



ANNUAL REPORT

2020





Wa'el Alzayat



Khurrum Wahid

As an institution, we understood what was at stake in 2020. Not only did we pivot our resources towards the general elections, but we also maintained our issue advocacy in all levels of government. From state, federal, and electoral advocacy, Emgage Action was involved in every step of the process. With the momentum of the elections, we were able to engage with candidates and current elected officials to ensure that Muslim American voices were heard.

Following our endorsement of then-candidate Joe Biden, our team, alongside a coalition of dedicated organizations, engaged with the campaign to create a platform for Muslim Americans. This included Biden committing to repeal the Muslim Ban on day one of his presidency at our Million Muslim Votes Summit. This signaled to us that we were working with a team committed to undoing the damaging policies of the previous four years.

Our organization worked tirelessly on advocating for the NO BAN Act, and that work paid off. The NO BAN Act, a comprehensive bill that would effectively end the Muslim Ban, passed on July 22, 2020, in the House of Representatives, by a 231-184 vote. Although the legislation failed to move in the Senate, Emgage Action will welcome the reintroduction of the bill in the 118th Congressional session. We will continue to work to ensure that no

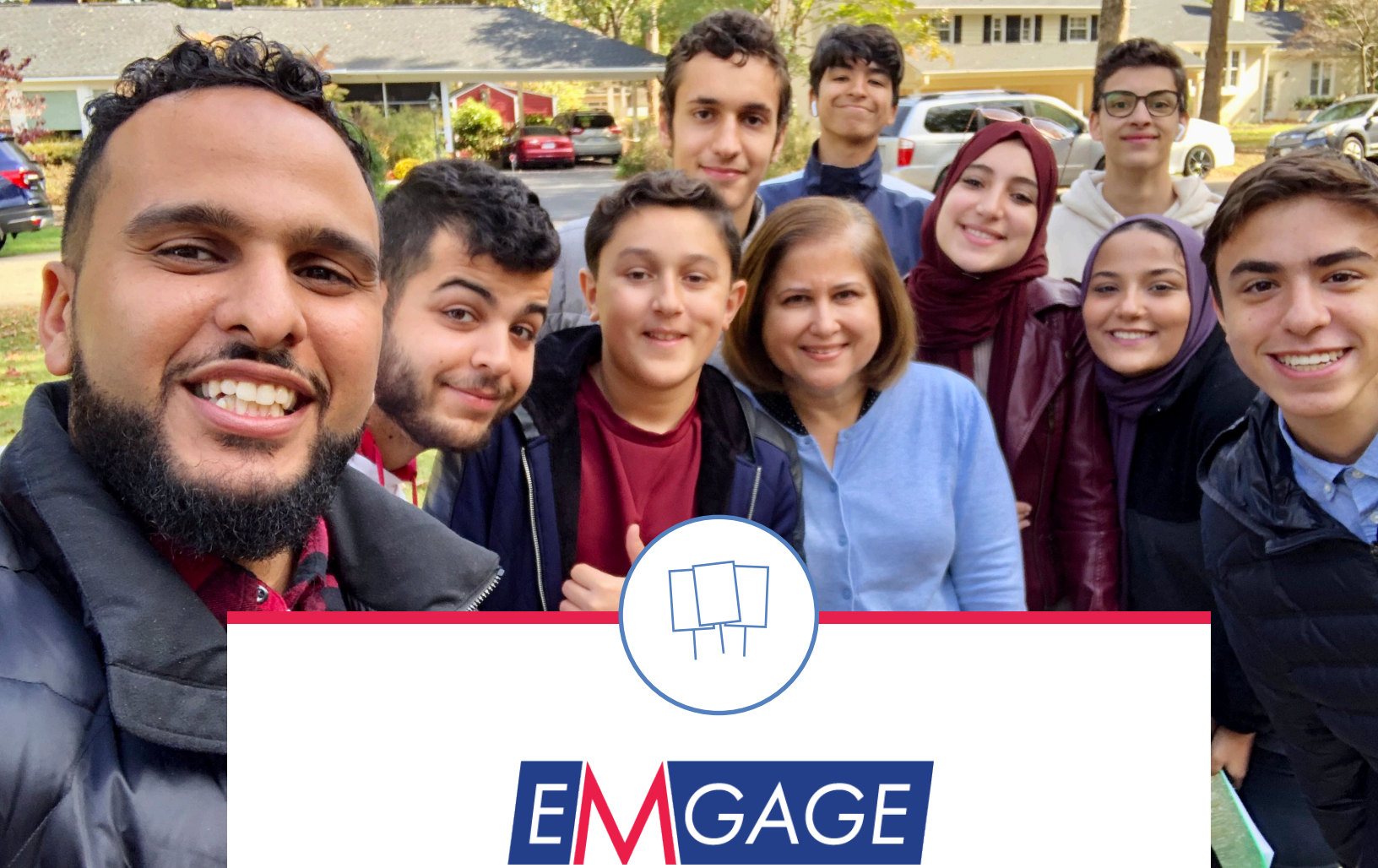
future administration can abuse their executive authorities and enact a discriminatory ban ever again.

