

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

October 11, 2016

Re: Resolution 1230-2016

Good morning. Greetings of Peace (As Salamu Alaikum).

My Name Is CheikhAhmed Mbareck. I am the Executive Director of Majlis Ash Shura, also known as Islamic Leadership Council of New York. I am humbled and honored to be standing here with people of conscience, Respected City Council members, Councilman Miller, sponsors and supporters of resolution 1230 and fellow New Yorkers.

I would like to extend my thanks and gratitude to you all for coming out in support of Muslims, of diversity, and of inclusion of all New Yorkers regardless of ethnicity, culture, religion or national origin. Thank you for sending a strong message to Islamophobes and bigots that New York City rejects their hatred and their attempts to discriminate and alienate Muslims or any other community.

1. Muslims are rooted in the history of America and the city of New York.
 - a. Islam and Muslims have existed in the US long before it was founded.
 - b. Muslims have always been an integral part of America, even before the slavery era. We have contributed to the establishing, building and protecting of America as well as the city of New York. We have been contributing as military personnel, police officers, educators, doctors, chaplains, lawyers, advocates, religious and community leaders, cab drivers, and businesspeople.
 - c. In addition, New York is the city of Malcom X. where he lived and struggled for justice and equality for all, and where he was assassinated and buried.
2. Fellow New Yorkers! Because of Islamophobia, rather than living the American Dream and enjoying liberty and justice for all, the Muslim Community has been living, for about two decades in a nightmare. The wounds of the Muslim community are so deep and painful. We have been singled out, vilified and de-humanized in the media. We have been ostracized, and denied the right to build houses of worship. Right here in NYC, our Imams were killed in the street. Babies were kicked in their strollers. Children were bullied in schools. Youth were preyed upon, entrapped by informants, and sentenced, and some were kept in solitary confinement. Women were attacked, their Hijabs were forcefully removed and their clothes were set on fire. People were attacked on the street because of their appearance, and our Job seekers are denied employment because of their attire, accent, and name. Our community does not receive its fair share of the public budget, nor of the public services and benefit. We want to be treated like our fellow New Yorkers, no more no less.
3. By voting in favor of this resolution, the City Council will honor Muslim New Yorkers and their contributions, will honor the founding fathers, will honor the Constitution of the United States, and will honor the values that bind New York City together, including the value of diversity, inclusion and equal opportunity and justice for all New Yorkers.
Finally, it is worth mentioning that the current presidential campaign will leave behind a large amount of hatred and negativity towards Muslims and other communities. Therefore, we hope that this resolution will help protect all New York including Muslims.

skuraneuyork@gmail.com

857 222 6582



SADHANA: COALITION OF PROGRESSIVE HINDUS

Testimony in support of Resolution 1230 declaring support for Muslim communities, affirming religious pluralism, and urging all to stand together for peace and understanding.

Tuesday October 11, 2016, NYC

Hinduism is a religion which has pluralism at its very core.
VASUDAIVA KUTUMBAKAM: the world is one family. We are one.

“Sadhana” means religious praxis, or faith in action. We in Sadhana: Coalition of Progressive Hindus seek to mobilize Hindus to speak and act for justice, particularly when justice is denied.

In this time of heightened xenophobia, Islamophobia and increased hate crimes, we stand in solidarity with our Muslim American brothers and sisters, and add our voice and testimony in support of **Resolution 1230**, which declares “support for Muslim communities, affirming the religious pluralism of the United States, and urging all residents to stand together for peace and understanding.”

A June 2016 report issued by CAIR and the University of California at Berkeley indicated that the number of recorded incidents in which mosques were targeted rose to 78 in 2015, which is the highest number since the entities began tracking these crimes in 2009. The violent backlash that is taking place against innocent Muslims, Sikhs and other South Asians including Hindus across this country, is disheartening and terrifying. We have seen death threats against one of our nation's only two Muslim congressmen in DC, hate crimes against numerous mosques and gurdwaras including a severed pig's head thrown in a Philadelphia mosque, attacks on Muslim-owned businesses, and most recently, the murder of a beloved Queens Imam and his assistant, in broad daylight in a busy street as they were leaving their place of worship.

Last Thanksgiving, Sadhana organized a large rally in response to a hate crime in Ozone Park, Queens, NY when a man set fire to 40 Hindu prayer flags in a Hindu family's front yard. Many hate crimes against Sikhs and Hindus are perpetrated by Islamophobic people who are ignorant of the difference between Muslims, Sikhs and Hindus.

Those who perpetrate such heinous acts of hatred and those who seek to deny Muslims their basic civil rights do not represent us or speak for us since our Hindu faith teaches us to live with each other as one family.

Our message to all those who reject these proponents of hatred, bigotry and violence is: *“Join us. We are called to exhibit courage, love and compassion by standing in solidarity with our neighbors, our fellow community members, our brothers and sisters, for whom this moment is one of pure terror. Our time to act is now. Our time to speak is now. And we must act and speak together, as one.”*

Sadhana: Coalition of Progressive Hindus is committed to standing with our Muslim American brothers and sisters, shoulder to shoulder, in our struggle to achieve equality and justice for all. #WeAreOne



DRUM – DESIS RISING UP & MOVING

72-18 Roosevelt Ave, 2nd Floor, Jackson Heights, NY 11372

Tel. (718) 205-3036 | Fax (718) 205-3037 | info@drumnyc.org | www.drumnyc.org

October 11th, 2016

My name is Kazi Fouzia, and I am the Director of Organizing at DRUM- Desis Rising Up & Moving. DRUM is a 16-year old civil rights organization of 2900 low-income South Asians fighting for their rights as immigrants, youth, workers, and as communities of color. Like myself, a majority of our members are also Muslims, and significant numbers from Bangladesh.

Our members have been seriously concerned with the anti-Muslim, anti-immigrant, and racist rhetoric on a rise throughout the country. We have seen a series of attacks on Muslim New Yorkers over the past few months. Some of these attacks may be hate crimes, and some we are waiting to find out.

So we deeply appreciate the efforts behind this hearing and the resolution, and the support of elected officials, including the city council.

While there is certainly an increase in such incidents, this is nothing new. And not surprising.

It is a logical consequence of the years of policies which have laid the path to suspicion and mistrust. But it is also about the larger public policy decisions we make that criminalize our communities, rather than strengthen them. The use of policing to solve every problem in our communities, rather than investing in their long term health.

We spend unknown millions for the wholesale surveillance of Muslim communities thus giving official legitimacy to anti-Muslim bias.

There are countless informants and undercover officers spying on students, workers, religious leaders, and political activists, giving the impression that there is something wrong with our communities.

The everyday street policing of youth, cab drivers, and street vendors, sees our communities as a menace.

At the same time, our communities remain lacking in basic services and programs for the lack of infrastructure and support, leaving our communities feeling like we are in competition with each other.

Each of these decisions and policies is a reflection of our priorities.

We hope the respected elected officials will consider our city's policies as a whole in addition to this resolution. If we really want to confront Islamophobia and anti-Muslim actions, we have to change our official policies around policing, surveillance and profiling.

Thank you.

