

Highlights

2016 - 2017

2017 National Public Opinion Survey and Congressional Briefing:

In July, we released the findings of our 2017 National Public Opinion Survey examining the attitudes of Iranian Americans toward a variety of issues affecting the community. In September, we unveiled the survey at a Congressional Briefing, co-hosted by Congressmen Gerry Connolly and Francis Rooney. The survey revealed deep concerns over increased discrimination and domestic issues – a shift from previous polling.

Public Sector Fellowship Programs:

We continue supporting the next generation of Iranian Americans through our prestigious fellowship programs. In 2017, Leela Najafii was the recipient of the Akbar Ghahary Capitol Hill Internship Program (CHIP). We also announced the launch of the [Ansari Fellowship Program](#), a PAAIA initiative seeking to encourage and empower young Iranian-Americans to pursue careers in public service.



Commissioned a Report to Strengthen Compliance on the Iran Nuclear Deal:

Marking the one-year anniversary of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), PAAIA commissioned *Global Impact Strategies (giStrat)* to conduct a scientific report on compliance with the nuclear agreement between the P5+1 coalition and Iran. The report was released at the National Press Club, and a panel discussion and briefing for key Senate offices was held in October to discuss its findings. The report was updated in November to account for the incoming Trump administration.

PAAIA Launches Iranian American Profile-Raising Campaign:

PAAIA launched a digital campaign designed to proactively promote the image and build the profiles of Iranian Americans on a national scale. The campaign will project a truthful, positive image of our community as one of the most successful, well-assimilated diaspora communities in the U.S. Ultimately, this campaign will enhance our image and influence with critical policymakers on Capitol Hill.

2017 Capitol Hill Days

During the week of May 22nd, 2017, PAAIA and IA-100 proudly hosted our 2017 Leadership Dinners and Capitol Hill Days. The dinners and meetings were a huge success, providing an opportunity to meet with over seventeen Congressional leaders from both sides of the aisle to discuss important issues to the Iranian American community.



PAAIA's Emerging Leaders Host Inaugural Retreat in Washington, DC:

During the weekend of September 8th – 10th, young Iranian American leaders convened from across the country to participate in PAAIA's Emerging Leaders inaugural retreat. The Emerging Leaders program works with future leaders of the Iranian American community to help guide, collaborate, and facilitate discussions on ways the community can make a meaningful impact on the United States.



IRANIAN-AMERICAN
EMERGING LEADERS

Elecioneering Activites:

The Iranian American Political Action Committee IAPAC, the connected PAC of PAAIA, contributed over \$90,000 to a bipartisan group of candidates in 2016. It also helped raise an additional \$300,000 for our endorsed candidates by encouraging members to directly contribute to their campaigns. This year, we will continue to support a bipartisan group of candidates running for public office at the federal, state, and local level. Most recently, we have supported Kia Hamadanchy in his historic campaign for California's 45th Congressional District. If successful, he will become the first American of Iranian descent to be elected to U.S. Congress.



Nowruz Celebrations:

On March 20th, 2017, we hosted our annual Nowruz reception on Capitol Hill in conjunction with Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren. Fourteen members of Congress, including House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, attended the reception, as well as more than 200 Congressional staff and special guests. The event was co-hosted by twenty-three Members of Congress. We also issued a statement and action alert about PAAIA's Nowruz resolution, introduced in the House of Representatives by Congresswoman Lofgren (D-CA). The legislation commemorates the Nowruz holiday and acknowledges the "lasting contributions" of Persian civilization to the world and the "noteworthy" impact Iranian Americans have had to the social and economic fabric of America.

Oppsition to President Trump's Discriminatory Travel Ban:

Opposing the Travel Bans in Congress:

On January 27th, 2017, the Trump Administration issued an Executive Order banning nationals from seven predominantly Muslim nations from entering the country, including Iran. The Administration has since issued two other revised travel bans in March and September. PAAIA has been on the frontlines of opposing all of the travel bans in Congress, calling for support of legislation opposing this discriminatory measure.

Taking the Travel Ban to Federal Court:

On March 15th, 2017, PAAIA filed a joint action lawsuit in federal court to permanently stop the travel ban. Following live testimony provided by PAAIA and the IABA on Tuesday, April 18th, which marked the first time live testimony has been heard in any of the cases against the ban, the court heard oral arguments from attorneys representing both sides of the case. [On October 10th, 2017](#), PAAIA and two other prominent Iranian American organizations and 13 individual plaintiffs file another challenge to Travel Ban 3.0.

Standing up to Hate Crimes:

Responding to an increase in violent incidents targeting those of Iranian descent, we drafted, organized, and released a joint public statement on February 28th, calling on leaders to condemn the recent escalation in hate crimes. In addition, on April 11th, we organized a fundraiser to help support Iranian American victims of hate crimes, raising almost \$5,000 for victims.