With a focus on human rights and religious freedoms, we take pride in centering our work around impacted communities. On the domestic front, we pushed for the passage of the NO HATE Act, which would provide vital improvements to data-reporting mechanisms for hate crimes.

On the international front, we worked with Uyghur, Rohingya, Kashmiri, Palestinian, and Indian activist groups to address some of the most pressing human rights issues of our time. Through this advocacy, we were thrilled to see the Uyghur Human Rights Act signed into law, the introduction of two House resolutions recognizing Kashmir's right to autonomy, the continued bi-partisan support of the BURMA Act, and the introduction of the Rohingya Genocide Determination Act.

Emgage Action will continue to prioritize these and other issues that are critical to Muslim Americans in 2021 and beyond. If you care about this work, please consider supporting Emgage Action.

**Sincerely,
Wa'el Alzayat & Khurrum Wahid**



Bringing the change we need requires proactive and consistent civic participation. Engagement requires an understanding of the political process and how to engage with elected officials.

Emgage Action is a 501(c)4 nonprofit that implements an ecosystem of programs to mobilize Muslim Americans to advocate and engage on issues at the local, state, and federal levels that define who Muslim Americans are by what they stand for.

Emgage Action organizes Hill Days, Capitol Days, and regularly connecting community members to lawmakers to discuss common sense solutions to some of our nation's biggest challenges.



NO BAN ACT

ENDING THE MUSLIM BAN

From the first executive actions in 2017 to the Supreme Court ruling, Emgage Action worked tirelessly to repeal Trump's discriminatory Muslim Ban.

This is why we endorsed the NO BAN Act, a comprehensive bill that would effectively end the Muslim Ban and the scourge of religious discrimination in immigration. If passed, the NO BAN Act repeals every iteration of President Donald J. Trump's Muslim, African, refugee, and asylum bans. Most importantly, the bill amends the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) to prohibit discrimination based on religion, and ensures that no president will ever again be able to ban an entire community without accountability.

Emgage Action was part of a broad coalition to amplify, secure co-sponsors, and advocate for the passage of this act. Additionally, we worked directly with presidential campaigns to secure support for repealing the Muslim Ban if elected. During Emgage's Million Muslim Votes Summit, then-candidate Joe Biden promised to repeal the Muslim Ban on day one of his presidency.

With the commitment from Biden, Emgage Action continued congressional efforts to pass the NO BAN Act. On July 22, 2020, the House of Representatives voted and passed the NO BAN Act by a 231-184 vote, demonstrating their commitment to ending policies aimed at harming immigrants, minorities, and communities of color.

Our efforts are not done yet, as the Senate did not vote on the NO BAN Act. In 2021, with the start of the 117th Congressional Session, we are committed to supporting the reintroduction of this vital piece of legislation and passing it in both chambers.



NO HATE ACT 2020

Rising hate crimes and the increased threat of white supremacy have been a driving force for Emgage Action's continued support for H.R. 3545 and S. 2043, the NO HATE Act. One of the key benefits of the NO HATE Act is to improve the collection of hate crime data at the local and state levels.

The NO HATE Act was previously introduced in the 115th Congress but received no support from Republican lawmakers. After multiple advocacy organizations, including Emgage Action, lobbied Congress to address the rise in hate crimes, Democrats and Republicans worked together to re-introduce the NO HATE Act. If enacted, it would provide needed improvements to data-reporting mechanisms.