Testimony presented by:

Kazi Fouzia, Director of Organizing, DRUM – Desis Rising Up & Moving

Resolution declaring support for Muslim communities, affirming the religious pluralism of the United States, and urging all residents to stand together for peace and understanding.

Good morning honored New York City Council Members. My name is Dr. Ivan Khan, and I am the CEO of Khan's Tutorial. Khan's Tutorial is a mid sized education company with 10 locations serving the outer boroughs of NYC. With over 300 team members, Khan's Tutorial is one of the largest employers of Muslim college students in New York City and together, we currently serve 3,000 families every weekend, the vast majority of them Muslim NYers in grades K-12 for tutoring & mentorship.

I speak before you today to affirm the religious pluralism of the United States & support all NY-ers to stand united with Muslim families at this tense time in our country's & beloved city's history.

I moved to Corona Queens as a first grader in 1987, just one year after the NY Mets won the World Series. While it was exciting to live just one train stop from the epicenter of America's National pastime in Shea Stadium, life wasn't easy for low income NY-ers in the mid 80s. In addition to adjusting to a new country, recent immigrants from Bangladesh, India & Pakistan had a particular tougher time when compared to other new groups from Eastern Europe or Latin American nations. These extra challenges could be attributed to differences in language, body, skin tone, culture & dare I say it, our religious differences.

From the time that I entered the NYC school system, the beauty of America was thoroughly explained to me as a 6 year old first grader: British by birth, but Bangladeshi by identity. I'd learn about this country's Constitution, take pride in reciting the pledge every morning, and understand that our country was founded on the basis of Freedom of Religion, a key tenet of our First Amendment rights.

I remember growing up in new immigrant neighborhoods like Elmhurst & South Ozone Park where I was rarely singled out for the color of my skin, or my faith. I sadly remember things drastically changing as my parents worked their way to move us to a better, more

affluent neighborhood. Despite having grown up a proud Queens resident since age 6, upon moving to Douglaston at age 12, I would suddenly be reminded of my being different and would be subject to names like Gandhi, dot head or mini-mart owner. It felt strangely ironic. The better my family did socio-economically, the more we were reminded that we didn't belong. I often wished of moving back to the immigrant enclaves of Queens where I felt more safe, & overall much more welcome.

These examples just touched the surface. By the time the horrific attacks of September 11th happened, anti-Muslim sentiment in the United States started to sky-rocket. Though hundreds of the victims of 9/11 included Muslim first responders & workers in the Twin Towers, the Muslim children of that era would forever be suspected of being "terrorist sympathizers, anti-American, jihadists, or non-human." Countless times, Muslim girls across NYC were physically harassed just for wearing hijab, or publicly humiliated & menaced on our subways and buses due to their religion.

Life for our young boys wasn't much better. All over New York City's classrooms, our boys would be labeled terrorists, called Bin-Laden, Taliban & ISIS. Though 9/11 happened over 15 years ago, the worst of New York City's hatred has re-surfaced since the launch of Donald Trump's xeno-phobic, misogynistic campaign. In the past year alone, I have attended more than one's share of vigils & funerals after attacks & killings of Muslim NY-ers in Astoria, Jackson Heights, Ozone Park, Parkchester & just recently in Jamaica.

Despite the increase of Islamophobia, Muslim NYers are becoming increasingly organized today. In addition to being one of the fastest growing groups in NYC, discussions like today are just one step towards equality for Muslim NYers. In the public sphere, the emergence of Muslim civic groups have created leaders like Linda Sarsour, Ali Najmi & Imam Latif to name a few. Muslim leaders have worked closely with BOTH members of the Black Lives Matter movement, while engaging NY's finest NYPD to build on police-community relations. The NYPD Muslim officers union is one shining example of the inclusivity of all Muslims.

The work of Khan's Tutorial has helped Muslims comprise greater than 10% of the entering class at NYC's Specialized High Schools. This has led to more Muslim NYers getting admissions to top universities in the area than ever before which include but aren't limited to Columbia, NYU, Macauley Honors College & the area combined medical programs. Muslims are one of the fastest growing groups in Medical Residency Programs, Medical & Law schools, Pharmacy Programs & more recently the humanities and arts. If any of you had a chance to see the recent HBO hit, "The Night Of", it includes many up & coming Muslim stars & sheds light into the intersection of NYC's legal justice system and how it affects new immigrant groups such as Muslims & minorities as a whole.

As I complete my remarks before you, please keep in mind that the best of tomorrow's youth are looking to lead our city & country in the next several years. New York City has long been America's gem in our inclusiveness & welcoming of new immigrant groups. We have done it in the past, and we will do it again. With your help, as proud New Yorkers we can all do more to create change in a non-discriminatory way that's fair for all NYers regardless of one's religion, faith or God. Thank you & God Bless New York City.



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Anti-Defamation League®

October 11, 2016

Councilor Daneek Miller

Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and International Intergroup Relations

250 Broadway, Suite 1810

New York, NY 10007

RE: Resolution 1230-2016: Resolution Declaring Support for Muslim Communities, Affirming the Religious Pluralism of the United States, and Urging All Residents to Stand Together for Peace and Understanding

Dear Chairman Miller,

On behalf of the Anti-Defamation League ("ADL"), we are writing to express our strong support for Council Resolution No. 1230-2016, which specifically rejects anti-Muslim rhetoric and violence, affirms the religious pluralism of the United States, and urges all residents to stand together for peace and understanding.

Founded over a century ago, ADL is the nation's leading civil rights and human relations organization, combating anti-Semitism and all forms of bigotry, as well as promoting understanding and diversity throughout the United States and abroad. To that end, we are an ardent advocate for religious freedom for all Americans- whether in the majority or minority. ADL plays a leading role in exposing and combating anti-Muslim bigotry and hatred.

We have been alarmed by and concerned about the recent trend of hateful rhetoric and violence directed towards Muslims in New York City. Particularly with the emergence of ISIS and the recent terrorist attacks around the globe coupled with a growing atmosphere of fear-mongering, there has been an increase in incidents targeting the Muslim community and those who are perceived to be Muslim. We have seen Islamophobia- the fear, hatred, and discrimination of Muslim people- manifesting itself in personal biases, rhetoric, education, politics, hate crimes, and more. These incidents and rhetoric have left New York City's Muslim community feeling intimidated, vulnerable, and isolated.

All Americans have a stake in responding to violent bigotry. By passing this resolution, New York City Council will send a strong message to the entire community that anti-Muslim rhetoric and violence has no place in the City and that the American Muslim community is not alone. We commend you for standing together against bigotry, hatred, and prejudice. We must continue to speak out against, and work to prevent and educate against, the scapegoating of minorities in America.

ADL will continue to support efforts to combat Islamophobia, promote pluralism and encourage all residents of New York City to embrace peace and understanding between.

Thank you for your action to support these important goals. We urge you adopt Resolution 1230-2016.

Sincerely,

Evan Bernstein

Regional Director, ADL-New York Region

Cc:

Council Member Carlos Menchaca, Chair of the Committee on Immigration,
Council Member Brad Lander

Serving the Empire State

New York Region

605 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10158-3560, T 212.885.7970 F 212.599.6988 www.adl.org

Ahsia Badi

New York City Resident

October 11th, 2016

Good morning, and thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

My name is Ahsia Badi, I am proud New Yorker, living and working here in the City. I volunteer my time on civic and public hospital boards, work in Public Health, where my passion is to positively impact the broader social determinates of health to help make the city better.

