

Institute *for* Social Policy *and* Understanding

2010

ANNUAL REPORT





Institute *for* Social Policy *and* Understanding

[www.ispu.org](http://www.ispu.org)



**RESEARCH  
MAKING  
AN IMPACT**



## Letter from the ISPU Leadership

**FOSTERING UNDERSTANDING IS** at the core of our mission at ISPU. With their understanding of communities, issues, and policy, our scholars strive to bring a diversity of viewpoints to the fore and to illuminate, inform, and advise policymakers, the media, and the public. The events of 2010 have demonstrated that this mission is more important now than ever before.

Over the course of 2010, our country engaged in critical debates on mosque development, the threat of homegrown radicals, our nation's relationship with the Muslim world, and other issues. ISPU scholars were in a position to provide unique and insightful analysis and recommendations, and the reception that our work received in policy circles this past year was overwhelming. We were consistently at the table with decision makers, alongside leading think tanks and research institutes with operational budgets that far exceed ours. This is a testament to the caliber of our scholarship and the commitment of our collaborators and partners.

This annual report reflects the tremendous growth ISPU experienced during the last year. Not only did the visibility of our research and the number of our scholars increase, but we also launched a new website ([www.ispu.org](http://www.ispu.org)) and partnered with the New America Foundation, the University of Chicago, and other leading institutions. Our record budget reflects our highest-ever grant receipts and private donations. With these funds, we established and staffed a new office in Washington, DC, expanded our research team, and invested in staff development. We have maintained our original office in Michigan, with our Director of Research based in San Francisco and hope to continue to build ISPU's national scope. Over the year, our dedicated scholars produced timely and relevant reports and briefs. Our administrative, finance, and



development staff members have consistently raised the bar for the organization and ensured that ISPU's funds are used transparently, efficiently, and according to non-profit best practices. And, our Board of Directors has continued to provide invaluable support and diligent oversight. In addition, the board and staff have continued their track record of 100% giving towards ISPU's development goals. They believe in the mission they are inviting you to support.

ISPU occupies an increasingly important niche in the policy development arena, and the quality of our work allows us a remarkable opportunity to improve the climate and policies for all Americans. Our growth will continue in 2011 as we focus further on communications and dissemination, expanding our research efforts, and building a strong presence in Washington through policy briefings and conferences. We are very grateful for the dedication of our staff, scholars, and board members, as well as for the continued support of our generous and committed donors and partners. Our success is yours.

With thanks,

Shireen Zaman  
*Executive Director*

Iltefat Hamzavi  
*Chairman of the Board*



**OUR MISSION IS TO PROVIDE  
EXPERT ANALYSIS, INSIGHT  
AND CONTEXT TO CRITICAL  
ISSUES FACING OUR NATION,  
WITH AN EMPHASIS ON THOSE  
ISSUES RELATED TO MUSLIM  
COMMUNITIES IN THE UNITED  
STATES AND ABROAD.**

# Understanding Our Mission

**FILLING AN INFORMATION GAP** – ISPU initiated groundbreaking research and policy analysis of American Muslims in 2010 and examined the most pressing issues facing the community, such as Park 51 and radicalization. We sought to fill the dearth of accurate information on the impact of US policy in Muslim-majority countries and provide a more nuanced picture to the general public and policy makers.

**ELEVATING THE DISCOURSE** – In 2010, we provided a platform for new voices to enter the policy debate and gave these emerging scholars institutional credibility to help raise their profile. We also ensured that established and diverse thought leaders were given new venues to discuss and disseminate their work, thus raising the bar for the national policy debate.

**REACHING DIVERSE AUDIENCES** – ISPU disseminated research and policy analysis to stakeholders in the media, government, academia, think tanks, the American Muslim community, and the general public. All of our material was widely distributed through our website, electronic newsletter, targeted mailing and email outreach, and public events and institutional contacts with policymakers. In addition, we held a number of high level meetings with senior decision makers positioned to use our work to effect real change in policy.





NO STAY  
EXCEPT  
7AM  
MAY

PARK

BANKYARD  
HOUSE

NEW YORK  
TAXI

FOR HOGAN



# Understanding American Muslims

THE AMERICAN POLICY and political debate in 2010 included more issues of concern to American Muslims than any other year since the aftermath of the tragic events of September 11, 2001. Issues such as Park 51 and investigations into domestic radicalization cases catapulted the community back into the national spotlight.