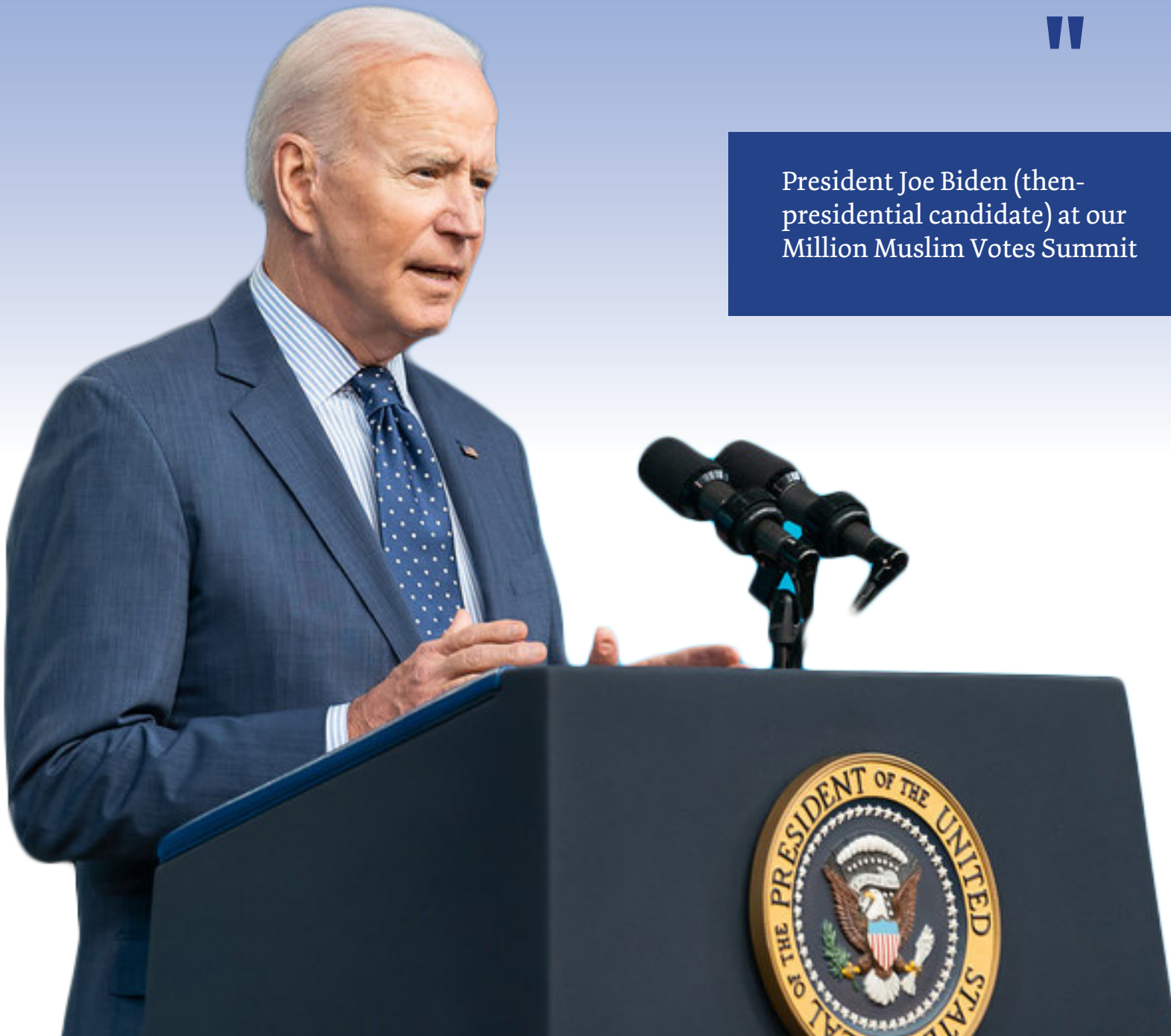
Emgage Action, alongside a broad group of partner organizations, met with members of Congress to address the lack of accurate reporting on hate crimes. Specifically, there was a focus on meeting with members who represented cities with populations over 150,000 that reported zero hate crimes. It is important to authorize the Department of Justice to issue grants to states and local governments to assist in implementing the National Incident-Based Reporting System, including training employees to identify hate crimes.