My husband and I are raising our 8 and 10 year old daughters in the city. They go to public school in the Lower East Side, love Mr. Frosty ice cream in the summer, play lacrosse in the Bronx and soccer next to Con Ed field off the FDR. They go to Sunday School on the weekends. Every night, after home work they practice reading the Quran in Arabic and listen to an iPhone app to help memorize the Arabic prayers. They are New York City kids.

Early this year my then 2nd grader came home after school and the first thing she asked me: if <candidate> is elected, Mama, will we have to leave our home?

Her class had a current events discussion that day regarding presidential candidate debates and one candidate's comments left my daughter anxious and upset. As a mom, I assuaged my daughter's concerns, and continue to do so when topics come up.

I of course know that the teacher did not intentionally mean to upset my daughter. Rather, there was a lack of teacher understanding on the impact of such a discussion – on my daughter and on other minority children. I engaged the school principals, they responded with teacher education as well as a dedicated discussion during their next Staff meeting.

I have since learned that my daughter's class room experience was not unique – similar ones have taken place in other schools throughout our country.

The Southern Poverty Law Center recently did a study of teachers and they found the following:

- More than two-thirds of the teachers reported that students—mainly immigrants, children of immigrants and Muslims—have expressed concerns or fears about what might happen to them or their families after the election.
- More than one-third have observed an increase in anti-Muslim or anti-immigrant sentiment.
- More than 40 percent of the teachers are hesitant to teach about the election.¹

The long term impact of the current climate is hard to tell. But I, along with many others, worry about how this climate will impact the civic engagement of our children as well as their sense of self and belonging to America.

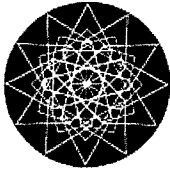
Though I am moved by the current resolution and welcome any and all work towards reducing Islamaphobia.

I respectfully ask the council to consider both funding and mandating programs to reduce all types of phobias and “isms”. Research shows that the same efforts that reduce Islamaphobia are those that will reduce homophobia, racism, sexism and other types of bias against anyone for their color, creed, sexual orientation and gender.

Thank you.

Ahsia Badi

1. Southern Poverty Law. April 13, 2016. The Trump Effect: The Impact of the Presidential Campaign on Our Nation’s Schools. <https://www.splcenter.org/20160413/trump-effect-impact-presidential-campaign-our-nations-schools>



Muslim Community Network

Connecting Communities, Creating New Spaces for Engagement

October 11th, 2016

The Muslim Community Network is a nonprofit organization that works to build consensus among the Muslim and multi-faith communities of New York City and equips community members with the tools and resources to advocate for the rights and interests of their neighbors and loved ones. Of particular concern and importance to us are the welfare of youth and we have been working since 2012 to build the next generation of leaders through our hallmark program, MY NYC, that encourages civic engagement and good citizenship of Muslim teens.

Youth in our programs have shared heartbreaking accounts of what it's like growing up Muslim in a tide of rising Islamophobia. Mothers move their small children away from them on the subway, they are bullied and greeted with sneers and slurs like terrorist and "ISIS", and some of them are terrified to leave their homes after a terror attack or hate crime against Muslims. Earlier this year one of our students stepped onto the bus and a man pointed his fingers at her like a gun and pretended to shoot her. No child should have to feel like hate and threat of violence are a normal part of their childhood.

On behalf of the staff and board at Muslim Community Network, we are deeply grateful to Council Members Miller, Wills, Lander, Menchaca, Levine, Barron, Richards, Cornegy, Palma, Dickens, Greenfield, Chin, Constantinides and Levin for introducing this resolution. Its passage will send a strong message from our leaders that the Muslim community is an integral and valued part of this city.

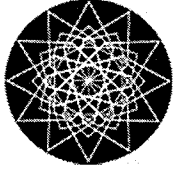
In addition, I urge the City Council to act beyond this expression of solidarity to implement concrete measures of support that will ensure that Muslims are protected and prepared to better serve those experiencing anti-Muslim hate. Community-based organizations like MCN need funding for education programs that inform the community of their rights as New Yorkers and how to positively engage with their local government and city agencies. We need funding to increase youth development programs like MY NYC and to better equip schools to discuss current events with nuance and protect students who have been bullied because of the way that they pray.

We are strongest when we stand together as Americans. America is rooted in our ability to come together, especially during times like these and we are hopeful that the passage of this resolution will be a starting point for further support and resources needed for the Muslim community during a rising tide of hate and fear.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christina Tasca', with a long, sweeping underline.

Christina Tasca
Executive Director
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Muslim Community Network

Connecting Communities, Creating New Spaces for Engagement

On this day we welcome and applaud the NYC Council for introducing Resolution 1230 declaring support for Muslim communities, affirming the religious pluralism of the United States. When we acknowledge the hardship and unfair treatment of one community, we acknowledge our shared humanity. Let this be the start to combat all the isms that exist in society for all of us to live in peace and harmony.

I thank Council Members Miller, Wills, Lander, Menchaca, Levine, Barron, Richards, Cornegy, Palma, Dickens, Greenfield, Chin, Constantinides and Levin for their leadership to draft and propose this resolution. They couldn't have picked a better time than this moment in our country's history where political pundits have made Islam and Muslims, Mexicans, immigrants, refugees, women, LGBTQ communities as political footballs in this political cycle for their personal gains.

As we declare this as a Resolution of support for Muslim communities in word, I call on the City Council to enact this resolution into action through policy and funding. For the last 25 years, I have served in the NYC public school system with honor and distinction on all levels. I came to the conclusion this summer that the best way I can serve my community and those perceived to be Muslim, is to advocate from the outside of the school system. This past school year, 5 families brought to my attention issues of prejudice and bullying. Not to mention the number of children and families that fear reporting an incident.

1. We ask that the Education Committee hold a hearing requesting that the DOE share the OORs incident reports that are entered by schools across the city. Upon review of these reports, provide cultural sensitivity trainings in schools with high number of incidents. We ask the Education Committee to encourage the DOE to partner with Arab, Muslim and South Asian organizations as well as the Commission for Human Rights to devise a K-12 cultural sensitivity curriculum.
2. We ask the Public Safety Committee to request that the NYPD School Safety incorporate cultural sensitivity training specifically on Arab, Muslim and South Asian students in order to serve and protect their rights, not see them through a security lens.
3. We ask the Committee on Cultural Affairs to allocate funding for public schools and Arab, Muslim and South Asian cultural arts organizations to educate about these cultures through the arts. When the Mayor and Chancellor announced the Muslim Holidays in 2014, Chancellor Farina stated the holiday as a teachable moment highlighting the diverse cultures of Muslim New Yorkers, let's make it a priority to work with her to make it happen.
4. We ask of each committee to have a quality assurance mechanism to monitor the work and evaluate its effectiveness.

Thank you,

Dr. Debbie Almontaser

RESOLUTION 1230

My name is Abdus Salaam Musa. I am a resident of the City of New York in the borough of Queens. I am here in my capacity as the President of the Southeast Queens Muslim Collective to state that we condemn Islamophobia.

