

A YEAR OF STANDING UP FOR INDIAN MUSLIMS

IN INDIA AND THE US

Indian American Muslim Council

ACHIEVEMENTS REPORT · SEPTEMBER 2025 – SEPTEMBER 2026

GOVERNMENT ADVOCACY • CAMPAIGNS • RESEARCH • MEDIA • COALITIONS • UNITED NATIONS

Who We Are

The Indian American Muslim Council is the largest U.S.-based advocacy organization of Indian American Muslims. Registered in Washington, D.C. in 2002 as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, IAMC has chapters across the United States.

We work for peace, pluralism, and social justice. We defend the civil and fundamental rights of all people, and the pluralist, democratic values written into the constitutions of both the United States and India. At home, we build understanding across faiths and communities so that American institutions are never turned into instruments of an imported ideology of hate.

This booklet covers one year of that work, from September 2025 to September 2026.

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THE YEAR AT A GLANCE

Another year of collective action

4	**Congressional briefings** From India's judicial crisis to its crackdown on students, plus meetings with individual offices.
6	**Research reports** Including the 2026 Annual Report, launched at the International Religious Freedom Summit.
2	**"Hinduphobia" measures stopped** Georgia's SB 375 stalled. Minnesota's SF 4115 failed.
401	**Hindutva Profiles live** A public database of Hindutva leaders, organizations and hate figures in five countries.
~40	**Meetings at the UN Human Rights Council** With five country missions, OHCHR and seven human rights bodies in Geneva.
8	**U.S. cities marked India's 80th Independence Day** From Boston and Buffalo to Houston and the Bay Area.
17	**Organizations in the Maryland coalition** The pressure that ended a county library system's partnership with the VHPA.
40+	**Press statements** From India's crackdown on "I Love Muhammad" banners to Bhagwat's U.S. visit.
38+	**HRRF Grant-funded investigations** In DW, The Wire, The Quint and Maktoob Media.
32.2M	**Views and impressions** 24.1M on Facebook, 5.2M on Instagram and 2.9M on X.

THE YEAR IN ONE LINE

Six reports · Four congressional briefings · Two "Hinduphobia" measures stopped · 3 U.S. institutions dropped Hindu nationalist groups and figures

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hindutva in America faced real pushback

This was the year Indian Muslims, and the many communities standing with us, refused to stay quiet.



Mohammed Jawad

President,
Indian American Muslim Council

Dear friends and supporters,

In India, the attacks on religious minorities grew bolder, with homes and mosques demolished, voters erased and students jailed for speaking up. For decades, the groups that champion that agenda have operated freely in American public life. This year, they were challenged in city halls, state capitols, universities and the halls of Congress.

Everything in these pages happened because people chose to act. Volunteers gave their weekends. Partners of every faith stood beside us. Journalists, scholars and survivors trusted us with their stories. Our supporters kept us going when the news gave every reason to despair.

The road ahead is hard, but I have seen what this community can do when it organizes, and I have never been more hopeful. The pluralist India we believe in is worth the fight, and we are winning more of it every year.

> *Thank you for standing with us. There is much more to do, and we will do it together.*

From advocacy to policy

IAMC advocacy produced concrete results.

IAMC is now a regular voice in the rooms where U.S. policy on religious freedom in India takes shape.

A seat at the Religious Freedom Summit

As a convening partner of the International Religious Freedom Summit in February 2026, IAMC pressed the case for designating India a Country of Particular Concern, presented its first Religious Freedom Awards to Ambassador Sam Brownback and Dr. Katrina Lantos Swett, and launched its 2026 Annual Report.







Sanctions on the RSS, a first

A historic USCIRF recommendation, and a call to revoke the RSS chief's U.S. visa.