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**IF I HAVE THE HONOR OF BEING PRESIDENT, I WILL
END THE MUSLIM BAN ON DAY 1. DAY 1. I'LL WORK
WITH CONGRESS TO PASS HATE CRIME LEGISLATION
LIKE THE JABARA-HEYER NO HATE ACT AND END THE
END RACIAL AND RELIGIOUS PROFILING ACT.**

W

President Joe Biden (then-
presidential candidate) at our
Million Muslim Votes Summit





HUMAN RIGHTS AND RELIGIOUS FREEDOMS: UYGHUR

Beginning in May 2014, the Chinese government launched their “Strike Hard Campaign against Violent Terrorism,” specifically targeting the minority Uyghur and ethnic-Turkic Muslims. Since then, over one million Uyghur Muslims have been forcefully detained in concentration camps, thereby facing abuse, torture, and the flagrant denial of their religious freedoms.

Our team has worked in Washington, D.C. and in districts across the country to raise awareness about the human rights abuses against the Uyghur. We participated in various stakeholder meetings, organized letter campaigns, led advocacy days, attended hearings, and scheduled countless meetings with members of Congress on this issue. Our work would not have been possible without supporters like you. Our persistence has shown that together, we can make a difference.

On May 27, 2020, the Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act of 2020 (S. 3744) passed in both the Senate and the House, and made its way to the President's desk to be signed into law. This bill sanctions Chinese government officials for their human rights abuses against Uyghur, ethnic Kazakh, and other Muslim minorities.

With this legislation now signed into law, our efforts will continue into the 2021 congressional session to work on forced labor issues by supporting the reintroduction of the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act.



HUMAN RIGHTS AND RELIGIOUS FREEDOMS: ROHINGYA

The Rohingya minority continues to face systematic violence, crimes against humanity, and genocide committed by the Burmese military. Over 740,000 Muslim Rohingya have fled their native Rakhine state to Bangladesh. Our advocacy is centered on ensuring that the rights, safety, and dignity of the Rohingya population are protected.

In 2019, we welcomed the House passage of the BURMA Act, and focused our attention in 2020 to secure Senate support. The Act would impose targeted sanctions against military leaders including visa bans, address the right of return, and promote freedom of movement. Unfortunately, the Senate did not bring this bill to a vote. Emgage Action alongside a dedicated coalition of partners will continue our work on this issue in the upcoming Congressional session.

Although not voted on, Emgage Action welcomed and endorsed the bicameral introduction of the Rohingya Genocide Prevention Act of 2020 by Representative Andy Levin and Senator Ed Markey. This would require the State Department to determine if violent actions taken by military and security forces in Burma constitute genocide against the Rohingya. If passed, the United States would join organizations like the United Nations and Refugees International to address the scale and severity of atrocities committed against the Rohingya.

As we approach the 117th Congressional session, Emgage Action will continue to work with members of the House and Senate to advocate for both the reintroduction and passage of these vital pieces of legislation.

A person is seen from the back, holding a large Palestinian flag. The flag has horizontal stripes of black, white, and green, with a red triangle at the top. The background is a dark, silhouetted cityscape at night.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND RELIGIOUS FREEDOMS: PALESTINE

Emgage Action supports the human rights and freedom of the Palestinian people. We especially support initiatives aimed at protecting and uplifting Palestinians who continue to endure unimaginable suffering and hardship.

In 2020 Emgage Action engaged with Congress in ensuring that U.S. funding is not used to further the occupation of Palestinian lands, and that U.S. military assistance remains in compliance with the Leahy Law by not being associated with gross human rights violations. Israel detains 500 to 700 Palestinian children each year, prosecuting them without due process or international standards. Emgage Action is supportive of Representative Betty McCollum's bill, H.R. 2407, Defending the Human Rights of Palestinian Children and Families Living Under Israeli Military Occupation Act.

This bill not only addresses the issue of human rights violations, but also ensures that U.S. taxpayer funds are not used to support the military detention of Palestinian children. As Americans, it is extremely important that our money does not facilitate the ill-treatment of children anywhere in the world.



STATE LEVEL ADVOCACY

As an institution with chapter states, we understand the value of in-district advocacy. We work hard to utilize grassroots organizing because we understand that real change happens at the local level. Our national office worked in tandem with state chapters to organize on-the-ground for maximum impact around key legislation.