As an African American Muslim, whose history includes my ancestors being brought to America as slaves, I recognize my immigrant brothers and sisters are now experiencing the hate African Americans have endured because of our race and our roots in Africa; for them it is because of their religion and that they have come from some other land to America. Because we are one in our belief, and the first Africans to arrive here so many centuries ago were Muslims, African American Muslims are also experiencing and confronting Islamophobia. We cannot separate ourselves from it. We know where it comes from: it is a hatred that is being spewed by Right Wing bigots in our country. It should not and will not be tolerated, Allah willing.

Since September 11, 2001 all Muslims have been targeted. We, as a group, have been harassed, framed, and profiled. We, African Americans have endured this behavior in one form or another since we have been here. According to the Center for American Progress, there are seven organizations that have spent \$42.6 million between the years of 2001 to 2009 to support anti-Muslim rhetoric. I suspect that some of the people who comprise these seven organizations may be parents of children. I am a parent and a grandparent. Children are innocent to the intentional actions of some determined adults who malign, antagonize and promote hate against Muslims, which includes and impacts our children. There are many Muslim children who are being subjected to bullying and ostracism in schools, many of whom are also witnessing their parents' fearful reactions to being treated with suspicion, disregard and most unfortunately sometimes being attacked physically. Some of these hateful campaigns have occurred in New York City, but they should no longer. Islamophobia cannot be treated with blinders and/or a lack of foresight for the damage it inflicts across all communities that weaken our societal values as a nation.

We are in agreement that all Muslim communities should be respected and be in harmony with their non-Muslim neighbors. If we are to continue to build a strong America, there must be support for the Islamic communities and that; as such we should respect the values that America and Americans claim, that being: "One Nation, under God, with liberty and justice for all."

We look forward to the passage of this Resolution and what actions may follow that bring all New Yorkers together to rid ourselves of the underpinning roots of Islamophobia that will make us a better city and a better nation, Allah Willing.



SAFEST

South Asian Fund for Education, Scholarship & Training

PUBLIC HEARING
City Hall Committee Room
October 11, 2016 @9AM
Mazeda A. Uddin (SAFEST Org CEO/President)

Subject : Resolution 1230 declaring support for Muslim communities, affirming the religious pluralism of the United States, and urging all residents to stand together for peace and understanding.

Dear Honorable City Councils,

Good morning ladies and gentleman. My name is Mazeda A. Uddin. I am an American by heart, Muslim by faith and a proud New Yorker. I am representing my organization the South Asian Fund for Education, Scholarship and Training (SAFEST). We work on the day to day challenges the South Asian American Communities have been facing over the decades. Our work spectrum includes education, immigration, workers' rights, voting rights, building awareness against hate crimes, community programs and so on.

Today, I am privileged to testify before the honorable Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and International Intergroup Relations and I extend thanks from our community for bringing an excruciatingly under represented issue which has been hurting millions of our fellow citizens to the forefront of the public.

I am upset by gun shots that laid down two prayer leaders of a Queens mosque but am even more greatly disturbed by the deafening silence in our public discourse. I completely understand that hatred has been raised to such an extent that my neighbor, a wonderful lady in her 60s, wearing Muslim clothing, could be shot dead while taking an afternoon stroll with her husband. However, I am unable to comprehend that I, a proud mother of five young American men and women, could become the next victim. When I talk to our community, I see this similar thought haunting them dreadfully.

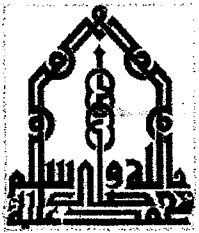
When our cheerful kids are returning home with a sullen face being repeatedly bullied as 'Terrorist' 'ISIS' or with the question 'do you have a bomb with you'; it hurts us as community. A number of demagogues and their surrogates are fanning the fear with hatred, bigotry and xenophobic verbiage. Our children are feeling alienated and grousing that certain errant groups are tireless to install the idea 'Muslims do not belong here'. This alienation is what the notorious ISIS wants; the ambassadors of Islamophobia are seemingly absolutely committed to assault American cultural plurality, religious diversity and openness; the very fabric of our society.

However, I have believed New York will not let us down against overwhelming irrational fear. Together we will stand, declare and champion religious pluralism and protect our civil liberties affirmed in the very constitution of our great nation.

“The ability to worship a Higher Power freely has been the cornerstone of our great nation. We must be vigilant and never let that right be taken away from us. Together if we engage in an atmosphere of acceptance, tolerance, understanding and love our nation will become stronger and the Constitution that we all respect and admire will become the guiding light for all of our citizens no matter their race, creed or color”.

Thank you all.

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STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION # 1230

“ O mankind! We created you from a single (pair) of a male and a female, and made you into nations and tribes, that you may know each other (not that you may despise each other). Verily the most honoured of you in the sight of Allah is (he who is) the most righteous of you. And Allah has full knowledge and is well acquainted (with all things)”. (Qur’an 49:13)

“ All mankind is from Adam and Eve. An Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab nor does a non-Arab have any superiority over an Arab; also a White (person) has no superiority over a Black (person) nor does a Black (person) have any superiority over a White (person), except by way of piety and good actions.” (Prophet Muhammad)

Six years ago in September 2010, the Majlis Ashura (Islamic Leadership Council) of New York held a conference attended by Muslim religious leaders from across the city, and the United States of America. The Council declared at that time that it stood against “...racism, hatred, religious intolerance and ethnic bigotry directed against Islam and American Muslims.”

A month later it launched what it called “a week of dialogue” taking place in mosques throughout the City of New York, wherein Muslims invited people of other faiths to visit with them as neighbors and non-Muslim friends. The purpose of the event, which continues unto this day, was to “counter bigotry and Islamophobia” and to “correct the perception of Islam and Muslims in America”.

Today in that spirit, we of the Islamic Leadership Council of New York, along with Muslims from all walks of life and in partnership with people of good will from various faiths, stand in support of New York City Council Resolution number 1230, “...declaring support for Muslim communities, affirming the religious pluralism of

the United States, and urging all residents to stand together for peace and understanding”.

We do so specifying the need for elimination of fear based not upon rational concerns for public safety which we all share, but rather upon the irrational assigning of a collective guilt to our entire faith community for the actions of extremists falsely claiming to be acting in the name of our religion and us, the majority Muslim people of America and the world.

However combatting bigotry against Islam and Muslims is also primary to our concern, for what is generally being termed “Islamophobia” by many including Muslims is in fact bigotry against our religion, and Muslim people of various ethnicities. Bigotry is an intolerance that appeals to the lower passions and impulses of mankind, and it is responsible for the deaths of millions of people throughout the world, including in America.

Whether it is racial bigotry against Black and Brown people, or ethnic bigotry against Native Americans, Irish, Jews, Chinese, or Arabs, or religious bigotry against Catholics or Muslims, or economic bigotry against the poor, the American past has had its worst moments when intolerance against groups has been permitted. The same is true for America today.

Here in New York City over the past 15 years, we have seen the actions of people who have attempted to fan the flames of bigotry against Islam as a religion and Muslims as a people, since September 11, 2001. A handful of individuals backed

by untold millions of dollars, have fomented hatred and bigotry amongst the people of New York, and America.