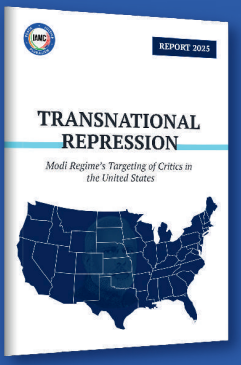
IAMC welcomed USCIRF's historic recommendation that the State Department impose targeted sanctions on the RSS. In August, as RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat toured the United States, USCIRF went further and called for his visa to be revoked. IAMC's report on violence against Christians during Christmas 2025 supplied the evidence behind the parallel call to sanction the Bajrang Dal and the VHP.

TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION

Transnational repression bill reaches the Senate

Senators Adam Schiff and John Curtis have introduced the Stop Transnational Repression Act. The bill would:

- create the first federal criminal definition of transnational repression
- add sentencing enhancements of up to ten years for qualifying offenses
- impose additional fines of more than $100,000
- place oversight with the Justice Department's National Security Division and the FBI



The bill builds on H.R. 9707, the Transnational Repression Reporting Act of 2024, which Schiff sponsored as a member of the House with eleven co-sponsors. IAMC's briefings, documentation, and community engagement helped build the case for both.

California: answering a veto

California's own transnational repression bill, SB 509, passed both chambers before Governor Gavin Newsom vetoed it. IAMC answered in CalMatters and in a letter to the San Francisco Chronicle, arguing that the veto left people of Indian descent in California less safe from foreign intimidation.

POLICY AND GOVERNMENT ADVOCACY

The “Hinduphobia” playbook met the facts

Two state legislatures were asked to write a Hindu nationalist talking point into law. Neither did.

GEORGIA

SB 375

STALLED

SB 375 stalled

The bill would have written “Hinduphobia” into Georgia’s penal code. An eight-month campaign with IAMC’s Atlanta chapter took the facts to state senators, city councils and churches. The bill stalled, and so did CoHNA’s fallback vehicle, HB 1124.

The groundwork was laid in October 2025, when IAMC’s Ajit Sahi spoke at an Emory Interfaith Center roundtable and in Atlanta churches.

MINNESOTA

SF 4115

FAILED

SF 4115 failed

A State Capitol briefing and press conference put the facts directly before legislators. Senate Majority Leader Erin Murphy and Republican Sen. Jim Abeler both reconsidered, and Attorney General Keith Ellison engaged on the issue. The resolution, pushed by the Coalition of Hindus of North America, failed.

MINNESOTA

Resistance to Hate and Extremism

In Fridley, IAMC convened “Community Resistance to Hate and Extremism” with Rep. Ilhan Omar, Attorney General Keith Ellison, Senate Majority Leader Erin Murphy and a bipartisan group of state legislators.






ON CAPITOL HILL

Four briefings for Congress

Plus meetings with individual congressional offices throughout the year.

Dec 23, 2025	**Muslim women's bodily autonomy in India** With World Hijab Day, ALIFA-NAPM, the Religious Nationalisms Project and Hindus for Human Rights
Jan 9, 2026	**India's judicial crisis** Prashant Bhushan, Human Rights Watch and Freedom House, moderated by former Rep. Andy Levin
Feb 4–6, 2026	**International Religious Freedom Summit, with IAMC as convening partner** First IAMC Religious Freedom Awards, to Amb. Sam Brownback and Dr. Katrina Lantos Swett; 2026 Annual Report launched
Aug 5, 2026	**Eyewitness accounts of India's crackdown on students** N. Sai Balaji, former JNU Students' Union president; activist Shabnam Hashmi; Dr. Monami Basu, Delhi University

POLICY AND GOVERNMENT ADVOCACY

Free Umar Khalid



Eight members of Congress wrote to Ambassador Vinay Kwatra demanding bail and a fair trial for Umar Khalid. His father, S.Q.R. Ilyas travelled to the United States and met Mayor Zohran Mamdani, Rep. Jim McGovern, Rep. Jamie Raskin and others in Washington, generating a week of headlines.

A student activist jailed without trial since 2020. His case reached Congress, the Indian Ambassador and the Mayor of New York.