In Florida, New York, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Virginia, our work on Capitol Hill was matched with in-district advocacy where we connected the Muslim community with lawmakers and public officials.. Our teams took our national agenda to their districts to repeal the Muslim Ban, combat hate crimes, protect human rights, and support religious freedoms in China, Burma (Myanmar), Palestine, and more.

Notably, our states took the most action on the NO BAN Act. Through coordinated efforts with our partner organizations, all democratic representatives in Florida, Michigan, Texas, Virginia, and eight members in Pennsylvania signed onto the NO BAN Act.

Our state teams along with active community members and leaders continued their work from 2019 to uplift the crisis in Kashmir. This included over 5,000 emails sent to Congress, over 60 meetings held on Capitol Hill and in district, and participation in two hearings on the issue. We continued our work to protect free speech and the right to boycott, address the need to resume aid to Palestine through the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), and shed light on the genocides happening to the Rohingya and Uyghur people which ultimately led to passing the Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act of 2020.

DISTRICT SPONSORS

NO BAN ACT

DISTRICT SPONSORS

FLORIDA



Rep. Kathy Castor [FL-14]
Rep. Charlie Crist [FL-13]
Rep. Val Demings [FL-10]
Rep. Ted Deutch [FL-22]
Rep. Lois Frankel [FL-21]
Rep. Alcee Hastings [FL-20]
Rep. Debbie Mucarsel-Powell [FL-26]
Rep. Donna Shalala [FL-27]
Rep. Darren Soto [FL-9]
Rep. Debbie Schultz [FL-23]
Rep. Fredrica Wilson [FL-24]
Rep. Al. Lawson [FL-5]
Rep. Stephanie Murphy [FL-7]

MICHIGAN



Rep. Debbie Dingell [MI-12]
Rep. Daniel Kildee [MI-5]
Rep. Brenda Lawrence [MI-14]
Rep. Andy Levin [MI-9]
Rep. Elissa Slotkin [MI-8]
Rep. Haley Stevens [MI-11]
Rep. Rashida Tlaib [MI-13]

VIRGINIA



Rep. Donald Beyer [VA-8]
Rep. Gerald Connolly [VA-11]
Rep. Abigail Spanberger [VA-7]
Rep. Jennifer Wexton [VA-10]
Rep. Elaine Luria [VA-2]
Rep. Donald McEachin [VA-4]
Rep. Robert Scott [VA-3]

TEXAS



Rep. Colin Allred [TX-32]
Rep. Joaquin Castro [TX-20]
Rep. Lloyd Doggett [TX-35]
Rep. Veronica Escobar [TX-16]
Rep. Lizzie Fletcher [TX-7]
Rep. Sylvia Garcia [TX-29]
Rep. Vicente Gonzalez [TX-15]
Rep. Al Green [TX-9]
Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee [TX-18]
Rep. Eddie Johnson [TX-30]
Rep. Filemon Vela [TX-34]
Rep. Henry Cuellar [TX-28]
Rep. Marc Veasey [TX-33]

PENNSYLVANIA



Rep. Matt Cartwright [PA-8]
Rep. Madeleine Dean [PA-4]
Rep. Michael Doyle [PA-18]
Rep. Dwight Evans [PA-3]
Rep. Chrissy Houlahan [PA-6]
Rep. Mary Scanlon [PA-5]
Rep. Susan Wild [PA-7]
Rep. Brendan Boyle [PA-2]

CHAPTER LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

MICHIGAN

In Michigan, our push for the NO BAN Act included in-district meetings with federal officials. Every member of the democratic delegation co-sponsored this crucial piece of legislation. Furthermore, our efforts to promote human rights and religious freedoms included meetings with key stakeholders and elected officials on areas concerning India, Kashmir, Palestine, China, and Burma (Myanmar).

Following the crisis in Kashmir, our team in Michigan engaged with both Representative Rashida Tlaib and Representative Pramila Jayapal on their respective resolutions to address the blockade. With our engagement, our team was able to engage with the majority of our congressional delegation in the House of Representatives. In these ten meetings, we included and uplifted the Kashmiri community.