In the summer of 2010, the controversy over the so-called Ground Zero mosque, also known as Park 51, was splashed across national and international news publications. What was originally planned as a cultural and interfaith center in lower Manhattan exploded into intense debates about freedom of religion and the American public's view of Muslims. A number of ISPU fellows added their voices and expertise to the national conversation by publishing articles and op-eds in the Huffington Post ([www.huffingtonpost.com](http://www.huffingtonpost.com)) and on prominent legal blogs, as well as making appearances on CNN and National Public Radio.

In addition to providing insightful commentary and analysis, ISPU went a step further and produced original research on cases of opposition to mosque proposals, and offered best practice guidelines for municipalities and faith communities. ISPU's Center for the Study of American Muslims (CSAM) published two major reports examining federal law related to religious land use development: (1) *Not In Our Neighborhood*, which is aimed at municipal officials, attorneys, local board members, and municipal planners, addresses development and conflict management issues specific to mosques, and (2) *Building Mosques in America* which provides strategies for managing conflict and navigating municipal approval processes, as well as case studies for Muslim leaders and their supporters. Authored by ISPU fellow and Cornell University Ph.D. candidate Kathleen E. Foley, the reports were republished by the Pluralism Project (<http://pluralism.org>) at Harvard University and are being used at the local level to help guide communities and leaders through negotiations on mosque development across the country.



"Arguably, the controversy over Park 51 is having a greater impact on the development efforts of local Muslim communities than did the 9/11 attacks themselves... In Park 51's wake, mosques around the country are receiving national media attention and facing opposition fueled by the organizing power of a national grassroots movement."

- Kathleen E. Foley  
ISPU Fellow

U.S. ARMY

The  
Qur'an



# Understanding Radicalization

THE NATIONAL CONVERSATION about the implications of domestic radicalization escalated in early 2010 in the aftermath of the Ft. Hood shootings by Major Nidal Hasan. Policymakers raised questions about the role of emotional stability and mental health in radicalization and violence. ISPU's Center for Global Health (CGH) published an insightful report by leading experts in the field, *Addressing Mental Health Issues Among American Muslims in the Military*, which explored how the United States' military may identify and manage Muslim military personnel who are at risk of serious emotional distress and how to help prevent potential violent acts.

The debate continued with Pakistani-American Faisal Shahzad's attempted bombing in Times Square in May 2010. ISPU fellows provided analysis and offered models to increase the rate of success in preventing such attacks. For example, ISPU Fellow Azeem Ibrahim highlighted a tested approach in Scotland that employs moderate Islamic teachings for youth as a way to counter radicalization. He presented findings from his report at a June 2010 briefing on Capitol Hill 2010 and personally reviewed the findings with Assistant Secretary for Defense Doug Wilson.

Through an ISPU co-sponsored conference at University of Delaware and policy brief on domestic radicalization, ISPU fellow Muqtedar Khan argued that while this phenomenon does exist, its spread is not inevitable and can be addressed through partnerships between, and vigilance within, the American Muslim and law enforcement communities. His op-ed on the topic, which led to intense debate in both communities, was published in *The Washington Post*. Further, ISPU legal fellows Sahar Aziz and Arslan Ifitkhar offered insightful legal analysis on the fine balance between addressing radicalization and upholding civil liberties.



“The best way to prevent radicalization and the terrorism it allows is simply to educate our young people in mainstream Islamic teachings so that they will be able to recognize and, after placing such radical narratives, dubious theology, or ignorant preaching in their proper contexts, reject them.”

- Azeem Ibrahim  
*ISPU Fellow*



# Understanding American Policy Towards the Muslim World

TWO YEARS AFTER President Barack Obama's election and a year after his Cairo speech, in which he laid out a new plan for American engagement with the Muslim world, many people both in the United States and abroad felt disappointed by the government's lack of effective outreach. ISPU fellows Mehmet Celebi and Azeem Ibrahim analyzed the urgency of American engagement with Muslim-majority countries, given demographic trends and the rise in cyber security threats, in their report *How to Improve the United States' Image in the Muslim World*. They shared their analysis with Senate Foreign Relations Committee staffers representing Chairman John Kerry and Ranking Member Richard Lugar, as well as the Foreign Policy Fellow for Chairman of Subcommittee on Near Eastern and South and Central Asian Affairs, Senator Robert Casey. The ISPU team also met with representatives of the Undersecretary for Public Diplomacy and the Office of the Special Envoy to Muslim Communities at the State Department, as well as with officials from the Department of Defense Office of Communications, Planning, and Integration.

