

## UPDATES IN CIVIL RIGHTS

FALL 2016

In 2016 KARAMAH has aggressively embarked on a new strategic initiative to expand our involvement in Civil Rights and Policy. At a time when American Muslims are addressing issues of bullying, hate crimes, GBV, and CVE, KARAMAH is responding with a renewed focus to ensure we are vocally serving the cause of civil rights for the American Muslim Community with particular emphasis on the impact on American Muslim women.

To that end our new Director of Civil Rights and Policy, is engaging with community members to understand their needs and obstacles. As KARAMAH expands its focus on civil rights and policy, we invite you to join us both in support of one of our core strategies: utilizing our **advocacy** for policy changes that impact the civil rights of American Muslims with special focus on women.

Ensuring equal civil rights and gender equity is a journey, not a destination, but it will be a much more fruitful journey if we travel together.

[Visit Our Website](#)

### **KARAMAH joins Civil Rights Groups and Continues Advocacy against the FBI's Shared Responsibility Committees (SRCs)**

For the past year, KARAMAH and other groups have been addressing the problematic nature of the FBI's involvement in CVE programming. First with the "Don't be a Puppet" website and then with the "Shared Responsibility Committees" ("SRCs"). We join others in welcoming the recent decision to suspend the SRCs. KARAMAH remains concerned, however, about various governmental interventions and the potential continued involvement of law enforcement in the CVE space.



Read our letter to the Department of Justice and the CVE Task Force [here](#).

**KARAMAH stands with Bilqis Abdul-**

## Qaadir

As part of our ongoing effort to lead in promoting gender equity, KARAMAH wrote a letter to FIBA on behalf of a remarkable athlete and Muslim woman, Bilqis Abdul-Qadir. In this letter we implored FIBA to lift their ban on the headscarf. Current FIBA regulations forbid women who wear the headscarf from playing in international competition at the professional level. KARAMAH felt this discriminated against Abdul-Qadir on the basis of both gender and religion. Bilqis Abdul-Qadir is a standout collegiate athlete who has worked extraordinarily hard to compete at the professional level. Below is the letter KARAMAH sent to FIBA, advocating for Bilqis' right to play basketball professionally while wearing a headscarf.



Read our letter [here](#).

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## KARAMAH Joins CAMBA for

### "Anti-Muslim Bullying: Emerging Issues and Pro Bono Opportunities"

Join us as we address the issue of anti-Muslim bullying from a legal lens. The event is sponsored by the Capital Area Muslim Bar Association and will take place on October 27 at 6:30 p.m. at O'Melveny and Myers.



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## Upcoming Event this December!

This December KARAMAH will host an event at the Library of Congress on Prophet Muhammad as a champion of justice and civil rights titled: *The Original Justice League: Prophet Muhammad and the Pledge to Serve Humanity*. We are excited to present several national thought leaders on racial justice, gender equity, and religious freedom, to share their insights and visions on working towards the justice based society we all deserve—one that epitomizes the Qur'anic teaching of dignity for all humanity. Stay tuned for more details on specific date and time for this event.



KARAMAH: Muslim Women Lawyers for Human Rights is a nonprofit organization committed to promoting human rights globally, especially gender equity, religious freedom and civil rights in the United States. It pursues its mission through education, legal outreach and advocacy.

Have any questions or concerns? Email [karamah@karamah.org](mailto:karamah@karamah.org)

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