In addition to our robust federal agenda, Emgage Action Michigan also supported local immigration efforts as led by our endorsee, State Representative Abdullah Hammoud. **We hosted a town hall and created a call to action to encourage residents to send letters to their representative to pass bills that promoted humane and responsible immigration policies.**



Michigan in-district meeting on Kashmir



CHAPTER LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

TEXAS



Our efforts in Texas focused heavily on voting rights reforms. Our team participated in two coalitions focused on advocating for local election reforms in several counties—including Harris, Dallas, Travis, and Bexar—and engaging with the State House Elections Committee - interim charge on election integrity.

In addition to addressing these important reforms, our Texas team developed a legislative agenda focused on proactive bills to promote the inclusion of Muslims in certain statutes, including requiring Eid Al-Adha and Eid Al-Fitr to be included in optional state holidays, recognize imams in the list of religious leaders who can perform marriage ceremonies, require the state comptroller and other major investment institutions to mandate that companies refrain from doing business with governments that engage in genocide or crimes against humanity, and repeal the Texas anti-BDS statute on the basis of protected First Amendment rights.

With the COVID-19 pandemic affecting our advocacy work and shifting our efforts to digital platforms, efforts were made to address key policy reforms in the cities of Austin, Houston, Dallas, Katy, and Sugarland. Engage Action Texas reached over 500 advocates who sent letters to their local officials calling for relocation of funding, de-escalation and cultural sensitivity trainings, and expanded transparency, including bodycam footage in officer-involved deaths. Reimagining policing will require reforms from the grassroots and the grassroots. It will take work with various agencies at all levels to start ensuring real change in order to address the unjust murders of minorities, specifically Black men and women, in an authentic way.

CHAPTER LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

FLORIDA

Emgage Action Florida supported national legislative priorities including the NO BAN Act by hosting in-district congressional meetings.. As part of a collective effort, Florida was able to get thirteen members from the Democratic delegation to co-sponsor the NO BAN Act. Furthermore, our efforts to promote human rights and religious freedoms included meetings with key stakeholders and elected officials where we raised the situation in India, Kashmir, Palestine, China, and Burma (Myanmar).

Following the crisis in Kashmir, our Florida team engaged their in-district offices to promote Representative Pramila Jayapal's House Resolution 745, from the 116th Congressional session. With over twenty meetings with offices, our team worked with partner organizations to raise awareness on the human rights violations that Muslims and Christians continue to face in India and Kashmir.

Additionally, Emgage Action Florida raised the NO HATE Act with lawmakers to promote better data collection and reporting on hate crimes. By coordinating with our Washington D.C. office, we were able to raise the profiles of these important bills by engaging with our community and empowering constituents to reach out to their elected officials in the district.



CHAPTER LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

VIRGINIA

The focus in Virginia for the 2020 legislative session included immigration, voting rights, responding to COVID-19, and human rights. One of the most notable successes was Emgage Action Virginia and a coalition of partner organizations working to put an end to the 287(g) agreement in Prince William County. This agreement, which deputizes state and local law enforcement to enforce federal immigration laws, allowed Immigrations and Custom Enforcement (ICE) to detain people at the county jail. In addition to ending this practice, we advocated for driving privilege cards for undocumented immigrants. Virginia became one of fifteen states to issue these cards.

In tandem with the work happening at the national level, our team worked closely with Attorney General Mark Herring's office to improve the definition and the reporting of hate crimes. This effort at local levels is incredibly important. As we increase our ability to collect better data on hate crimes, we can more effectively understand the scale of the problem. On the criminal justice reform front, our team helped pass legislation increasing the felony threshold for theft from \$250 in 2018, to \$500 in 2019, to \$1,000 in 2020, and increased the age for juveniles to be tried as adults from 14 to 16 years of age.

As the COVID-19 pandemic impacted every person in the nation, our teams continued their work to ensure we could successfully fulfill our mission. This included working with members of the state legislature to pass the expansion of voter rights, particularly with absentee ballots and early voting, and also work with our Virginia federal delegation on access to businesses for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) to alleviate the impacts of the pandemic.

Lastly, Virginian legislatures came together to develop and pass legislation recognizing human rights violations against Uyghurs.

