

Highlights 2016

[Won a Telly Award for Pro-Diplomacy Ad](#)

PAAIA was recently honored with a Telly Award for an advertisement produced with Savannah Communications, advocating for diplomatic efforts and the Iran Nuclear Agreement. The advertisement was released as part of a national communications campaign in July 2015 in support of President Obama's diplomatic initiatives.

[Commissioned Report to Strengthen Compliance on the Iran Nuclear Deal](#)

Marking the one-year anniversary of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), PAAIA has commissioned *Global Impact Strategies (giStrat)* to conduct a scientific report on the implementation of the nuclear agreement between the P5+1 coalition and Iran. The report aims to provide data-driven evidence and strategies to strengthen compliance on the JCPOA.

[Introduces New CHIP Fellow](#)

Aava Khajavi is the 2016 recipient of the *Akbar Ghahary Capitol Hill Internship Program (CHIP)*. The program, which had two recipients in 2015, helps young Iranian Americans obtain internships on Capitol Hill. Aava [writes](#) about her experience working at the office of Congressman Mike Honda (D-CA) this spring.

[Receptions with Members of Congress](#)

PAAIA held a number of receptions with members of Congress including Congressman Honda (D-17th/CA), Senator Gillibrand (D-NY), and Senator Flake (R-AZ), and Senator Murphy (D-CT). The receptions presented an opportunity for PAAIA members and friends to engage the lawmakers in intimate settings and provide them with an opportunity to become more acquainted with the Iranian American community.

[2016 National Public Opinion Survey](#)

We released the findings of our national public opinion survey, examining the attitudes of Iranian Americans with respect to US-Iran relations, the newly implemented nuclear agreement with Iran, and the broader experience of the Iranian American community.

[IA-100 Gathering at Park City](#)

IA-100 members gathered together to have a conversation with Senator Jeff Flake and an interactive leadership networking session led by James "JD" Derderian. Senator Flake discussed upcoming US elections and the Iranian American community while the networking session focused on strategies for expanding Iranian American influence. The gathering also included leisure activities, a cocktail reception, and multiple meals.

[Supporting the Namazi Family](#)

PAAIA along with four other [organizations](#) sent a letter to Secretary John Kerry about Siamak Namazi who was wrongfully imprisoned in Iran in October 2015. We helped facilitate the introduction of Bipartisan legislation in the U.S. Congress calling on the Iranian government to immediately release Siamak Namazi and his father, Baquer Namazi.



[Nowruz Reception on Capitol Hill](#)

On March 16, we hosted our annual Nowruz reception for members of Congress and their staff on Capitol Hill in conjunction with a bipartisan group of eighteen members of Congress. The reception is part of PAAIA's broader efforts to celebrate and foster greater understanding of Iranian culture, and to project an accurate and positive image of the Iranian American community.

[PAAIA Implements Social Media Campaign Against Trump's Racial Prejudice](#)

We argued that Presidential candidate Donald Trump's [call](#) for Judge Curiel to be recused due to his ethnicity is racist and goes against the precedent set by the recent [Tabaddor v. Holder](#) case.



[Campaign Support for Iranian Americans](#)

IAPAC, the affiliated PAC of PAAIA, played a key role in promoting the campaigns of various Iranian American candidates for public office, including State Senator Cyrus Habib for Lt. Governor of Washington State, Councilmember Anna Kaplan for US Congress, Judge Sabrina Kraus for New York Civil Court, and Fred Ameri for Newport Beach City Council. In addition, PAAIA is supporting Judge Ashley Tabaddor's application for Los Angeles County Superior Court.

[Congressional Briefing and Panel Discussion on Iran after the Nuclear Deal](#)

On April 20, we held a congressional briefing to present our 2016 National Survey findings. Following the presentation, a panel of experts provided an in-depth discussion about the implementation of the nuclear deal, internal dynamics within Iran's government, and the broader political developments within Iran.

[PAAIA Opposes the Visa Integrity and Security Act](#)

The act mandates that the State Department complete individualized Security Advisory Opinions (SAO) on visa applicants who are nationals of one of seven countries including Iran. PAAIA's statement to Congress, which discussed why the bill is unnecessary, counterproductive, and could improperly bar completely innocent foreigners from visiting the US due to their nationality, was quoted in the judiciary committee mark-up and submitted for the record.

[PAAIA's Opposition to the Visa Waiver Program Improvement Act](#)

[Supported Legislation that Will Revise the Visa Waiver Improvement Act](#)

Working with Senator Flake and Congressman Amash, PAAIA helped promote the "Equal Protection in Travel Act of 2016" which would remove the discriminatory dual nationality provision from the Visa Waiver Program reforms that were passed last year.

[Worked with Councilmember I. Daneek Miller to Introduce a Resolution Calling on Congress to Pass the "Equal Protection in Travel Act of 2016"](#)

The New York City Council Resolution urges Congress to pass this act because it would protect Iranian Americans and other Dual Nationals from the recent Visa Waiver Program reforms if it is passed.

[Joined 65 Organizations in Urging Congress to Fix the Discrimination in the VWP Reforms](#)

An impressive coalition of 65 different civil rights, faith, refugee, and humanitarian aid organizations, including PAAIA, joined together to send a letter to Congress, voicing their support for the bipartisan Equal Protection in Travel Act of 2016, proposed by Senator Flake (R-AZ). The legislation would strip the dual nationality provisions contained in the Visa Waiver Program reforms passed into law last year.

[Called for Executive Action to Protect Dual Nationals from VWP Discrimination](#)

50 different national and local civil rights, faith, refugee, and non-profit organizations sent a joint letter to the Department of Homeland Security, calling for executive action to waive the discriminatory prohibitions based on national origin under the Visa Program Improvement and Terrorist Travel Prevention Act.