

OFFICERS

ELIZABETH GREEN
 President
 ROBIN WEIMAN
 1st Vice President
 AMALIA HONICK
 BENJAMIN ROSENBERG
 RABBI STEVEN SCHWARTZ
 RABBI JONATHAN SEIDEMANN
 MELANIE SHAPIRO
 RABBI ANDREW BUSCH
 Past President
 HOWARD LIBIT
 Executive Director

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Adat Chaim Congregation
 American Jewish Committee
 Americans for Peace Now
 Baltimore Chapter
 American Israel Public Affairs Committee
 American Red Magen David for Israel
 American Zionist Movement
 Amit Women
 Association of Reform Zionists of America
 Baltimore Board of Rabbis
 Baltimore Hebrew Congregation
 Baltimore Jewish Green and Just Alliance
 Baltimore Men's ORT
 Baltimore Zionist District
 Beth Am Congregation
 Beth El Congregation
 Beth Israel Congregation
 Beth Shalom Congregation of
 Howard County
 Beth Tfiloh Congregation
 B'nai B'rith, Chesapeake Bay Region
 B'nai Israel Congregation
 B'nai Jacob Shaarei Zion Congregation
 Bolton Street Synagogue
 Chevra Ahavas Chesed, Inc.
 Chevrei Tzedek Congregation
 Chizuk Amuno Congregation
 Congregation Beit Tikvah
 Congregation Tiferes Yisroel
 Federation of Jewish Women's
 Organizations of Maryland
 Hadassah
 Har Sinai - Oheb Shalom Congregation
 J Street
 Jewish Federation of Howard County
 Jewish Labor Committee
 Jewish War Veterans
 Jewish War Veterans, Ladies Auxiliary
 Jewish Women International
 Jews For Judaism
 Moses Montefiore Anshe Emunah
 Hebrew Congregation
 National Council of Jewish Women
 Ner Tamid Congregation
 Rabbinical Council of America
 Religious Zionists of America
 Shaarei Tfiloh Congregation
 Shomrei Emunah Congregation
 Suburban Orthodox Congregation
 Temple Beth Shalom
 Temple Isaiah
 Zionist Organization of America
 Baltimore District

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

**House Bill 763 Commission on Hate Crime Response and Prevention –
 Membership – Alterations**

Judiciary Committee

February 20, 2024

SUPPORT

Background: House Bill 763 changes the makeup of the Attorney General’s Commission on Hate Crime Response and Prevention so that its representatives are reflective of the goals of the Commission. This bill would replace the hate organization The Council of American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) with two representatives from the Muslim community to be appointed by the Attorney General. This will allow for more Muslim representation, while ensuring that members are working toward, not against, the Commission’s goals.

Written Comments: The Baltimore Jewish Council (BJC) represents The Associated: Jewish Federation of Baltimore, all of its agencies, as well as the organized Jewish Community of Greater Baltimore. The BJC has been part of the Hate Crime Commission in all its previous forms since its creation in 2019 as a work group, to task force, to a legislatively created commission in 2023. The named organizations in the 2023 bill were almost all previous members of the work group. While we all had been able to work together in a respectful manner toward the goal of lowering the rate of hate crimes in our state and developing mechanisms to help victims, one organization has been acting in opposition to that goal and has strategically worked toward increasing hate against both the Jewish and LGBTQ+ communities.

CAIR has systematically been working against inclusion of the LGBTQ+ community both nationally and here in Maryland. In Montgomery County the leader of CAIR Maryland stood with members of Moms for Liberty, protesting against LGBTQ+ inclusion in public schools.¹ This organizational stance goes against the principles of the Commission and further silences its LGBTQ+ members.

While CAIR has had a troubled history with antisemitism and anti-Israel rhetoric, until the terrorist attacks on October 7th, the Jewish community in Maryland had been able to work with CAIR Maryland leadership on both

¹ <https://twitter.com/TimcastNews/status/1694819062331646148>,
<https://twitter.com/FordFischer/status/1666195811904937998>

OFFICERS

ELIZABETH GREEN
 President

ROBIN WEIMAN
 1st Vice President

AMALIA HONICK
 BENJAMIN ROSENBERG
 RABBI STEVEN SCHWARTZ
 RABBI JONATHAN SEIDEMANN
 MELANIE SHAPIRO
 RABBI ANDREW BUSCH
 Past President