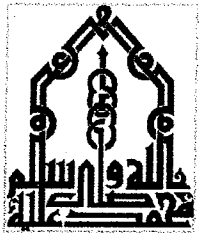
Several studies over the years by creditable organizations, have shown that seven top funders of anti-Islamic research and rhetoric contributed \$42.6 million to think tanks " fomenting bigotry against Islam and Muslims, and Islamophobia, between 2001 and 2009". That led to the creation of groups that exhibited "extreme hostility toward Muslims" and who "broadly defame Islam, which they tend to treat as a monolithic and evil religion."

Further of 24 such groups operating in the country, five of them were founded and are lead by two New Yorkers, Pamela Geller and Robert Spencer. These two individuals have acted and continue to act under the names of various organizations founded by them such as the American Freedom Defense Initiative, Jihad Watch, Atlas Shrugs, Truth About Quran, and Stop Islamization of America (SIOA). It is established that their writings influenced the thinking of Anders Behring Breivik - a Norwegian terrorist who in 2011 killed seventy-seven innocent Muslim children, women, and men in Norway.

All of those organizations started by two New Yorkers have been identified by the Southern Poverty Law Center as hate groups. Aided by New York-based tabloids and media sources, Geller and Spencer, the two anti-Islam and anti-Muslim bigots, have attempted to poison the minds of New Yorkers over the years through bus ad campaigns, hyped controversies during election cycles (such as the Park 51 or so-called "ground zero mosque" incident of recent years past), and other

manufactured crises and events, such as those surrounding the former Khalil Gibran school in Brooklyn.

The City Council has consistently resisted these and other attempts to sway New Yorkers towards intolerance against racial, ethnic, social and religious groups. We stand with it in this latest attempt to resist bigotry and Islamophobia.



**THE MAJLIS ASHURA (ISLAMIC LEADERSHIP
COUNCIL) OF NEW YORK**
Office of the Special Representative for Restorative Justice,
Civil and Human Rights

130 WEST 113th STREET, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10026
(212) 662-4100
nymajlismetrony@aol.com, shuranewyork.org

**ADDENDUM TO THE STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR CITY COUNCIL
RESOLUTION # 1230**

**By Al-Hajj Talib 'Abdur-Rashid - Imam, The Mosque of Islamic Brotherhood,
Special Representative for Restorative Justice, Civil and Human Rights,
The Majlis Ashura of NY**

Lastly as an addendum to this statement, I wish to offer a personal note. By definition, bigotry is intolerance not only towards groups of people but ideas. The recent contentious NY City Council BDS hearings are an example of this. On that day people who expressed an opinion supporting the BDS movement were intolerantly denounced or dismissed by Councilmember Rory Lancman as being (Anti-Jewish) Anti-Semitic. This was the case whether the public opposition was voiced by those who were themselves Jews, or activists like my younger colleague Linda Sarsour, or religious leaders like myself.

I took particular offense that Council Lancman, to the silence of other councilmembers who were present at the time, had the temerity to call me an Anti-Jewish Anti-Semite, when I have a public record in our city of multi-faith worship, advocacy and work, spanning a quarter of a century. The very archives of the City Council itself attest to this. I have founded inter and multi faith organizations along with rabbis in this city. I was a friend and colleague of the late Rabbi Marshall Meyer, one of our city's great Jewish religious leaders. Over the years I have participated in worship services at synagogues in our city, and lectured at Hebrew

Union College. I am recognized on sight, and welcome in at least a few synagogues, as are their members welcome in the mosque that I have lead for almost three decades, in the village of Harlem.

When an emotionally disturbed young man named Gary Gideon Busch was gunned down by NYPD officers years ago, I am the imam who responded in person in condolence to his family and solidarity with his community. When Daniel Pearl was kidnapped and killed by Muslim violent extremists I participated in a public memorial service for him at Temple B'Nai Jesrun on Manhattan's Upper West Side .

Yet, because of a political difference of opinion, Councilmember Lancman, of this august body, saw fit to describe me as being Anti-Semitic - a vile and ugly designation. I don't know, perhaps Councilmember Lancman is disconnected from the work that religious leaders in this city including me, have been engaged in for decades from before Sept. 11, 2001 to the present, to make our city one of tolerance and compassion, instead of intolerance and bigotry.

I do know that all of us can disagree even strongly without being bigoted, or intolerant of each other's opinions. Councilman Lancman owes me and Linda Sarsour and the other panelists who sat with us that day an apology- not for his passion or commitment to his beliefs, but for his intolerance towards us for respectfully exhibiting our own passion and commitment in opposition to him.

I thank you.

Statement

**by Andrew Ackerman, Executive Director, Children's Museum of Manhattan
in support of Reso. 1230**

The Children's Museum of Manhattan is proud to declare our support for Resolution 1230, by Council Member Miller, declaring the Council's – and the City of New York's – support for our Muslim communities.

This past February, the Museum opened its groundbreaking exhibition, *America to Zanzibar: Muslim Cultures Near and Far*, with the generous support of this Council and Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito.

The exhibit celebrates the beauty and diversity of Muslim cultures in New York City, the United States and across the world through art, architecture, design, travel, music, trade, home life, and more.

Most importantly, it aims to encourage children and families to become more attuned to seeing similarities and differences in others in a positive light. Developing this appreciation early in a child's life is critical, as studies have shown that by age nine most of a child's attitudes about race and cultural identity have been formed.

As the resolution states, anti-Islamic rhetoric and actions are against the core American values of religious freedom and fairness and contrary to the vision we share of a nation that welcomes all people. At the Children's Museum, we are proud to do our part toward building a more inclusive society that welcomes and celebrates the great cultural, ethnic and religious diversity that has made this City, and this nation, great.

We join you in extending the traditional Islamic greeting of Al Salam Alaikum (peace be upon you) to all of our Muslim friends, neighbors, citizens and visitors.

About the Children's Museum of Manhattan

For more than thirty years CMOM has been a destination and resource where families of all backgrounds come to learn, play and grow together. At CMOM, we take pride in our mission to prepare children to succeed in school, help families live healthy lives, and nurture a new generation of creative and global citizens. Each year, we touch the lives of more than 350,000 families—through groundbreaking exhibits, innovative programs and first class performances. We bring the joy of creativity and discovery to each child who walks through our doors on West 83rd Street, as well as thousands served beyond the walls of the Museum. Working with a network of more than 50 organizations across the City, CMOM removes barriers that keep children from accessing the rich educational resources a museum can offer. CMOM is more than a museum—we provide a continuum of experiences that give all children the intellectual, emotional, physical and social skills they need to thrive.

Our humanities-based exhibitions and programs promote intercultural understanding. To ensure accuracy, we present cultural traditions, customs and common beliefs based on research and collaboration with prominent scholars, educators and experts. *America to Zanzibar* is the fourth in CMOM's Cultural Series, which have explored Chinese, ancient Greek, and Japanese cultures. *Hello from Japan!*, our most recent previous exhibit, received a glowing review in *The New York Times* and is currently on a national tour to other children's museums.

