islam and Muslims.

Our media watch team monitors local and national news coverage of Islam and Muslims, compiling information about media coverage and alerting the community when letters to the editor or op-eds are called for. Community leaders gain skills in media relations through CAIR-TX training in media relations.



Reporters and editors know they can turn to us for help with news coverage, providing sources and background information.

We keep the community informed of CAIR’s work and critical news via social media and our monthly newsletter. Our series of public service announcements share the voices of “everyday Muslims” across multimedia.

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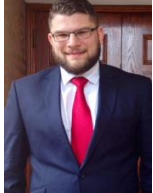
### **About Us**



#### **Mustafaa Carroll, Executive Director**

Mustafaa Carroll is the Executive director of the Council on American Islamic Relations – Houston, Texas Chapter. Carroll began his civil rights activism at 16 as President of the NAACP Youth Council in his hometown of Gary, Indiana. Prior to Carroll’s arrival to the Houston office in June 2010, he served on the CAIR-TX DFW board from 2004 – 2006 and the Executive Committee as Board President in 2007. He was unanimously appointed as Executive Director in June 2007. Carroll has served on several boards including the North Texas Islamic Council (NTIC), Masjid Al-Islam, Dallas, the Islamic Medieval Studies Group (IMSG), the Make-

A-Wish Foundation of North Texas, the National Bone Marrow's Committee entitled African Americans Uniting for Life (AAUL), the advisory committee of the Greater Dallas Chamber of Commerce, and he was a founding member and Chair of Humanitarian Day-DFW Event for 5 years. Together with the board and staff of CAIR-TX, Houston and the support of the Greater Houston community, Carroll is helping develop and execute strategies that assure justice and civil rights for Muslims in the Greater Houston Community.



#### **Ahmad Alaswad, Outreach Coordinator**

Ahmad Alaswad attended Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas, where he received dual bachelors degrees in criminal justice and political science. After graduating in 2008 he worked as Council Aide to Houston City Council Member M.J. Khan. In 2010, he served as the Policy and Agenda Director for Council Member Jarvis Johnson. He also worked with Mayor Bill White and Mayor Annise Parker, providing them policy advice. The highlight of his time working for the City of Houston was winning the Mayor's proclamation. Ahmad received a masters degree in public policy and international development at Texas Southern University.



#### **Ruth Nasrullah, Communications Coordinator**

Ruth Nasrullah is a freelance journalist with a master of arts degree in print and multimedia journalism from Emerson College, where she received the school's Presidential Fellowship. She is a regular contributor to Azizah, Islamic Horizons, Toastmaster and the Houston Chronicle, for which she has written The Straight Path blog since 2006. From 2012-2013 she served as president of the Houston chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists. Ruth is also a member of the Religion Newswriters Association and the Muslimah Writers Alliance. She served on the local station board of KPFT/Pacifica radio from 2011-2012 and is an avid member of the Toastmasters organization, with which she has held several leadership positions. Prior to her journalism career she worked in health care administration. She is currently pursuing a master of fine arts in creative nonfiction at Goucher College.

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## MEDIA COVERAGE



[Communications Coordinator Ruth Nasrullah speaks at a press conference condemning ISIS.](#)



[We CAIR volunteers clean debris from elderly woman's burnt home.](#)

[CAIR Houston decries Houston fire inspector's offensive Facebook post.](#)

[CAIR, Houston Muslims hold rally against ISIS.](#)

[Following anti-Muslim threats, CAIR Houston calls for tighter security at mosques.](#)

[CAIR Houston seeks probe of anti-Muslim hate.](#)