CONFRONTING HATE

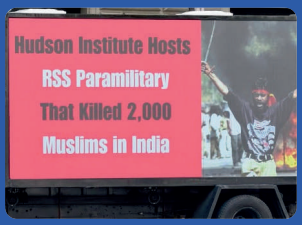
Pushing Hindu Nationalism Off American Platforms

Hosting Hindu supremacist organizations now carries a cost in American institutions.

A Hindu supremacist group loses its library partner

A coalition of 17 organizations flooded Montgomery County officials with emails and calls, and journalists pressed the county for answers. Montgomery County Public Libraries ended its partnership with the VHPA and the event was cancelled. IAMC also spoke before the Library Board against Islamophobic Hindi-language books in the collection.





Hudson Institute: officials walk away

A coalition statement, protests and a digital billboard truck outside the venue. A Congressman and a Deputy Assistant Secretary of State pulled out of the RSS-linked conference, leaving the organizers on the defensive. Officials in Washington now check who shares the stage, and withdraw when the coalition raises the alarm.

Columbia Law School Drops Modi's Top Lawyer

In October, Columbia Law School cancelled a lecture on judicial independence by India's Solicitor General Tushar Mehta. As the Modi government's chief advocate, Mehta has shielded ruling-party leaders accused of inciting anti-Muslim violence, kept dissidents like Umar Khalid jailed without trial, and defended Kashmir's mass detentions.

UT Dallas: a campus event challenged

IAMC led students, faculty, and national civil rights groups in challenging a University of Texas at Dallas event that glorified K.B. Hedgewar, the founder of the RSS.

AT THE UNITED NATIONS

Nearly forty meetings in Geneva

At the 60th session of the UN Human Rights Council, IAMC put India's record before governments and institutions.



~40 Meetings in Geneva

5 Country missions

7 Human rights bodies and NGOs

Country missions and OHCHR

MISSION	WHO WE MET
European Union	Thiseas Poullos, First Secretary, Human Rights
Italy	Amb. Vincenzo Grassi; Gianluigi Mastandrea Bonaviri
Ireland	Amb. Noel White
Belgium	Gaëlle Powis de Tenbossche, Deputy Permanent Representative
Switzerland	Antoine Perriard
OHCHR	Michael J. Camilleri, Special Procedures Branch

Human rights organizations

Amnesty International, on Human Rights Council engagement covering India and Asia · FIDH (Fedora Bernard, Asia desk) · Asia Forum · UPR-Info · Human Rights Now (UK) · Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission (Alyson Kilpatrick)

UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS

IAMC briefed UN Special Rapporteurs Mary Lawlor (human rights defenders) and Nicolas Levrat (minority issues) on India's transnational repression, and has invited a Special Rapporteur to brief in Washington, D.C.



BHAGWAT VISIT

“Hindutva Not Welcome in USA”

On August 29, the head of the RSS came to Madison Square Garden. He was met with the largest public rejection the RSS has faced on American soil.

Nearly 2,000 Americans wrote to the State Department urging that Mohan Bhagwat be denied a visa. IAMC held a City Hall press conference, with over 60 civil rights groups calling on Madison Square Garden to cancel. USCIRF called for Bhagwat’s visa to be revoked. IAMC released a briefing on the RSS, covering its origins, threat and global reach.

On the day, hundreds of Muslim, Sikh, Christian, Dalit, Hindu and Jewish protesters from across the country filled the entrance. A New York Times investigation found that two prominent New York faith leaders were misled into taking part in the event; IAMC publicly condemned the deception.



2,000	60+	7,000+	Hundreds
Americans wrote to the State Department	Civil rights groups demanded cancellation	New followers on X during the campaign	Outside the Garden on August 29

Leaders who spoke out

Mayor Zohran Mamdani · Sen. Raphael Warnock · Rep. Rashida Tlaib · Rep. Jim McGovern · Council Member Shahana Hanif · Council Member Lincoln Restler · Council Member Julie Won

Resisting SIR – Defending the right to vote

In October, IAMC chapters in five states rallied with Hindu, Dalit and South Asian partners against India's mass disenfranchisement of voters, as Delhi police detained thousands of peaceful protesters in defiance of the Supreme Court.