AMERICA TO ZANZIBAR

Muslim Cultures Near and Far

A New Exhibition Opening February 13, 2016

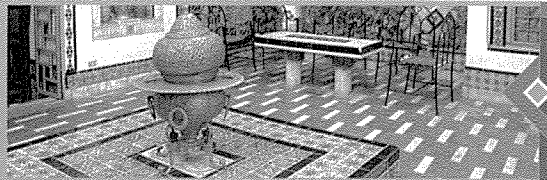
The Children's Museum of Manhattan will open a first-of-its-kind exhibition for children and families to celebrate the diversity of Muslim cultures in America and around the world through art, architecture, design, music, travel, trade and more!



ARCHITECTURE

Uncover the majesty and variety in Muslim architectural design

- Explore world mosques
- Design your own buildings



COURTYARD

Experience world cultures through design, music, and objects

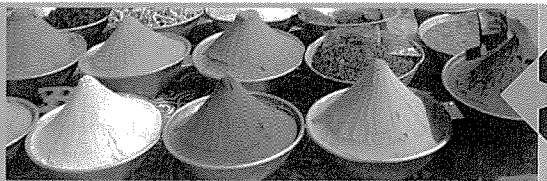
- Create your own music compositions
- Play a guessing game with objects



HOME

Explore the meaning of home through objects, art, stories and music

- Learn to say "My Name Is..." in 15 languages
- Decorate the walls with contemporary works of art



GLOBAL MARKETPLACE

Barter and trade at an international souk

- Create fashion
- Sell rugs, fish and ceramics



TRADE ROUTES

Exchange ideas and goods through travel and trade

- Load and unload an Indian Ocean dhow
- Ride a camel and design a Pakistani truck



PROGRAMS

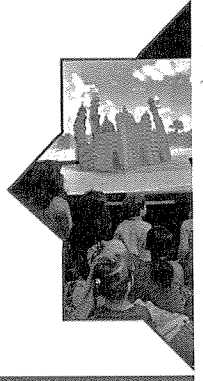
Enjoy dance, theater and music performances; art and cooking demonstrations; and lots of hands-on activities!



Children's Museum of Manhattan

The Tisch Building
212 West 83rd Street
New York, NY 10024
212-721-1223
www.cmom.org

Exhibition Open during regular Museum hours:
Tuesday-Sunday 10am-5pm
Private Exhibition Rental Hours:
Every Day 9am-10am or 5:30pm-7pm
Group Tour Reservations: slim@cmom.org



Muslim Cultures Near and Far

Programs Suite



Family Programs at CMOM

Daily experiences where children and families explore Muslim cultures through art, design and music.

Interactive Discovery Carts

Mosque Architecture Experience: Explore the art and architecture of mosques from around the world through an interactive video and architecture building activity.

Designing Courtyards: Design a courtyard with unique geometric patterns, colors, and textures.

Magnificent Music: Explore world instruments and rhythms to create your own musical ensemble.

Hands-on Art Workshops

Moroccan Rug Design: Create a textile patch inspired by Moroccan rug traditions.

Senegalese Fashion: Fold, cut, and stitch your own NYC/Senegalese-inspired wearable fashion

Pakistani Truck Design: Design a miniature truck using paintings, calligraphy, mirrors, bells, and more!

Muslim Arts Festivals

Celebrate the rich traditions and cultural diversity of Muslim communities in NYC and around the world. with artists and performances.



Community Outreach Programs

CMOM brings its innovative programs to libraries, community centers, head start centers and schools in all five boroughs.

Art Around The World

Journey through the arts as you are introduced to techniques, styles and mediums from different cultures in countries including Turkey, Pakistan and the countries of West Africa.

From Anansi to Zeus

The rich tradition of storytelling is prevalent in many Muslim cultures. Explore stories from different cultures and traditions through reenacting traditional folktales or myths.



The Tisch Building
212 West 83rd Street
New York, NY 10024
212-721-1223
www.cmom.org

Guided School Group Visits

Bring your Pre-K through 8th grade class to one of our 90-minute, exhibit tours and hands-on workshops. Guided group visits are aligned with New York City Common Core Standards.

You, Me, We

Discover the building blocks of what makes a community as you travel the world and explore the unique and exciting similarities between you and global neighbors. (Pre-K-Kindergarten)

Amazing Mathematics

Explore the relationship between culture and design through mathematical principles. Students will find beauty in geometry and deepen their understanding of numbers. (1st- 3rd)

A is for Architecture

Discover the mathematics behind the unique design elements in Muslim architecture, including patterns and arches. Explore global mosques and design 3D buildings inspired by the exhibit! (3rd- 5th)

Air, Land and Sea: Trade and Travel

Trade has fostered an exchange of cultural influences for thousands of years. Explore the complex relationship between international trade and the sharing of cultural values and artistic traditions. (6th- 8th)

Professional Development for Educators and Caregivers

A 90-minute, CMOM-led professional development session that trains educators on integrating arts-based techniques and resources to support learning about diverse cultures.

Emerging Educator Tours & Discussions

CMOM invites emerging educators and museum professionals to *America to Zanzibar* for unique tours exploring the ways interactive exhibits and hands-on arts can facilitate dialogue around intercultural differences and cultural expression.





150 Court Street, 3rd Fl
Brooklyn NY 11201
T: 718 643 8000
F: 718 797 0410

37-10 30th Street, 2nd Fl
Queens NY 11101
T: 718 937 8000
F: 347 808 8778

Family Justice Center
350 Jay Street, 15th Fl
Brooklyn, NY 11201
T: 718 250 5035

Family Justice Center
126-02 82nd Avenue
Queens, NY 11415
T: 718 575 4500

Family Justice Center
126 Stuyvesant Place
Staten Island, NY 10301
T: 718 697 4330

October 11, 2016

City Council Testimony for Resolution 1230-2016 on behalf of the Arab-American Family Support Center

Established in 1994, AAFSC is a non-profit, secular organization, and we are the oldest and largest Arabic-speaking social services agency in New York City. As a settlement house, we provide culturally and linguistically competent services to Arab, Middle Eastern, Muslim, and South Asian (AMEMSA) immigrant communities.

In the settlement house tradition, the majority of our staff members represent the communities that we serve. In the last year, we have watched with heavy hearts how a political climate of hateful rhetoric towards Muslims and immigrants reaps real and dangerous consequences for our communities—including both Muslims and those who are perceived as such. The shameful and dangerous words aimed at American Muslims in recent months has led to rates of anti-Muslim violence not seen since the aftermath of 9/11; in 2015, there was a 78% increase nationwide in hate crimes against Muslims and those perceived as Muslim, and a 38% increase in New York State.

At AAFSC, these numbers are personal. These are our clients, our neighbors, our mothers, fathers, sisters, and brothers. A student in our youth program was recently called “ISIS” by his teacher for wearing his *keffiyah* scarf in school. In August, a beloved Imam, Maulama Akonjee, and his assistant Thara Uddin were killed in broad daylight, dressed in Muslim garb walking down a street near their mosque in Ozone Park, Queens. Hate crimes against the Sikh community are also sharply rising—just this month, Maan Singh Khalsa, a Sikh man in Richmond, California, was attacked by assailants who tore off his turban and cut his hair. Unfortunately, these events rarely make the evening news. Our clients consistently share with us how increased discrimination and harassment is wearing on their mental health. In January 2016, researchers from the University of Pennsylvania reported that discrimination functions as a risk factor for significant levels of clinical depression in Muslims, and also found that being called offensive names has the strongest effect in developing depression.

