Speakers

Ramla Sahid,
Executive Director,
Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans

Basim Elkarra
Executive Director
The Council on American-Islamic Relations - California
Basim leads CAIR’s efforts in the Sacramento Valley area to serve as a voice to its diverse and vibrant Muslim community. Elkarra has been instrumental in building coalitions with Ethnic, Interfaith communities, and law enforcement. Basim’s hard work and dedication to defending civil rights and building bridges between interfaith communities and law enforcement has brought him an array of public recognition. He was honored by former Lt. Governor Cruz Bustamante for his “Outstanding Community Service.” The Sacramento Bee named Elkarra “Devout and Dynamic” in an in-depth profile of the young Executive Director. He has received awards from the Organization of Chinese Americans, the Harry Truman Democratic Club, California State Controller John Chiang, and received California State Legislature Resolution #52064 for his work in California. During the last ten years at CAIR, Elkarra worked with law enforcement, schools, and health care providers to ensure they receive diversity training about Islam and the Muslim community. Basim can be reached at belkarra@cair.com
Ramla Sahid, Executive Director, Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans

Witnessing as a young person the systemic and structural barriers faced by refugee women and their families, Ramla founded the Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans - PANA, to be an organization led by the communities it serves. Ramla designed PANA’s approach for developing the biennial Refugee Experiences Report using a ‘house meeting’ model in 2014. As a result, PANA is able to train and develop hundreds of impacted members to organize, build power, and change policies that affect them and their economic, educational, health, and housing needs each year. As founder and executive director, Ramla is committed to nurturing and lead efforts that recognize the importance of authentically centering refugee leaders in generating actionable and winnable strategies that lead to changes in policies and practices that address racial disparities in the San Diego region, throughout California, and across the country.
We fight to advance the full economic, social, & civic inclusion of refugees in the San Diego region, throughout California, and across the country.
Authentic Demand. Our communities own the decision making power to dictate the direction of our work and exercise their collective power.

Inclusion. We create and hold trusted space that honors the community’s investment and supports community ownership. We are anti-racist!

Compassionate Leadership. We embrace differences & limitations and build meaningful opportunities for everyone to exercise leadership.
Our Strategies

Direct Support – Engage community through human rights-based services, rapid response, issue identification, and rights education.

Deepen Organizing – Build power through organizing, political education, and authentic community leadership development.

Lead Policy and Coalition Efforts – Develop and lead regional policy coalitions, campaigns, and implementation to address systemic inequities related to housing, surveillance, immigration and resettlement, and ballot access.

Shift Narratives – Change harmful narratives and amplify political voice and credibility through intentional, integrated communications tactics.

Develop Community Owned Land and Governance Model – Finance, Steward, and Staff a Community Property Development and Governance Project
Contact Us

cairo@gcir.org
@gcirnetwork
@gcirtweets
@gcigrgrams

https://www.linkedin.com/company/grantmakers