HOWARD LIBIT
 Executive Director

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Adat Chaim Congregation
 American Jewish Committee
 Americans for Peace Now
 Baltimore Chapter
 American Israel Public Affairs Committee
 American Red Magen David for Israel
 American Zionist Movement
 Amit Women
 Association of Reform Zionists of America
 Baltimore Board of Rabbis
 Baltimore Hebrew Congregation
 Baltimore Jewish Green and Just Alliance
 Baltimore Men's ORT
 Baltimore Zionist District
 Beth Am Congregation
 Beth El Congregation
 Beth Israel Congregation
 Beth Shalom Congregation of
 Howard County
 Beth Tfiloh Congregation
 B'nai B'rith, Chesapeake Bay Region
 B'nai Israel Congregation
 B'nai Jacob Shaarei Zion Congregation
 Bolton Street Synagogue
 Chevra Ahavas Chesed, Inc.
 Chevrei Tzedek Congregation
 Chizuk Amuno Congregation
 Congregation Beit Tikvah
 Congregation Tiferes Yisroel
 Federation of Jewish Women's
 Organizations of Maryland
 Hadassah
 Har Sinai - Oheb Shalom Congregation
 J Street
 Jewish Federation of Howard County
 Jewish Labor Committee
 Jewish War Veterans
 Jewish War Veterans, Ladies Auxiliary
 Jewish Women International
 Jews For Judaism
 Moses Montefiore Anshe Emunah
 Hebrew Congregation
 National Council of Jewish Women
 Ner Tamid Congregation
 Rabbinical Council of America
 Religious Zionists of America
 Shaarei Tfiloh Congregation
 Shomrei Emunah Congregation
 Suburban Orthodox Congregation
 Temple Beth Shalom
 Temple Isaiah
 Zionist Organization of America
 Baltimore District

legislative initiatives in Maryland and the Commission. However, in the aftermath of the largest number of Jews murdered since the Holocaust, CAIR national and CAIR Maryland have been relentless and unapologetic in their antisemitism and flat-out dangerous lies about the war in Israel and Gaza. On the national level, CAIR's leader said he "was happy to see" the terrorist attacks which brutally murdered 1,200 innocent Israeli civilians.² He also used dangerous age-old antisemitic tropes to state that Jews control politicians.³ As a result, the White House and Biden administration removed CAIR from its newly created national strategy on combating antisemitism. If the White House is removing CAIR from its partners against hate, Maryland should as well.

In Maryland, the day after the horrific attacks, and days before Israel launched a counterattack, CAIR Maryland's leader was in front of the White House cheering on the atrocities, and a photo was proudly posted on CAIR National's X page.⁴ Since then the leader of CAIR Maryland, who sits on the Commission, has posted hundreds of times on their verified Facebook page with tens of thousands of followers, promoting unabashedly antisemitic rhetoric and dangerously false information about the actions of Israel. They have stated that babies were not actually killed on October 7th, that Israel is harvesting organs from Palestinians, and that Jews control politicians. These are all antisemitic ideologies -- Holocaust denial (denial of Jewish deaths), blood libel, and Jewish control of government.⁵

The question is simple, does the General Assembly want to continue to allow the Maryland Commission on Hate Crime Response and Prevention to include membership from an organization that publicly and proudly works to promote hate?

With this in mind, the Baltimore Jewish Council urges a favorable report of HB763.

The Baltimore Jewish Council, a coalition of central Maryland Jewish organizations and congregations, advocates at all levels of government, on a variety of social welfare, economic and religious concerns, to protect and promote the interests of The Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore, its agencies and the Greater Baltimore Jewish community.

² <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/12/08/us/politics/white-house-cair-nihad-awad.html>

³ <https://jewishinsider.com/2023/12/nihad-awad-council-american-islamic-relations-israel-gaza-terror-attacks/>

⁴ <https://twitter.com/CAIRNational/status/1711158966992941475>

⁵ See attached screenshots.

OFFICERS

- ELIZABETH GREEN
President
- ROBIN WEIMAN
1st Vice President
- AMALIA HONICK
- BENJAMIN ROSENBERG
- RABBI STEVEN SCHWARTZ
- RABBI JONATHAN SEIDEMANN
- MELANIE SHAPIRO
- RABBI ANDREW BUSCH
Past President
- HOWARD LIBIT
Executive Director