No one in New York City, a city that prides itself on diversity and inclusion, should feel afraid and unwelcomed due to their faith, race, or cultural background. It is clear that in these times, we must come together as a city to support, embrace, and celebrate the Arab, Middle Eastern, Muslim, and South Asian communities, and all communities affected by the recent spike in xenophobia. When political leaders endorse fear, they set a standard that emboldens citizens to act on dangerous prejudices.

This rhetoric leads to hostilities towards individuals based on their perceived racial and ethno-religious identities; people are targeted not due to the core beliefs of their religion, but due to their cultural identity, making “Islamophobia” a problematic term and in of itself. Thus, AAFSC affirms the interplay between racism, xenophobia, and anti-Muslim discrimination—the rising tensions in our society do not reflect a conflict of religion, but rather a nuanced issue enveloping multiple forms of discrimination. AAFSC stands against all forms of oppression and systemic racism.

We must confront and break down the fear that enables horrific acts of discrimination, and the prejudice and labels the AMEMSA communities as foreign and “un-American.” We must stand by



Arab-American Family Support Center
المركز العربي الامريكى للخدمات الاجتماعية

www.aafscny.org

150 Court Street, 3rd Fl
Brooklyn NY 11201
T: 718 643 8000
F: 718 797 0410

37-10 30th Street, 2nd Fl
Queens NY 11101
T: 718 937 8000
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Staten Island, NY10301
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Resolution 1230-2016 to affirm religious pluralism in the US, and set an alternative, more hopeful standard for the nation. The Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and International Intergroup Relations is putting forth a necessary action to affirm our commitment as New Yorkers to the principals of freedom, liberty, and respect for our neighbors.



Council on American-Islamic Relations

46-01 20th Avenue
Astoria, New York 11105
www.cair-ny.org | (646) 665-7599

**STATEMENT OF
AFAF NASHER, ESQ.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
COUNCIL ON AMERICAN ISLAMIC RELATIONS, NEW YORK**

**BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL AFFAIRS, LIBRARIES AND INTERNATIONAL
INTERGROUP RELATIONS
NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL**

**FOR A HEARING CONCERNING
RES. 1230-2016, DECLARING SUPPORT FOR MUSLIM COMMUNITIES.**

**PRESENTED
OCTOBER 11, 2016**

B'ism Illah Al Rahman Al Raheem, we begin in the name of the Creator of all humanity, the Most Compassionate and the Most Merciful

Asalamu alaikum, Greeting of Peace unto all

My name is Afaf Nasher. I am an attorney and the executive director for the NY chapter of the Council on American Islamic Relations, aka CAIR-NY. CAIR is the largest Muslim civil rights organization in the country, with 30 offices spread out from sea to shining sea. We advocate for the civil rights of Muslims in America who have experienced the irreparable harm of discrimination and injustice in schools, in workplaces, in the streets, and even in our homes.

I am pleased, humbled and especially grateful to have this opportunity to address you, our elected Council Members, in firm support of Resolution 1230, which seeks to declare the City Council's support for its nearly 1 million Muslims living in NYC. I extend my sincerest gratitude to Councilman Miller, as the main sponsor of the resolution, and to each of those members who quickly joined him in support of this cause. I also ask that each of you work with an unwavering dedication to getting this resolution passed swiftly, sending a message to the world that our NYC leaders not only believe but also publicly affirm that Muslims NY'ers are deserving of the respect people of all other faiths receive.

Members of the Council, it is imperative that we voice our resolve against the misguided and often illegal actions targeting Muslims. Resolution 1230 voices our resolve against the ugliness of hatred and bigotry. It gives us an opportunity to voice our support of the beautiful array of Muslims--- black, white, tan and yellow, east and south Asian, African, Arab, Hispanic, European, young and old, first generation American and those who have been here since the inception of this nation. It affirms religious freedom as guaranteed under the 1st amendment of our country's constitution, as

well as the rights and civil liberties embedded in other amendments and subsequent federal and local legislation.

Some may inquire, why must this affirmation be publicly announced? Writer Zora Neale Hurston answered this for us when she said “If you are silent about your pain, they’ll kill you and say you enjoyed it.”

The NYC Muslim community will not be silent. We will not be silent through the pain of the opposition we face when there is a mosque being constructed or when an existing mosque is vandalized. CAIR reports that in 2015 alone, there were over 70 incidents targeting mosques across the nation, including damage, destruction, threats and acts of intimidation targeting our religious institutions. We will not be silent through the pain of employment discrimination in the hiring process or when legally protected accommodations to Muslims are unjustly denied. The Center for American Progress points to a 250% increase in religious discrimination cases filed with the EEOC by Muslims post 9/11, that is one quarter of all religious employment cases.

We will not stay silent when our children, an entire generation of youth, are called terrorists in their class by peers and treated as such by those who are supposed to protect them. The bullying has risen at such a rate that Muslims face twice the national average rates.

We will not stay silent when our young and old are beaten, assaulted, and even killed in the streets. Fresh in our memory are the recent cases of violence through-out the 5 boroughs, including religious clerics and women.

And as the Muslim community continues to grow and continues to amplify our voice through many forums, we turn to you, our respected NYC Council Members to raise your voice in unison with ours. For surely, when one group’s civil liberties are undermined then every group is being challenged. That is especially true here in NYC, where our strength, where our pride, where our example on how we thrive on diversity is broadcasted to the world both literally and figuratively. This is especially because the travesty of 9/11 happened here, in our hometown. Shamefully, despite Muslims also perishing in that tragedy, despite Muslims also being among the first responders that saved lives, despite Muslims also serving our country locally, nationally and internationally, some people would falsely question American Muslim loyalty. Some would have the audacity to impose on our community blatantly false suspicions for personal, political and monetary gains. As if our blood was not spilled, as if our tears were not shed, as if our hearts did not pound with sorrow and swell with compassion for all those lost of every faith and background.

Members of the NYC Council, Resolution 1230 is about speaking up. It was writer Ella Wheeler Wilcox who wrote “To sin by silence when they should protest makes cowards of men.” Muslims are no cowards. We will practice our faith unapologetically, as permitted by our laws. We will protest every injustice perpetrated against us in the social and political spheres, in courts and at the ballot box. Our voices will not be silenced no matter what happens. The only question is whether the NYC Council will join the millions of constituents of both Muslim New Yorkers and others of conscience, in stating to the world that NYC affirms religious pluralism, and that its residents and political leaders stand together for peace and understanding.