130M+

Names removed from India's voter lists during the Special Intensive Revision

In May, three UN Special Rapporteurs, including Nicolas Levrat on minority issues, wrote to the Indian government warning that the deletions fell disproportionately on Muslims and could violate India's international human rights obligations.

After The Indian Express revealed that two Election Commissioners had objected to SIR decisions at least 14 times, IAMC called for Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar to resign, an independent inquiry, and a freeze on all deletions.

Standing with India's students

In July, when tens of thousands of students in New Delhi were met with baton charges, tear gas and mass detentions, IAMC chapters in Washington, D.C., Boston, Dallas, the Bay Area and Chicago held solidarity protests on July 24–26, joining a wave of demonstrations that had already reached New York, San Jose, London and Dublin.



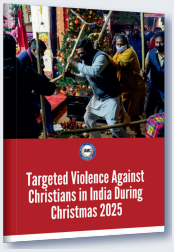
Research that informs policy

These six reports give policymakers, journalists, and advocates a clear, evidence-based understanding of India's human rights and religious freedom landscape, from documented abuses to the laws, policies, and narratives that sustain them.



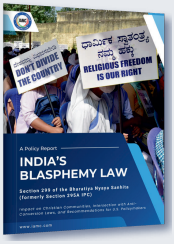
2026 Annual Report: Human Rights and Religious Freedom in India

A full year's record of paramilitary violence, hate speech, lynchings, punitive demolitions and transnational repression, built to inform foreign policy.



Targeted Violence Against Christians in India During Christmas 2025

Documents the organized harassment of worshippers over the Christmas period.



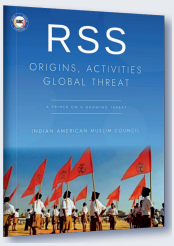
India's Blasphemy Law

Shows how Section 299 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita criminalizes ordinary religious expression and falls hardest on Christians and Muslims.



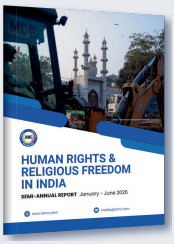
House Resolution 69 and the Label of "Hinduphobia"

Traces how the term shields Hindu nationalist groups from legitimate criticism.



The RSS: Origins, Activities, Global Threat

The briefing paper on RSS for officials, reporters, and institutions during the Bhagwat campaign.



Semi-Annual Report, January to June 2026

Six months of mob violence, punitive demolitions, mass voter deletions and shrinking civic space.

Each one was put in front of policymakers, from Congress to the UN

iamc.com/reports/

READ HERE

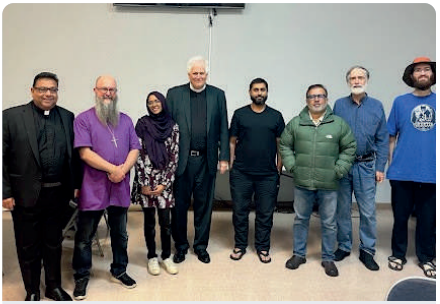
Bringing the experts together

In addition to the four congressional briefings, we brought together experts to engage community members on important issues.



The Waqf crisis

IAMC hosted an international conference in Washington, D.C. on the Waqf crisis in India, with the Center on South Asian Studies, Aliah University and the American Islamic College.



Academic platforms

IAMC carried Indian Muslim concerns onto panels at the American Academy of Religion's annual conference and at Rutgers Law School's Center for Security, Race and Rights.



Distinguished guests

IAMC hosted Tushar Gandhi, great-grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, and Justice S. Muralidhar, former Chief Justice of the Orissa High Court.



Stories the State Tries to Erase

Co-hosted an interactive talk by journalist Neha Dixit on how paperwork, policing, and media narratives decide who belongs in India, drawing on her award-winning book The Many Lives of Syeda X.