Perhaps one of the most critical countries of engagement for American policy in 2010 was Pakistan. While many analysts continued to lump Pakistan and Afghanistan together in terms of American strategy, ISPU fellows provided a more nuanced analysis. In a timely policy brief, Haider Mullick examined the threat of Al Qaeda in Pakistan especially in the aftermath of the devastating floods. Fawaz Gerges, Imtiaz Ali, and other ISPU fellows reviewed the complexities that continue to plague this relationship.

As the US evaluated its military engagement in Iraq and Afghanistan, ISPU supported the release of *Cutting the Fuse*, a ground breaking book by Robert A. Pape and James K. Feldman that offers new insight about the origins of suicide terrorism and strategies to stop it. By studying every suicide terrorist attack worldwide from 1980 to 2009, the authors provide powerful new evidence that the root cause of suicide terrorism around the world is foreign military occupation, having broad implications for US policy. ISPU Fellow Sahar Aziz spoke at the Capitol Hill conference to release the book and examined the balance between homeland security and civil liberties.



"[Al Qaeda's] major base of operations, counterintelligence, strategic communications, recruitment, finances, and most lethal allies, however, remain in nuclear-armed Pakistan. No other country is more vital for Al Qaeda's survival and growth ... no other country is more critical to American and international security and Afghanistan's stability."

- Haider Mullick  
ISPU Fellow



## ISPU Research Centers

THE CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF AMERICAN MUSLIMS (CSAM) is the first major independent center devoted exclusively to collecting, analyzing, and disseminating empirical data on the country's Muslim community. CSAM has brought together a team of scholars from across academic disciplines to examine this increasingly visible yet often misunderstood diverse community.

THE CENTER FOR GLOBAL HEALTH (CGH) provides in-depth analysis of global health policy and its impact on Muslims around the world. It brings together talented scholars from a wide range of academic disciplines to synthesize social science and public health research related to Muslim communities, with the goal of advising policymakers both in the United State as well as Muslim-majority countries. CGH is committed to researching topics that are relevant to policymakers, journalists, and the general public and to providing accessible information to diverse stakeholders.

## Understanding Our Audience

REACHING DIVERSE AUDIENCES is critical to impacting the policy debate. In 2010, ISPU launched the largest-ever expansion of its communications capabilities in order to focus on producing products that are easily customized and distilled for multiple audiences and on increasing the visibility of our fellows and their scholarship. We built a strong social media presence on Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube that provides regular updates on our research. We disseminated our work through regular electronic newsletters that reach more than 3,000 policy, community, and thought leaders. We also launched our completely redesigned website ([www.ispu.org](http://www.ispu.org)) so all interested parties can stay current on how we are helping to shape the debate as it unfolds, easily search our publications and experts, and connect with us.



## Partners and Supporters

ISPU IS A SOUND INVESTMENT because we leverage our resources and develop strategic partnerships to maximize every dollar invested. Our partners have included: the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace; the Pew Research Center; the Century Foundation; DePaul University; the University of California, Berkeley; Yale University; Michigan State University; Wayne State University; Georgetown University; Center for the Study of Islam and Democracy; the Brookings Institution; Santa Clara University; Wayne State University; Columbia University; the Chicago Council on Global Affairs; the United States Institute of Peace; Harvard University; the University of Delaware; the New America Foundation; and the University of Chicago.

We enjoy significant support from hundreds of individual donors. Currently we have donors hailing from Arizona, California, Connecticut, Washington, DC, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, Mississippi, North Carolina, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, and West Virginia. ISPU would like to especially recognize the contributors to our 2010 Annual Campaign.

ISPU has also obtained significant grant support from: the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, the Security & Rights Collaborative, a project of the Proteus Fund, the Tides Foundation, the Association of Pakistani Physicians of North America, and the Islamic Medical Association of North America.

ISPU also receives substantial corporate and in-kind support.