I thank you again for this opportunity to be heard and urge you all to pass Resolution 1230



Council on American-Islamic Relations

46-01 20th Avenue
Astoria, New York 11105
www.cair-ny.org | (646) 665-7599

**STATEMENT OF
ALBERT FOX CAHN, ESQ.
DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC LITIGATION
COUNCIL ON AMERICAN ISLAMIC RELATIONS, NEW YORK**

**BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL AFFAIRS, LIBRARIES AND INTERNATIONAL
INTERGROUP RELATIONS
NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL**

**FOR A HEARING CONCERNING
RES. 1230-2016, DECLARING SUPPORT FOR MUSLIM COMMUNITIES.**

**PRESENTED
OCTOBER 11, 2016**

Good morning, my name is Albert Fox Cahn, and I'm the Director of Strategic Litigation for the New York Chapter of the Council on American Islamic Relations. I speak today in support of Resolution 1230, which declares support for Muslim communities, affirms the religious pluralism of the United States, and urges all residents to stand together for peace and understanding. Let me be explicit, CAIR New York does not ask this council to condemn mere ideas or opinions. The measure under consideration today would denounce the increasing discrimination, harassment, and violence being directed towards Muslim communities. This resolution is not an abridgement of any New Yorker's freedom of speech, but rather a condemnation of actions that violate the laws of this nation and city.

Resolution 1230 stands in the proud tradition of this council, which has long spoken out at moments when individuals are targeted on the basis of their faith. In 1903, long before there was a New York City Council, this institution's predecessor (the New York CITY Board of Alderman) had the courage to speak out against anti-Semitic violence in tsarist Russia. In 1921, that same Board passed a resolution condemning the violence of the Ku Klux Klan against Catholic and Jewish Americans. This Council has remained vocal in recent years, passing no fewer than six resolutions to condemn religious harassment or violence in the past 20 years. New York City serves as a symbol of openness to the world, and we should be a leader in this trying time.

Already, numerous municipalities have spoken out to denounce anti-Muslim discrimination, harassment, and violence, and New York City should be among their ranks. From Lake Worth, Florida, to Seattle, Washington, from Albany, New York, to Portland, Oregon, Americans are proudly saying that when you attack the religious freedom of one, you attack the religious freedoms of all. Cities as large as Los Angeles, California, and as small as Muncie, Indiana, have already

spoken, and we must join our voices to theirs. We must make clear that the citizens of this great city care just as passionately about the rights and safety of our Muslim neighbors.

The need for action could not be clearer. National statistics reveal a spike in anti-Muslim discrimination, harassment, and violence that touches nearly every member of the community, whether it be Muslim students bullied in school, or Muslim senior citizens who are attacked on our streets. A recent survey from CAIR's California Chapter showed that twenty percent of Muslim students reported discrimination by school staff members. That means at least one in five Muslim students have been victimized by the very officials who are supposed to keep them safe. Twenty-nine percent of Muslim girls and women who wear the hijab (head covering) reported that they had their hijab pulled off or suffered other offensive touching. We know that these numbers tell only part of the story, that there are countless other Muslim students who have endured bullying, but who are too scared to come forward. Moreover, these students face anti-Muslim bullying on top of all the other forms of bullying that school children must endure.

Similarly, our office has seen a spike in reports of anti-Muslim harassment in the workplace. CAIR New York receives hundreds of calls a month from New York Muslims, a plurality of whom have faced workplace discrimination because of their faith. In addition to those who face outright discrimination, there are an array of institutional biases and micro-aggressions directed at Muslim New Yorkers in the workplace.

The most alarming shift has been the increase in violence and hate crimes directed at the Muslim community. According to the California State University at San Bernardino (CSUSB), anti-Muslim hate crimes increased by at least 78% in 2015, the most recent year on record. This analysis was based on a partial 2015 dataset, making it likely that the total is higher. According to Brian Levin, Director of CSUSB's Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism, 2015's rate of anti-Muslim crimes was the "highest since 2001 and the second highest on record." Additionally, according to a Georgetown University study published earlier this year, anti-Muslim violence is so high that a Muslim American is six to nine times more likely to suffer an attack today than prior to 9/11.

These numbers can be numbing, but behind each of these statistics is a heartbreaking story. Just a month ago, two young Muslim mothers were attacked in broad daylight on the streets of Brooklyn. They were targeted as they pushed strollers with their young babies. The woman who allegedly attacked these women, punched and kicked them, toppling a stroller to the ground, and trying to remove the victims' head-coverings. As she attacked, the assailant allegedly said "this is America — you shouldn't be different from us."

Ladies and gentleman, by passing Resolution 1230, you can make it clear that yes, in America you can be different. In this country, in this city, diversity is not something to be feared, it's the lifeblood of our democracy and the defining virtue of our city. Resolution 1230 says that New York City should be a place where you can live in peace, no matter your faith. As a Jewish New Yorker who works each and every day on behalf of the Muslim Community, I'm grateful to see the support

and solidarity from across this city's faith community. The speakers in this room know that if anyone is unsafe to practice their faith, none of us are safe to practice our faith. I thank you for your time and urge you to seek the swift adoption of this resolution.

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Iman Talib Abdur-Rashid

Address: 130 W. 113rd St

I represent: Islamic Leadership Council NY

Address: 130 W. 113rd St NY

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. 1230

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: AFAF NASIR

Address: 46-01 30th Avenue Astoria NY 11105

I represent: CAIR-NY

Address: same as above

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. 1230

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Aibexy Caber

Address: 46-1 2074 AVE

I represent: CAIR-NY

Address: same as above

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 11 Oct 2016

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: PRISCILLA READ

Address: 9 Wyldwood Dr. Tarrytown NY 10591

I represent: Westchester Coalition against Islamophobia

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. 1230

in favor in opposition

Date: 10.11.16

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Anu Joshi

Address: 632 Bergen St 11238

I represent: NY State Immigrant Action Fund

Address: 131 W. 33rd St St. 610 10001

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: CHEIKH AHMED MBARECK

Address: _____

I represent: _____

Address: 119 Fernace Woods Road, 44 10567

28th 161st Street Jamaica 10232

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Melanie Robbins

Address: 605 3rd Ave

I represent: Anti-Defamation League

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Ahsia Badi

Address: 120 e. 29 st 5A

I represent: Myself

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. 1230

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Christina Tasca

Address: 239 Thompson St, 10012

I represent: Muslim Community Network

Address: 239 Thompson

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 10/11/16

(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: SUNITA VISWANATH
Address: 361 WARREN ST BROOKLYN NY 11201

I represent: SADHANA COALITION OF PROGRESSIVE
HINDUS.
Address: S/A/A.

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: Mazeda A. Woldin
Address: 165-23 Hillside Ave

I represent: sefest 15 @ mil. am
Address: Q76-318-4617

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: Linde Jarjour
Address: 7111 5th avenue BKlyn NY

I represent: Arab American Association of NY
Address: same

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card



I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1230 Res. No. _____
 in favor in opposition

Date: 11 Oct 2016

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Abdus Salaam GENDUSA

Address: 166-21 89th Avenue, Jamaica, NY NY 11432

I represent: Southeast Queens Muslim Collectives Islamic Circle of North America

Address: Same as above

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card



I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____
 in favor in opposition

Date: 10/11/16

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Dr. Debbie Almaraz

Address: 237 Thompson St

I represent: Muslim Community Network

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Kazi Fouzia DRUM

Address: 72 18 Roosevelt Ave

I represent: DRUM Desis Rising Up and

Address: moving
72-18 Roosevelt Ave

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 10/11/2016

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Dr. Ivan Kuehn

Address: ~~Sebring~~ 148-45 Hillside Ave Suite

I represent: Khan's Tutorial

Address: J

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms