

## PROGRAMS OF COPO

- **Adult empowerment Prog (AEP)**
  - ESL
  - Basic computers
  - Information referral
  - Citizenship Test Preparation
- **Family Empowerment Prog (FEP)**
  - Woman's Empowerment Prog
    - Counseling
    - Information & referral
- **Community Education:**
  - **Legal clinics** & workshops
  - **Housing clinics** & workshops
- **Advocacy**
- **Intercultural Relations**
  - We Are All Brooklyn
  - Hate-crime workshops
- **Youth Services**
  - Photo Project
  - Academic Help
  - Sports
  - Stress Management
- **Blood Drives**
- **Voter Registration**
- **Healthcare**

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COPO is a not-for-profit organization in Brooklyn, dedicated to protecting and promoting the legal rights of Asian immigrants, particularly the South Asian community. Program priorities of COPO include immigrant rights, voting rights, and the elimination of anti-South Asian violence.

COPO works with a team of dedicated interns from New York University, CUNY, LIU and so forth. Besides, more than 20 committed community members volunteer with COPO.

## BOARD & ADVISORS OF COPO:

Abbas Razvi  
Shafiq Hassan  
Salamat Ali  
Ms. Mariam Jaffri  
Ms. Nabila Pervaiz  
Dr. Hammad Haider Shah  
Dr. Muhammad E. Ahmed  
Hamim Shah  
Abdur Rub Khan  
Rub Nawaz Quereshi  
Dr. Nasrullah Khan  
Chaudhry Hashim  
Christopher Johnson  
Hamid Khan  
Louis Cristillo  
Moshtaq Ahmad  
Malik Nasir  
Mukhtar Hussain

## COPO STAFF

Mohammad Razvi: Executive Director  
Jagajit Singh: Director of Programs  
Lucy M. Notaro-Salvo: Director of F.E.P  
Mitchel Bhulai: Systems Administrator  
Monirul Islam: Outreach Intern  
Nazish Jonathan: Outreach Intern  
Naseem Rizvi: Office Administrator



## Council of Peoples Organization

1081 Coney Island Avenue  
Brooklyn, New York 11230  
Phone (718) 434-3266; Fax (718) 859-2266  
Email: copousa@copousa.org

*"Fulfilling the Dreams of Asian Americans"*

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## **COUNCIL OF PEOPLES ORGANIZATION (COPO)**

**Dedicated to serving  
the community**



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**HELP US IN HELPING YOU  
JOIN COPO**

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## HISTORY & MISSION

The Council of Pakistan Organization (COPO) came into being in the aftermath of the 9/11 tragedy. Several members in Central Brooklyn acknowledged the backlash faced by South Asians, particularly Muslims, in the neighborhood. After extensive brainstorming among neighborhood representatives, COPO opened its doors on February 1, 2002 to respond to the crisis facing the affected communities. To make the organization appeal to wider cross section of the community, the name was changed to **Council of Peoples Organization**.

Prior to 9/11, the community members were already isolated and poverty stricken. They toiled at below-minimum wages, lived in substandard housing, had limited access to healthcare, and lacked proficiency in English.

Following 9/11, racism, racial profiling, and selective immigration enforcement only added to the woes of the South Asian population. These political and socio-economic factors gave rise to an isolated and underserved community. COPO's formation plugged this loophole at a time when almost no community organization was primarily serving low-income South Asians and Muslims in Brooklyn.

COPO's mission is to assist low-income South Asians to thrive and develop to their full capacity, and to build understanding and cooperation among the diverse communities of Central Brooklyn. To this end, COPO provides essential services aimed at educating, empowering, and building relationships among community member. These include ESL classes, computer training, community education workshops, legal clinics, and youth programs.

## GEOGRAPHICAL AREA SERVED

COPO serves primarily the residents of Central Brooklyn including the neighborhoods of Midwood, Kensington, Flatbush and Crown Heights. In the years to come COPO hopes to expand its geographic scope

## POPULATION SERVED

The South Asian Americans in New York City number almost 220,200 of which approximately 45,000 live in Brooklyn (according to 2000 Census). The census figures are only of the documented people whereas the total population is guessed to be not less than 200,000.

The largest proportions of COPO's clients are recent immigrants who are low-income wage earners and not proficient in English. The average income of a South Asian (Pakistani and Bangladeshi), living in Brooklyn is approximately \$12,000 per year and the average family size is 4-6.

Since its inception on February 1, 2002, COPO has been successful in assisting approximately 8,500 people through its various programs.

COPO with its **Immigrant American Rights Project (IARP)**, a broad-based, multifaceted program has been able to help immigrant community through a range of services.

Under IARP, COPO organizes legal clinics and workshops for immigration every month. IARP includes free legal assistance to victims of hate crimes, and to those seeking legal guidance concerning the Department of Justice and USCIS initiatives. In addition, SAARP has also enabled COPO to provide assistance to individuals seeking

to become U.S. citizens, including **free citizenship test preparation classes**.

The adult-focused services at COPO are geared towards educating and empowering adult community members facing barriers to full social and economic participation in our city's life. The program includes a range of critical services for adults.

In July 2004 COPO proudly unveiled its newly paved backyard to the community. In a city which has very limited open spaces, the **10,000 square foot backyard** of COPO has become the most cherished hangout of the young people. It has facilities for basketball, handball, volleyball and badminton.

COPO recently launched its **Academic Help Program**, which will include **Tutoring** in Maths, Science, Reading and Writing for Elementary to High School Students. It would also include **Mentoring and Career Development** Programs and **College Counseling** and search. Information about Vocational training will also be provided.

In January 2003, COPO in collaboration with several organizations initiated a forum called **'We Are All Brooklyn.'** The purpose of this forum was to demonstrate the diversity and unity of Brooklyn and help build relations between the divergent ethnic communities through community based organizations. Over a period of 3 years the forum has successfully worked to educate the broader community around the issues such as hate crimes and domestic violence and has over 30 organizations in its fold and is now being expanded to **"We are All New Yorkers"**.