IN THE PRESS

The Washington Post

BIDEN TO SPEAK TO THE NATION'S LARGEST MUSLIM AMERICAN PAC

"Muslim American communities are organizing like never before to maximize our voter turnout, and to ensure that our voices are represented," Wa'el Alzayat, the chief executive of Emgage Action, said in a statement. "The Million Muslim Votes Summit is the culmination of this work, and it is with great honor that Vice President Joe Biden is partnering with Emgage Action to engage with Muslim American communities and help galvanize us towards the polls this upcoming November."



BIDEN URGES MUSLIM AMERICANS TO HELP HIM DEFEAT TRUMP



PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEES RARELY SPEAK TO MUSLIM AUDIENCES. BIDEN DID MONDAY

"Emgage made it very clear that as part of our endorsement ... we needed a direct engagement with Biden at a visible Muslim-led event. That was one of the clear criteria that we put out there," said Wa'el Alzayat, the CEO of Emgage Action.



MUSLIM AND ARAB VOTERS MAY HAVE SECURED BIDEN'S MICHIGAN WIN

TIME

LAWMAKERS AND ADVOCATES DEMAND REMOVAL OF USAID OFFICIAL AS BIDEN CALLS TRUMP APPOINTEES 'ISLAMOPHOBIC'

“How could one properly serve as USAID’s Religious Freedom Advisor while espousing a horrifyingly Islamophobic track record?” Alzayat said in a statement emailed to TIME. “We are calling for Lloyd’s resignation—because Islam cannot be the exception when assessing one’s ability to advise on religious freedoms for a government agency.”

Los Angeles Times

TRUMP’S TRAVEL BAN MOTIVATED MUSLIMS TO PARTICIPATE IN POLITICS. NOW, THEY’RE EYEING LOCAL OFFICE

“Michigan is home to many different kinds of Muslims,” said Nada Al-Hanooti, executive director of Emgage Action Michigan, an arm of Emgage. “The Nation of Islam was started in Detroit — it’s foundational to African American Islam. And we have a huge Pakistani, Desi Indian community and the Arab American community.”

AP Associated Press

MUSLIM AMERICANS AIM FOR HIGH TURNOUT, NEW INFLUENCE IN 2020



NEW USAID ADVISER SPARKS FUROR OVER PAST ANTI-ISLAM COMMENTS

DAILY BEAST

MUSLIMS HATE TRUMP. NOW THEY HAVE A REASON TO LIKE BIDEN.

as Engage Action, an organization that focuses on increasing Muslim voting participation, found that Muslim voters came out to vote in the 2018 midterm in key states like Michigan, Virginia, and Florida at on average 20 percentage points more than in the 2014 midterm.



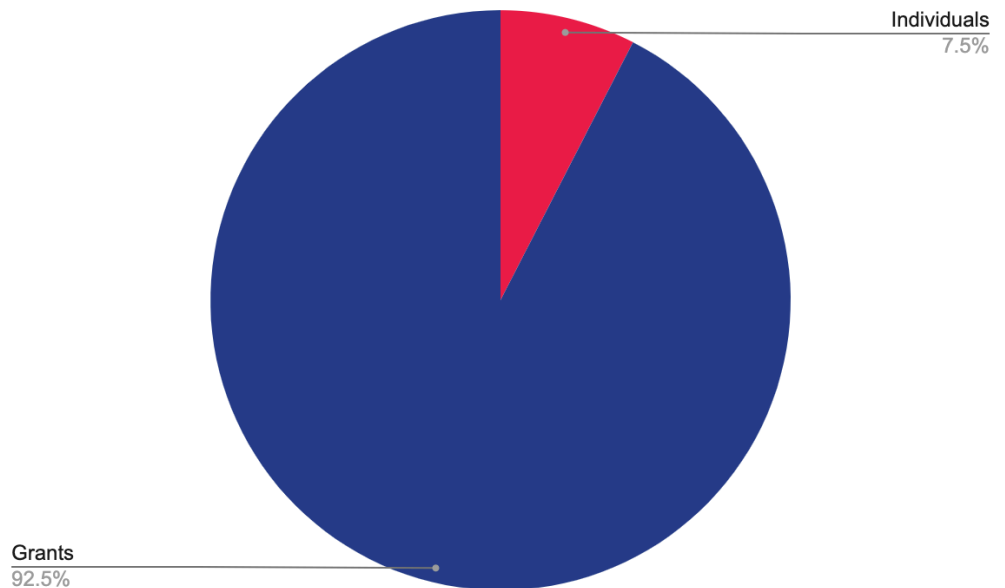
MUSLIMS JOIN TO DEMAND POLICE REFORMS, BACK BLACK-LED GROUPS

“Muslim American organizations are committed to advocating at all levels to put an end to excessive use of force which has led to the murders of countless Black Americans,” said Iman Awad, legislative director of Engage Action, one of the statement’s signatories. “Our message is that we will continue to fight but most importantly uplift the work being done by our Black leaders.”

