



UNHOSTILE *Campus*

January 2026, Vol. 3

Newsletter



Creating Supportive Schools

On behalf of the Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR), the nation's largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization, we invite you to recognize January as Muslim Heritage Month, celebrate World Hijab Day on February 1st and prepare to support students observing Ramadan and Eid. We encourage school leaders to respect religious expression by accommodating students who fast and by ensuring they have access to constitutionally protected prayer during the school day. CAIR's recently released guidance on student prayer offers clear, lawful parameters to help schools uphold First Amendment rights while maintaining neutral, respectful educational spaces. CAIR's resources equip K-12 educators and policymakers with the support Muslim students need to learn and grow in schools that are inclusive, compliant, and aligned with best practices for a welcoming school environment promoting student well-being. From all of us at CAIR, Happy World Hijab Day and Ramadan Kareem!

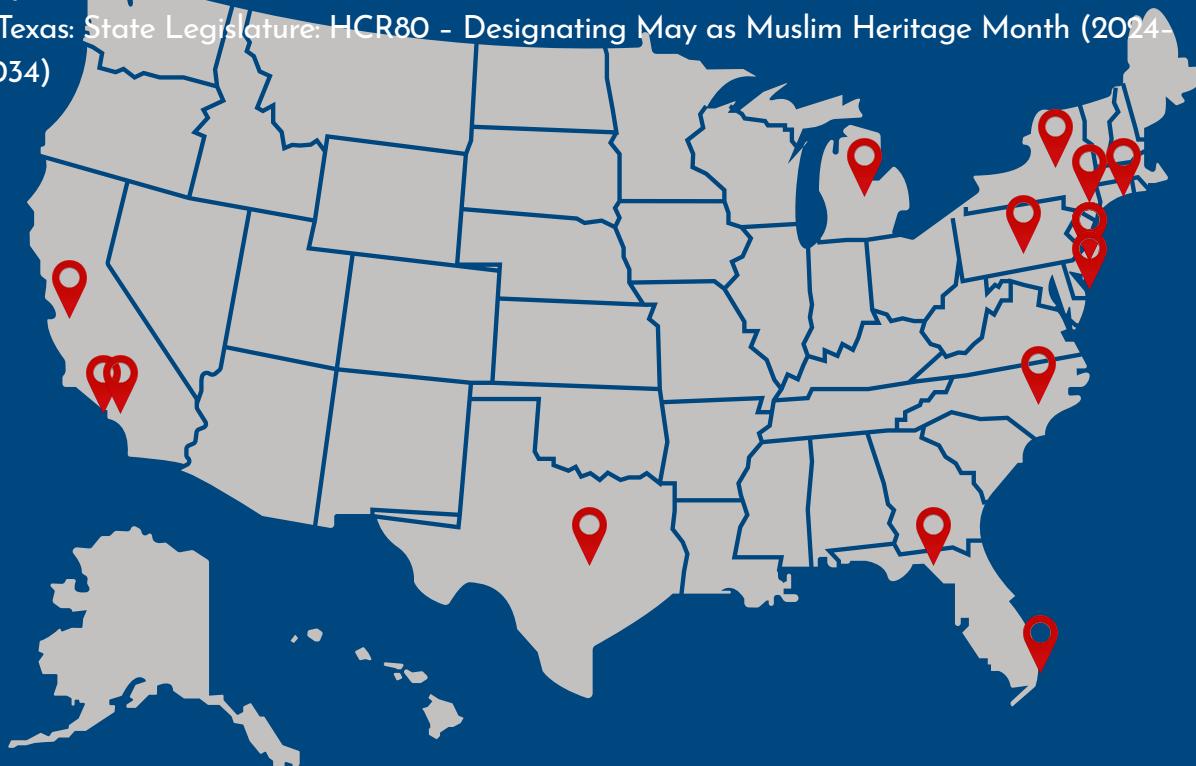
Sincerely,
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The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) is the nation's largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization. CAIR's vision is to be a leading advocate for justice and mutual understanding. CAIR's mission is to enhance understanding of Islam, protect civil rights, promote justice, and empower American Muslims.

When and Where is Muslim Heritage Month Celebrated?