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

- Adat Chaim Congregation
- American Jewish Committee
- Americans for Peace Now
 - Baltimore Chapter
- American Israel Public Affairs Committee
- American Red Magen David for Israel
- American Zionist Movement
- Amit Women
- Association of Reform Zionists of America
- Baltimore Board of Rabbis
- Baltimore Hebrew Congregation
- Baltimore Jewish Green and Just Alliance
- Baltimore Men's ORT
- Baltimore Zionist District
- Beth Am Congregation
- Beth El Congregation
- Beth Israel Congregation
- Beth Shalom Congregation of
 - Howard County
- Beth Tfiloh Congregation
- B'nai B'rith, Chesapeake Bay Region
- B'nai Israel Congregation
- B'nai Jacob Shaarei Zion Congregation
- Bolton Street Synagogue
- Chevra Ahavas Chesed, Inc.
- Chevrei Tzedek Congregation
- Chizuk Amuno Congregation
- Congregation Beit Tikvah
- Congregation Tiferes Yisroel
- Federation of Jewish Women's
 - Organizations of Maryland
- Hadassah
- Har Sinai - Oheb Shalom Congregation
J Street
- Jewish Federation of Howard County
- Jewish Labor Committee
- Jewish War Veterans
- Jewish War Veterans, Ladies Auxiliary
- Jewish Women International
- Jews For Judaism
- Moses Montefiore Anshe Emenah
 - Hebrew Congregation
- National Council of Jewish Women
- Ner Tamid Congregation
- Rabbinical Council of America
- Religious Zionists of America
- Shaarei Tfiloh Congregation
- Shomrei Emenah Congregation
- Suburban Orthodox Congregation
- Temple Beth Shalom
- Temple Isaiah
- Zionist Organization of America
 - Baltimore District



OFFICERS

- ELIZABETH GREEN
President
- ROBIN WEIMAN
1st Vice President
- AMALIA HONICK
- BENJAMIN ROSENBERG
- RABBI STEVEN SCHWARTZ
- RABBI JONATHAN SEIDEMANN
- MELANIE SHAPIRO
- RABBI ANDREW BUSCH
Past President
- HOWARD LIBIT
Executive Director

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

- Adat Chaim Congregation
- American Jewish Committee
- Americans for Peace Now
 - Baltimore Chapter
- American Israel Public Affairs Committee
- American Red Magen David for Israel
- American Zionist Movement
- Amit Women
- Association of Reform Zionists of America
- Baltimore Board of Rabbis
- Baltimore Hebrew Congregation
- Baltimore Jewish Green and Just Alliance
- Baltimore Men's ORT
- Baltimore Zionist District
- Beth Am Congregation
- Beth El Congregation
- Beth Israel Congregation
- Beth Shalom Congregation of
 - Howard County
- Beth Tfiloh Congregation
- B'nai B'rith, Chesapeake Bay Region
- B'nai Israel Congregation
- B'nai Jacob Shaarei Zion Congregation
- Bolton Street Synagogue
- Chevra Ahavas Chesed, Inc.
- Chevrei Tzedek Congregation
- Chizuk Amuno Congregation
- Congregation Beit Tikvah
- Congregation Tiferes Yisroel
- Federation of Jewish Women's
 - Organizations of Maryland
- Hadassah
- Har Sinai - Oheb Shalom Congregation
- J Street
- Jewish Federation of Howard County
- Jewish Labor Committee
- Jewish War Veterans
- Jewish War Veterans, Ladies Auxiliary
- Jewish Women International
- Jews For Judaism
- Moses Montefiore Anshe Emenah
 - Hebrew Congregation
- National Council of Jewish Women
- Ner Tamid Congregation
- Rabbinical Council of America
- Religious Zionists of America
- Shaarei Tfiloh Congregation
- Shomrei Emenah Congregation
- Suburban Orthodox Congregation
- Temple Beth Shalom
- Temple Isaiah
- Zionist Organization of America
 - Baltimore District

 **Zainab Chaudry** 
 15h · 

Gaza media office: vital organs stolen from 80 bodies of Palestinians returned to Karam Abu Salem border crossing

—
 "After examining the bodies, it is clear that the features of those killed had changed greatly, in a clear indication that the Israeli occupation had stolen vital organs from them," the statement went on to say.

The media office said this is not the first time that Israel has "mutilated" Palestinian bodies, and has called for an independent international investigation committee into the kidnapping of Palestinian bodies and theft of their vital organs.

'Israel has previously exhumed graves in Jabalia and stole some of the bodies, in addition to the fact that it still has dozens of bodies from the Gaza Strip in its possession,' the office said."

 **Zainab Chaudry** 
 41m · 

it's no surprise that organizations like the ADL who prioritize the interests of the most right wing, fascist administration in the history of Israel, want to smear and silence voices raising awareness about Israel's war crimes and the genocide in Gaza by falsely labeling them as anti-Semitic

but it also shouldn't surprise anyone that lawmakers bought and paid for by Israel's lobbying arm in the United States at every level of the government are also trying to distort, twist and silence us

one could ask where is their humanity, but we already know the answer. you can try to silence one voice, ten voices, but you can't silence millions.

criticism of apartheid, genocide, illegal occupation, settler colonial violence, crimes against humanity isn't antisemitic. it's pro-humanity.

   8 1 comment 2 shares

 Like

 Share