



New England Arab American Organization

Serving Westbrook, Portland, Biddeford, Augusta, Lewiston and the Lakes Region

www.neaao.org 207-347-0249



Together We Heal

NEAAO knows that during times of tragedy we experience loss, grief and confusion. Some of us are more vulnerable to the hurt than others, depending on our past experiences and our resiliency. At these times we see our neighbors--people we know and those we have never met--pull together to restore physical and emotional safety. We are heartened to see so many groups across Maine coming together to care for others. When we come together to share our individual gifts, we restore what has been temporarily upended by tragedy. NEAAO is honored to be among the helpers, and grateful to be part of state-wide efforts to promote healing and compassion.



Look for our lawn signs in visible areas throughout Portland and surrounding areas. Did you know you can sign the Statement Against Hate? Over 268 Mainers have signed.



NEAAO Wins Major Office of Justice Program (OJP) Grant to Address Hate Crime

Maine has strong communities and a national reputation for putting its ideals into action. We were one of the only states to distribute CDC pandemic funds directly to community organizations, including those serving BIPOC and New Mainer communities. Maine is now one of a select number of states awarded federal funds to increase protections against hate--thanks to NEAAO. In May we applied for a major 3-year grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance and received a grant award.

Community-led Approaches to Prevent and Address Hate Crimes will allow NEAAO and its partners, *United Asian Communities* and *Equality Maine*, to lead a state-wide task force against hate crime, build a strong network of victim services, and provide outreach to communities, law enforcement, and justice systems.

Peaceful Solutions For Youth

NEAAO has a partnership with Youth-Led Justice (YLJ), a restorative justice program that helps youth find peaceful solutions to conflict. At the heart of restorative justice practice is a belief that young people can identify harm, name it, and reduce its impact by accepting responsibility. In recent weeks, NEAAO and YLJ have been called by schools in several districts to help frame current events in a way that encourages critical thinking, consideration of human rights, and empathy.





Women's Sewing Classes

Are you tired of manufactured look-alike fashion? Would you like to wear something created with love and attention to detail? Look no further! Arab and Afghan women in NEAAO's sewing classes are creating beautiful and unique items, including abayas, children's clothing, fancy dresses, and comfortable kaftans. We also have many hand-knit items for sale. Each is made by hand, with unique embellishments. Surround yourself with love--just as the label says! If you are interested in viewing items for sale, please send us an [email](#).



NEAAO's New YouTube Channel

NEAAO now has its own YouTube channel devoted to health and wellness. You can watch videos in both English and Arabic about important topics like RSV and vaccination. There is even a section on Healthy Beauty!

NEAAO also distributes a monthly health newsletter in English, Arabic and Dari. [Email](#) us to be added to the list of recipients, and indicate what languages you prefer.

Board of Director Opportunities

NEAAO invites members of the community to join our Board of Directors. We are especially interested in people with financial expertise or legal knowledge. In 2024, we will engage in strategic planning to determine priorities for the next five years. This is a wonderful opportunity to add your insights!



Grateful for You

We have a special place in our hearts for donors. With the price of everything from food to fuel so high, we know it demands some extra love to give to others. We are grateful for your support at any level. Even the smallest donation can change a life!

[Donate](#)

Do you know a New Mainer or someone of Arab descent who would like to connect with NEAAO? We offer a range of programs and services. We also sponsor cultural events that showcase Middle Eastern art, music and theater. You can complete a referral to NEAAO [online](#).

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