HINDUTVA PROFILES

Exposing the RSS and its U.S. affiliates

Launched in July 2026, hindutvaprofiles.org now tracks the American network by name, alongside India's.



401 — **Profiles live**
As of September 2026

3 — **Categories**
Assessed by influence and danger posed

5 — **Countries**
India, U.S., Canada, Australia, U.K.

401 entries. Every one is sourced. Every one is public.

New American entries

- American Hindus Against Defamation (AHAD)
- American Hindus for Engagement and Dialogue (AHEAD), organizer of the Bhagwat event at Madison Square Garden
- Param Shakti Peeth of America, the U.S. fundraising arm associated with Sadhvi Rithambara, which raised $12.6 million between 2004 and 2022
- Coalition of Hindus of North America (CoHNA)
- Vishwa Hindu Parishad of America (VHPA)
- Ekal Vidyalaya Foundation

hindutvaprofiles.org

Beyond the Taj

A podcast on the history, culture and identity of Indian Muslims, in India and across the diaspora.

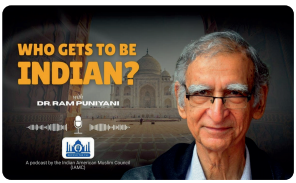














WATCH HERE

Scan to open the podcast on YouTube

The Indian Muslim Story

Built on archival research, our profile series revives lesser-known Indian Muslims who shaped the freedom struggle, from General Shah Nawaz Khan of the Indian National Army to Abdul Qaiyum Ansari and Yusuf Meher Ali, who coined “Simon Go Back” and “Quit India.”

READ HERE

iamc.com/the-indian-muslim-story/

OP-EDS AND ESSAYS

Owning the argument in print

CALMATTERS

"California missed a chance to make people of Indian descent safer from foreign aggressors." IAMC's response to Governor Newsom's veto of SB 509, the transnational repression bill passed by both chambers.

San Francisco Chronicle

Letter to the editor on the SB 509 veto. The public case for a transnational repression law, an argument that reached the U.S. Senate in July 2026.

scroll

"Silence as citizenship: the burden of being a 'good Muslim' in India." On the demand for political silence as the price of belonging.

India Abroad

"VHPA's unholy connection with India's Hindu nationalists." IAMC Executive Director Rasheed Ahmed on the Montgomery County fight.

The Dallas Morning News

Coalition letter by Pastor Paula Keeth. Christian persecution and Hindutva, from the Dallas coalition summit.

yaqeen

IAMC's research on Hindutva informed a collaboration with the Yaqeen Institute.

Supporting reporters who cover India's minorities

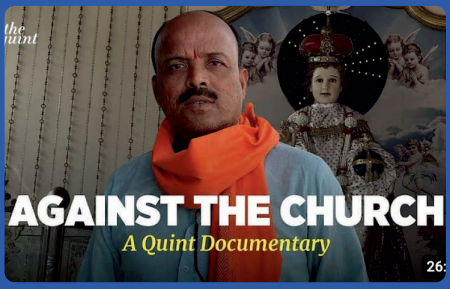
Independent reporting on human rights and religious freedom in India is harder to fund and more dangerous to publish every year.

HRRF Journalism Grant

Reporters submit a proposal and budget. IAMC reviews the submissions, selects the strongest projects and funds them.

38+
Published works since launch





JOURNALISM GRANTS AND AWARDS

HRRF Journalism Awards

Now in their fifth year, the awards honor journalists whose written and video stories document human rights and religious freedom. The first four editions drew 500 applications and more than 20 winners.