While the specific month designated as Muslim Heritage Month varies by state, advocates have increasingly coalesced around January. Some known observance locations include:

- California: City Council: Los Angeles Muslim American Heritage Month Resolution
- California: LA County: Library Commemorates Muslim American Heritage Month
- California: State Legislature: SCR 45 - American Muslim Appreciation and Awareness Month
- Connecticut: Governor's Office: Proclamation declaring January 2025 as Muslim Heritage Month
- Florida: School Board: Broward County American Muslim Heritage Month Resolution
- Florida: State Legislature: SB 1384 (2025) - The Florida Senate
- Michigan: Governor's Office: January 2025 Proclamation of Muslim American Heritage Month
- New Jersey: Local/County: Muslim Heritage Month Resolutions and Proclamations
- New Jersey: Board of Education: NJ School Boards Association encourages observance
- New Jersey: State Legislature: SJR105 - Designates January as Muslim Heritage Month
- New Jersey: CAIR-NJ: Muslim Heritage Month Proclamation Toolkit
- New York: State Legislature: J1563 (Senate, 2024) Muslim History Month resolution; cites mission to "dismantle Islamophobia globally."
- New York: State Legislature: Senate Resolution No. 257 (2025) - Recognizing May as Muslim History Month
- North Carolina: Governor's Office: Proclamation declaring January as Muslim Heritage Month
- Pennsylvania: State Legislature: House Resolution 59 (2023) - Muslim Heritage and Appreciation Month (March)
- Texas: State Legislature: HCR80 - Designating May as Muslim Heritage Month (2024-2034)



What is World Hijab Day?

Founded in 2013 by Nazma Khan, the World Hijab Day Organization is a global, nonprofit initiative observed annually on February 1st to promote cultural understanding, religious freedom, and respect for Muslim women who wear the hijab. Now recognized or observed in more than 150 countries and by public institutions such as New York State and legislative bodies abroad, World Hijab Day offers K-12 schools age-appropriate, optional resources, classroom activities, and educator toolkits. The theme for World Hijab Day 2026 is #UnityInHijab, bringing together women from all backgrounds, cultures, and walks of life.

How Can Schools Support World Hijab Day?

Schools across America acknowledge World Hijab Day as an educational opportunity to promote respect, awareness, and unity. Learning about the hijab can help build dignity, mutual understanding, and belonging among classmates. Consistent with CAIR's Unhostile Campus Campaign, these efforts support positive school climate and help schools meet their responsibility to provide welcoming learning environments for all students.

How schools may choose to participate in World Hijab Day:

- **Facilitating student-led discussions or presentations focused on identity, respect, and inclusion**
- **Highlighting World Hijab Day in school announcements or newsletters**
- **Supporting voluntary, student-organized activities through Muslim Student Associations or cultural clubs**
- **Providing professional learning resources to staff on preventing bias and bullying related to religious dress**
- **Reinforcing school policies that protect students' rights to religious expression free from harassment**



When are Ramadan and Eid 2026?

Muslims worldwide celebrate Ramadan as a month in the Islamic lunar calendar commemorating the revelation of the Qur'an to the Prophet Muhammad. During this time, Muslims fast daily from dawn to sunset and often participate in additional nightly prayers. In 2026, Ramadan is expected to begin on the evening of February 17 and conclude on the evening of March 19, pending moon sighting. The Eid al-Fitr holiday will commence at the end of Ramadan. Find out more about Ramadan and Eid by reading CAIR's Ramadan Toolkit found here: <https://www.cair.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/RamadanToolkit2025.pdf>.

What Can Schools Offer During Ramadan and Eid?

Schools can use Ramadan as an opportunity to strengthen belonging, understanding, and community connection through fun, educational activities. Examples may include:

- Adding Ramadan and Eid to the school calendar and making announcements over the school intercom,
- Hosting a multicultural fair,
- Supporting a school- or community-led iftar gathering after school hours
- Organizing an Eid-themed cookie or treat distribution to mark the end of Ramadan.

When participation is voluntary and age-appropriate, these activities help normalize religious expression, build shared understanding, and reinforce a positive school climate grounded in respect and civic engagement.





At CAIR, we believe that schools should be places where every student, regardless of faith, race, or background, feels safe, valued, and empowered to succeed. We urge you to go beyond simply responding to bullying. Proactively confront bias, champion inclusion, and create opportunities for students to lead and thrive. Together, we can ensure that no child is made to feel invisible, unwelcome, or afraid because of who they are or what their viewpoints are. CAIR is here to stand with you to offer training, policy guidance, and community partnership, so that every student walks through your school doors knowing they belong.

Educator Tools & Resources

- [An Educator's Guide to Islamic Religious Practices](#)
- [CAIR's Guide to Bullying and Bias in Schools](#)
- [CAIR's 2026 Civic Engagement Toolkit](#)
- [CAIR's 2025-26 Back to School Resource Guide](#)

Highlighted Report

- [CAIR's Civil Rights Report Shows Islamophobia Complaints at All-Time High, Viewpoint Discrimination Key Factor](#)



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