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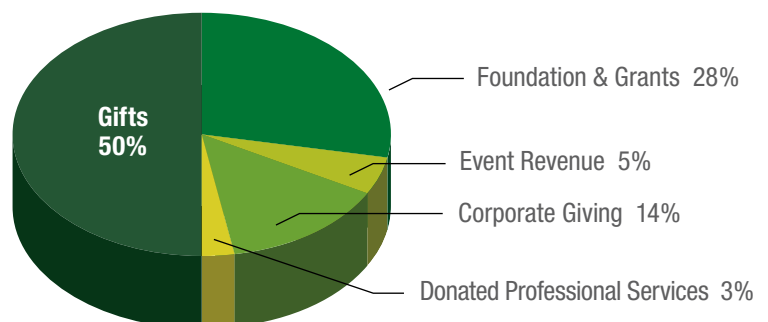
*Legal Fellow*

## Statement of Financial Position

ASSETS	2010	2009
<b>Current Assets:</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$239,090	\$80,969
Contributions receivable, less allowance for uncollectible contributions of \$39,800	\$95,101	\$180,899
Grants receivable	\$30,490	\$17,790
Prepaid expenses	\$-	\$1,403
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>\$364,681</b>	<b>\$281,061</b>
<b>Equipment:</b>		
Computer equipment	\$2,106	\$846
Furniture and fixtures	\$1,880	\$1,880
Less: Accumulated depreciation	\$(1,755)	\$(1,361)
<b>TOTAL EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>\$2,231</b>	<b>\$1,365</b>
<b>Other Assets:</b>		
Long-term contributions receivable	\$-	\$7,061
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$366,912</b>	<b>\$289,487</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities:</b>		
Accounts payable	\$6,159	\$6,159
Accrued expenses	\$19,202	\$9,684
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$25,361</b>	<b>\$15,843</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Unrestricted net assets	\$217,598	\$247,214
Temporarily restricted net assets	\$123,953	\$26,430
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$341,551</b>	<b>\$273,644</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$366,912</b>	<b>\$289,487</b>

## Operating Revenues

- Gifts 50%
- Donated Professional Services 3%
- Corporate Giving 14%
- Event Revenue 5%
- Foundation & Grants 28%

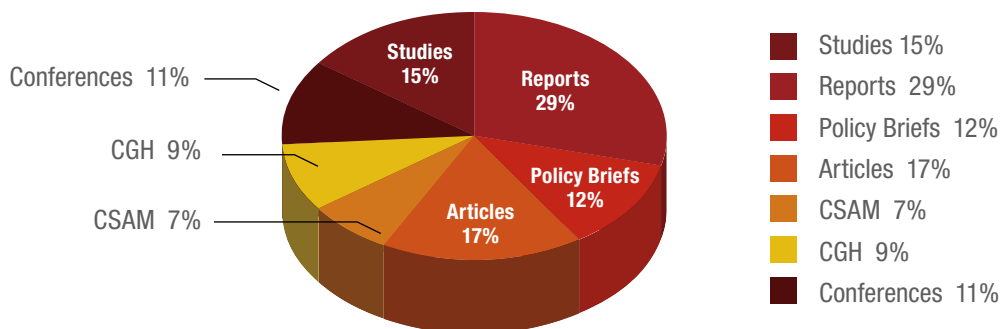


## Statement of Activities

	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	2010 TOTAL	2009 TOTAL
<b>Public Support and Revenue:</b>				
Contribution income	\$394,616	\$5,000	\$399,616	\$328,066
Grant income	\$50,000	\$110,000	\$160,000	\$20,000
Event income, net of expenses	\$4,567		\$4,567	\$13,785
Interest income	\$2		\$2	\$761
	<b>\$449,185</b>	<b>\$115,000</b>	<b>\$564,185</b>	<b>\$362,612</b>
<b>Net Assets Released from Restrictions</b>	\$17,477	\$(17,477)		
Total public support and revenue	\$466,662	\$97,523	\$564,185	\$362,612
<b>Functional Expenses:</b>				
Program expenses	\$254,858		\$254,858	\$208,631
Management and general expenses	\$101,534		\$101,534	\$25,547
Fundraising expenses	\$139,886		\$139,886	\$103,059
	<b>\$496,278</b>		<b>\$496,278</b>	<b>\$337,237</b>
Change in net assets	\$(29,616)	\$97,523	\$67,907	\$25,375
<b>Net Assets at Beginning of Year</b>	\$247,214	\$26,430	\$273,644	\$248,269
<b>Net Assets at End of Year</b>	<b>\$217,598</b>	<b>\$123,953</b>	<b>\$341,551</b>	<b>\$273,644</b>

A copy of the Institution's audited financial statements is available by request.

## Program Expenses





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