FINANCIAL REPORT

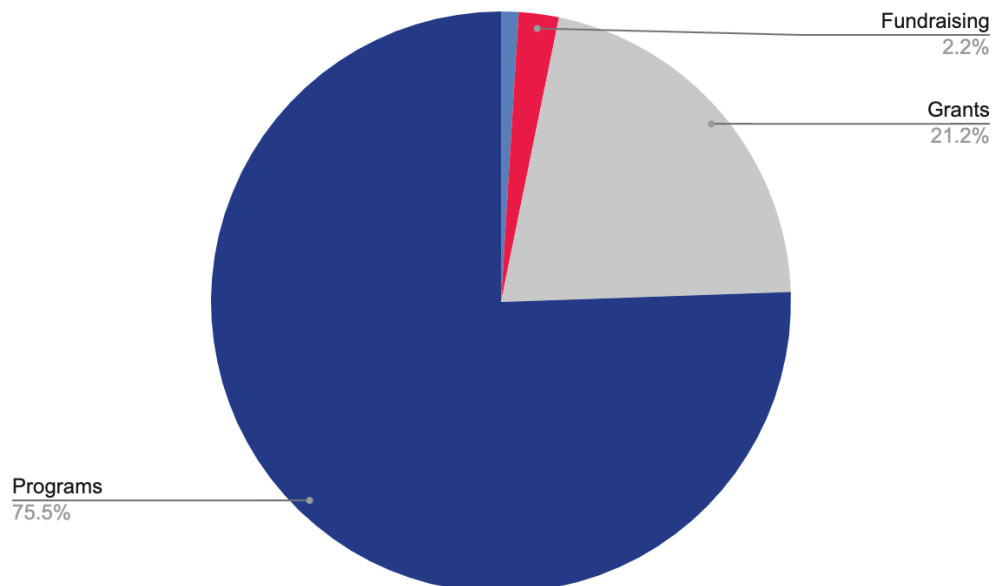
INCOME

ADMIN	\$0.00
INDIVIDUAL	\$105,618.56
GRANTS	\$1,293,493.00
PROGRAMS:	\$0.00
TOTAL INCOME:	\$1,399,111.56



EXPENSES

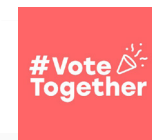
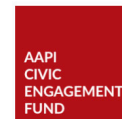
ADMIN:	\$9,069.59
FUNDRAISING:	\$20,803.00
GRANTS:	\$197,840.20
PROGRAMS:	\$703,536.08
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$931,248.87



PARTNERS

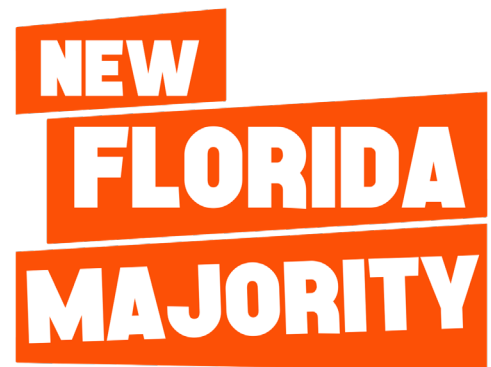
In 2019, we greatly expanded our outreach to other organizations to understand issues that are important to other communities and to leverage our collective resources in pursuit of common objectives.

Whether fighting for DREAMERS or against rising hate crimes and xenophobia, we are proud to call these organizations our partners.



SPECIAL THANKS

Emgage is incredibly grateful for the support of our funders. Thank you for allowing us to do the crucial work of promoting civic engagement and political literacy in Muslim American communities. Your contributions are absolutely instrumental to the ongoing existence of our organization, and we commend you for your part in building our political impact in American society.



THE NEW AMERICAN
MAJORITY FUND

**McNULTY
FOUNDATION**

TIDES

A Force for Social Good





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