5th
Year of the awards

500
Applications in the first four editions

20+
Winners honored

Six categories

- Best Text Reporting in English
- Best Text Reporting in Hindi
- Best Text Reporting in Urdu
- Best Video Story on Human Rights and Religious Freedom
- Best Story on Human Solidarity
- HRRF Young Journalist of the Year

GRASSROOTS, YOUTH AND COALITIONS

India's 80th Independence Day, in eight American cities

IAMC chapters in eight cities marked India's 80th Independence Day with flag hoistings, cultural performances and calls to defend India's constitution. Rep. Aisha Wahab, then a California state senator, joined the celebration in Newark, California, which also received a certificate of recognition from Rep. Ro Khanna. Fort Bend County Commissioner Dexter McCoy and Bristol County Sheriff Paul Heroux attended in person, Sens. Raphael Warnock and Cory Booker sent letters to the Atlanta and New Jersey events, and Fort Bend County issued a proclamation for Houston's inaugural celebration.

8	350+	6
Cities	Attendees in the Bay Area	Elected officials



GRASSROOTS, YOUTH AND COALITIONS

Youth and internships

A youth leadership session in the Bay Area featured the creator Farzy, and a second workshop is being planned in New Jersey. Four interns worked with IAMC this year. One of them went on to an internship in a U.S. Senator's office with IAMC's recommendation.



GRASSROOTS, YOUTH AND COALITIONS

Conventions & Coalitions

Conventions



ICNA West

Santa Clara, California

A booth throughout the convention, a main-stage panel on "Lessons from the Struggle of Indian Muslims," and a breakout session on democratic backsliding in India, both with journalist Zeba Warsi and IAMC's Safa Ahmed.



ISNA

Detroit, Michigan

A booth throughout the convention and talks by Safa Ahmed and Ajit Sahi. ISNA's leadership recognized IAMC's work.



ICNA-MAS

Baltimore, Maryland

A booth with banners and video displays and new community sign-ups, plus an ICNA New Jersey leadership luncheon and the Edison Eid Festival.

GRASSROOTS, YOUTH AND COALITIONS

Coalitions

The Religious Nationalisms Project

From October to December 2025, IAMC toured congregations in Atlanta and the Bay Area with the project, running Hindutva awareness workshops for Christian communities.

SAVERA
UNITED AGAINST SUPREMACY

IAMC works within Savera, a multiracial, interfaith, anti-caste coalition.

Interfaith

Gatherings from Emory University's Interfaith Center to St. Mark's in New Jersey brought Christian, Jewish and community leaders into the conversation.

EVERY WEEK, ALL YEAR

The work that never stops

Campaigns end. The documentation continues.

WEEKLY

India Human Rights Monitor

A weekly record of persecution, resistance and the fight for justice in India and across the diaspora.

WEEKLY

Weekly Video Bulletin

A weekly video roundup of human rights abuses in India

MONTHLY

Monthly Newsletter

Every chapter's work, every month, in one place.

40+

Press Statements

More than 40 statements on crucial issues

ON THE GROUND IN INDIA

Working with partner organizations, IAMC supports a Hate Speech Cell that documents anti-Muslim hate speech by political and religious leaders, pursues strategic litigation against high-profile offenders, and monitors elections. IAMC also works with research partners to compile data on demolitions.

REACH

Our message, widely heard

32.2M Views and impressions

@IAMCouncil

24.1M
Facebook views
4.3M viewers · 561.4K interactions

5.2M
Instagram views
284.7K reach · 55K interactions

2.9M
X impressions
20.3K reposts · 67K likes

4.2M
Facebook views in the peak month
June 19 to July 16, 2026

Stand With Us

IAMC receives no government funding and has no endowment.

Every briefing, report, database entry, podcast episode, reporting grant, trip to Geneva and protest outside Madison Square Garden was funded by individual donors and carried out by chapter volunteers.

Give

Make a gift at iamc.com/donate. IAMC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit (Tax ID 05-0532361), and donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Give your time

Volunteer with a chapter, apply for an internship, or invite an IAMC speaker to your congregation, campus or community group at iamc.com/volunteer.

Stay connected

Subscribe to the India Human Rights Monitor and the monthly newsletter at iamc.com/signup.

Indian American Muslim Council

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